

BUILDING A BETTER NORMAL

**ACT GREENS
2020 POLICY PLATFORM**



**THE
GREENS**



THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT TIME TO BUILD A BETTER NORMAL.

In these unprecedented times, the decisions we make now will shape the future of our society.

If the bushfires and smoke over the summer, and now the COVID-19 pandemic have shown us anything, it's that business as usual cannot continue.

While the old parties and status quo are seeking a return to normal, the ACT Greens have a plan to use this once in a lifetime opportunity to redress the inequalities and injustices inherent in our current systems—to build a better normal.

This means bringing the same boldness, decisiveness and energy the ACT Greens brought to climate action to reimagining our community in a way that benefits everyone for decades to come. It's clear that now is both the right time and the best opportunity to build a better normal, by ensuring everyone has a home, by greening our suburbs, acting on climate change, and providing meaningful secure work.

Our community can achieve amazing things when we put our minds to it and work together. We know we need to make our environment and activities more sustainable, and our community and infrastructure more resilient. We're at a critical moment, and have the opportunity to rewrite the rules to ensure a cleaner, greener community where everyone is supported to thrive.

The ACT Greens play a unique role in the Australian political landscape and have been working hard over decades to set policies in the ACT that help shape a fair and sustainable future. We have shown that Greens in Government make a real difference on the issues that matter most in our community. We bring a long-term view of a reimagined world where we wisely invest our time, energy and resources into a better future for our children and their children.

That's why we will invest heavily in living infrastructure and neighbourhood facilities, to ensure our city remains liveable in a changing climate, and to give the community more control with our Neighbourhood Democracy package, Australia's largest participatory budget program.

We will transform how we get around by connecting every suburb in Canberra to an offroad walking and cycling network, and heal our land and bush with our Caring for Country conservation package.

We will ensure the ACT drives climate action in Australia, kickstarting an electric vehicle, green housing and microgrid revolution. And we will ensure everyone in our community has a decent home.

The solutions are here in our policies, and we have the courage, ambition and leadership required to see them through.

This is our promise to Canberrans. We are here to build a better normal, with you and for you.

Shane Rattenbury

ACT Greens Leader

June 2020

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT



AIR QUALITY

We all breathe the same air. Exposure to air pollution can have serious negative health impacts. The ACT is fortunate to have good air quality by world standards. However, Tuggeranong Valley is among the three valleys worst affected by pollution from wood heater smoke in Australia, as demonstrated by continued PM2.5 monitoring (Keywood et al. 2017, p. 77). Increased bushfires and dust storms due to climate change are likely to periodically affect air quality in future.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. clean air is a universal right
2. air quality standards should be as rigorous as possible, recognising that some pollutants have no known safe level
3. in a changing climate, we need to take a range of measures to protect people from reduced air quality, including from bushfire smoke.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a whole-of-government air quality strategy—covering issues such as health, building quality standards and protection of vulnerable people—to ensure ACT community members are protected from low air quality events, such as lingering bushfire smoke
2. improved monitoring of outdoor air quality and publication of up-to-date, accessible air quality data from monitoring stations throughout the ACT
3. improved monitoring of indoor air quality in public buildings
4. provision of publicly accessible clean air refuges, such as shopping centres and libraries and school halls, as well as provision of accurate information, advice, sufficient masks and medical supplies for the community during events that reduce air quality
5. updated construction standards to ensure buildings can provide acceptable indoor air quality
6. air quality standards for workers, especially outdoor workers
7. air quality standards for events, including sporting events
8. mental health and wellbeing monitoring and support during extended smoke events
9. planning to protect vulnerable people, such as older people and children, from poor air quality
10. stronger national air pollution standards, particularly for nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, to protect human and ecosystem health
11. ongoing research into the relationship between human health and air quality, including the short-term and long-term effects of air pollution
12. banning of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances (PBTs), such as brominated flame retardants, endosulfan and mercury, which cannot be safely managed in the atmosphere
13. improved health-based standards for wood heaters and implementation of measures to phase out heaters that do not meet the standard.

BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Ecosystems provide vital services that maintain life on our planet. The protection and conservation of remaining biodiverse areas is essential for the wellbeing and survival of all life on Earth, including human beings. Human beings have been part of a dynamic interaction with Australia's ecosystem for over 60,000 years.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. ecosystems have inherent value
2. the best way to support biodiversity and threatened species is through the creation of healthy ecosystems; we should take a holistic approach, rather than reductionist approach, to ecosystem management
3. current generations have a responsibility to ensure that local and global ecosystems are maintained and strengthened
4. maintaining, expanding and connecting protected areas is vital to preserving healthy ecosystems and biodiversity
5. ecosystem management and restoration activities must integrate understandings of climate change and its impacts
6. the precautionary principle should be integrated into all decision-making where there is potential for serious or irreversible environmental damage
7. the major threats to biodiversity are ecosystem destruction and fragmentation caused by humans, the spread of invasive species and climate change
8. high-value biodiverse areas that cannot be replaced need to be protected; biodiversity offsets should be used as a last resort, after efforts to avoid and mitigate any human impacts, and only if evidence suggests biodiversity offsets will work
9. the ACT's unique grassland and woodland environments should be valued, restored and protected
10. local First Nations knowledge should always be integrated into sustainable natural resource management and conservation
11. government, the private sector, volunteer organisations and people must work together to improve biodiversity
12. community leadership in biodiversity and conservation should be enabled and supported
13. conservation and re-introduction of local species should be encouraged throughout the ACT
14. economic interests should not compromise the conservation of ecosystems or the survival of protected species
15. the ACT has a role to play in national and global reforestation and should lead local efforts to mitigate climate change impacts and biodiversity loss through re-vegetation.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. to ensure the ACT's biodiversity, native bushland and riparian systems are protected and enhanced as our population grows and as we respond to climate change impacts, including extreme weather events
2. to increase the urban tree canopy cover in the ACT to reach at least 30% by 2045—with realistic interim planting targets—and to increase water-absorbing permeable surfaces, such as soil and gravel, consistent with Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan to cool the city and provide habitat
3. to maintain and enhance the resilience of local and regional ecosystems by increasing ecological connectivity
4. all government-funded initiatives to monitor, evaluate, manage, repair and report on the status of the ACT's protected ecosystems and threatened species, including through support for community-based projects
5. government-funded programs to educate the ACT community and visitors about the importance of biodiversity and the role of trees, as well as how to protect and enhance biodiversity
6. ACT planning and land maps to clearly display biodiversity and tree coverage data, including up-to-date information on biodiversity quality
7. biodiverse areas, key areas that link habitat, and First Nations' songlines to be protected before development proposals are considered
8. integrated regional management of native habitats, including regional biodiversity corridors and buffer zones, and enhanced riparian and water management strategies
9. evidence-informed management of ecosystems
10. targeted education and management programs to address the negative impacts of invasive species and pests in the ACT
11. to reduce the impacts of domestic cats on native wildlife through local consultation, education and enforcement of cat containment areas, as well as the gradual implementation of cat containment throughout the whole of the ACT, beginning with suburbs that border nature reserves
12. increased ongoing funding for strategic invasive species management programs
13. ACT Government to stop the use of herbicides such as glyphosate in its operations and reduce the use of pesticides generally
14. a biodiversity offsets policy that does not perpetuate biodiversity loss and is only used where evidence indicates offsets will work, with a clear threshold for when offsets will not suffice. Offsets should:
 - a. result in a net gain for the specific species or ecosystem within the local area
 - b. achieve benefits in perpetuity
 - c. include a monitoring and reporting system to assess effectiveness
 - d. be legally enforced
 - e. not include past conservation actions, unless previously protected for offset purposes
 - f. be in place prior to development commencing
 - g. be supported by adequate funding, including for research, restoration and monitoring

15. joint management of ACT protected areas by local First Nations representatives and government, which demonstrates best practice and provides opportunities for employment of local First Nations peoples
16. greater community involvement in the management of the ACT's natural areas, and enhanced and ongoing support for continued volunteer efforts in caring for these areas, including ACT ParkCare, Landcare ACT, FrogWatch, citizen science programs and Catchment Groups
17. integration of Indigenous cool burning practices into ACT fire prevention, management and recovery strategies, with the aim to maximise biodiversity outcomes and protect vulnerable species
18. implementation of incentives and regulations to encourage rural and urban communities across all land tenures to conserve and restore habitat for biodiversity protection purposes, as well as provision of environmental services to these communities.

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Climate change is increasing the length, severity and frequency of extreme weather events, including fire seasons, droughts, floods, heatwaves and storms. Emergency responses, accompanied by a rapid reduction in emissions, are essential to addressing and mitigating the consequences of this reality.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. well-resourced and well-coordinated emergency services are essential to protecting human life and the natural environment. Responding and adapting to unprecedented events and the consequences of natural disasters is particularly important
2. as Traditional Custodians, First Nations peoples have cultural expertise in fire ecology and the sustainable management of country
3. urban planning, building codes and infrastructure decisions must incorporate activities to address risks associated with living in a bushfire-prone landscape
4. the ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan should incorporate the latest climate change forecasts and recognise Canberra as a regional hub in a bushfire-prone landscape
5. disaster management strategies must include public education about bushfire hazards, fire risks, bushfire survival planning and disaster response
6. vulnerable people in the community must be equitably supported in disaster response.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT community to be prepared for the risks of living in a bushfire-prone landscape and the risks of severe weather events
2. the ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan to recognise and use the cultural expertise of Traditional Custodians in the sustainable management of country, and to ensure cultural burns are part of bushfire management in the ACT
3. a well-coordinated regional plan to respond to bushfires and other severe weather events
4. to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the increasing length and severity of bushfire seasons
5. evidence-informed bushfire management practices with a range of fuel reduction measures, including burns that protect ecosystems, which also minimise the risk and impact of bushfire on urban land
6. emergency services to adopt best practice and regularly monitor new developments in response techniques to be prepared for unprecedented extreme weather events
7. emergency services to be properly and sustainably resourced to meet the increasing needs of the community, complexity of bushfires and natural disaster management
8. recognition of the importance of volunteer emergency services personnel, continued collaboration between volunteer and professional emergency services and sufficient volunteer training opportunities

9. increased funding for community engagement, training and disaster preparedness programs
10. expertise and resources for emergency response services to be provided to vulnerable countries in our region
11. continued refinement of new communication technologies and policies to assist in broadcasting emergency information and warnings to the broader community, including those with hearing and vision impairment
12. increased resources for the recruitment of professional firefighters to meet anticipated increased demands and community need
13. increased support, resources and protections for emergency responders, including maintenance of core skills, specialist training programs, wellbeing initiatives and post-incident support
14. fire stations and equipment ensured to be fit for purpose, interoperable and equipped to promote firefighter wellbeing
15. responsibilities of relevant coordinating agencies to be clear and up to date with bushfire zone development regulations
16. public, airtight and air-conditioned spaces for people to access in heatwaves and other extreme weather events, such as hazardous smoke.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

The world is facing a climate change emergency requiring urgent actions across all levels of government to both mitigate and adapt to its impacts. Inadequate action on climate change has already resulted in widespread negative social, ecological and economic impacts, including but not limited to more extreme weather events, harm to public health—including mental health—disruptions to food, power and communications supply, and increased displacement of people and animals.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. we are facing a climate crisis that poses serious risks to people, ecosystems, biodiversity and infrastructure; we must rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to keep global warming below 1.5 °C
2. ACT Government must ensure a just transition for those impacted by ACT Government actions in the shift to net zero emissions
3. delayed action increases the risks we face and will result in costly and devastating impacts on our communities and ecosystems
4. democracy, justice and equity must be guiding principles in the transition towards net zero emissions
5. use of all fossil fuels needs to be rapidly phased out
6. reducing pollution at its source should be our primary method of addressing climate change, rather than offsetting emissions
7. addressing climate change requires broad participation by the community; community leadership should be enabled and supported
8. the planning of our built environment is integral to our transition to net zero emissions
9. existing vegetation must be protected and re-vegetation must be used to draw down greenhouse gases.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT to strive to reach net zero emissions by 2030
2. the ACT to advocate for a coordinated federal, state, territory and local government approach to rapidly reducing emissions
3. an energy strategy, developed in partnership with the sector, to maintain at least 100% renewable electricity, increase local electricity generation and storage capacity, improve reliability and support innovative local solutions
4. to build capacity within our communities and industries to expand the local renewable energy sector, including through increasing community ownership of energy production and storage
5. ACT Government to support workers throughout the transition to net zero emissions through appropriate vocational training and re-training for affected and emerging sectors

6. support for households in the just transition to net zero emissions, with priority given to low-income and rental households
7. ACT Government to set standards that enable and inform the private sector to transition to net zero emissions
8. to improve energy efficiency in existing public housing, and ensure all new public housing is 100% electric
9. to facilitate reduced consumption of energy in addition to increasing energy efficiency
10. to legislate to end the extension of the natural gas network in the ACT and to implement a strategy to phase out natural gas, recognising that natural gas is a polluting fossil fuel
11. gas appliances that reach the end of their life, if replaced, to be replaced with appliances using renewable energy, as well as incentives to support this transition
12. alternative energy sources to be used only if they are produced sustainably; for example, hydrogen should only be created using renewable electricity, and biogas should only be captured from waste products with no higher use
13. ACT Government to divest fully from companies with income derived predominantly from fossil fuels by 2023, and to legislate against future investment
14. an appropriately regulated energy system to encourage and support people and communities to generate, store, share and use renewable energy, such as microgrids
15. measures to help transition the ACT from a reliance on private car travel, such as through convenient and prioritised sustainable transport—including a high-quality bus and light rail network—and extensive provisions for walking, cycling and e-mobility, and car share networks
16. measures to support the rapid transition of ACT vehicles to become zero emissions vehicles, including incentives for the private purchase of zero emission vehicles, both new and second-hand; a zero emissions ACT Government passenger vehicle fleet, including buses and other ACT Government vehicles; and infrastructure to support electric and hydrogen vehicles
17. planning and building regulations and incentives to require new commercial, residential and government buildings to minimise lifecycle emissions. This includes increasing minimum energy efficiency and use requirements, designing buildings to use renewable energy, ensuring new suburbs maximise solar passive orientation and solar design, and providing appropriate incentives and subsidies
18. measures to support existing buildings to transition to zero emissions operations and minimise lifecycle emissions. This includes education and information campaigns, incentives and support for zero emission alternatives—including a continuation of existing Actsmart and Home Energy Efficiency programs—and government strategies for hospitals and schools to reach zero emissions
19. the ACT to have a world-leading and science-based approach to climate change adaptation by ensuring that:
 - a. the ACT has at least 30% tree canopy coverage and 30% permeable surfaces by 2045, with realistic interim planting targets (see also the ACT Greens [Biodiversity and Conservation Policy](#))
 - b. all planning and procurement for ACT infrastructure, such as sporting facilities, playgrounds and schools, takes account of predicted changes to the ACT climate
 - c. plans are put in place to support vulnerable communities

20. ACT Government to lead the way by reducing its own 'scope 1' and 'scope 2' emissions to zero before 2030, and to exemplify best practice in zero emissions building, transport, waste and procurement, including minimising (embodied) 'scope 3' emissions
21. ACT Government to adopt a 'social cost of carbon'¹ to evaluate the climate change impacts of budget, policy, procurement and infrastructure decisions
22. ACT Government to reinvest an equivalent social cost of carbon into new emissions reduction measures, if the ACT Government misses any of its emission reduction targets
23. ACT Government to advocate for strong and science-based national policies and targets to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the transition to a net zero emissions economy, and to work cooperatively with all levels of government wherever possible
24. ACT Government policies and support to help calculate and reduce the ACT's 'scope 3' emissions. This includes policies to promote reduced consumption and sustainable living
25. ACT Government to support innovation, research and development of renewable energy technologies and climate change solutions.

¹ The social cost of carbon is an estimate of the actual economic, social and environmental costs of emitting greenhouse gases in dollar terms.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT OF THE ACT

Humanity currently uses 1.7 times more resources than the planet's ecosystems renew. Current levels of resource consumption are unsustainable. The ACT's ecological footprint is determined by the number of people in the ACT and their per capita consumption of resources and energy. The ACT's per capita ecological footprint is 5.24 hectares—three times more than the global average of 1.8 hectares (ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment 2019a, p. 9).

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. we must substantially reduce our ecological footprint
2. that we can reduce the total ecological footprint of the ACT without reducing the total population
3. urban design, technology, transport, industry, food production and food consumption are important factors that can reduce ecological footprints
4. alternative approaches to prosperity that are consistent with a sustainable ecological footprint need to be developed
5. efforts to reduce per capita resource consumption need to take into account social justice, equity, cultural and economic considerations
6. the ACT should set an example to encourage other regions to reduce their ecological footprint.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. ACT Government to legislate a long-term sustainable ecological footprint target to be achieved by 2050
2. ACT Government to set a target of reducing the ecological footprint per capita by 10% by 2025, based on 2020 levels
3. the ACT to be a leader in encouraging and enabling a small ecological footprint way of life
4. the ACT community to take action to reduce the impact of its consumption on local, regional, national and global environments
5. regional and national collaboration to find solutions to transport, urban development, water, food production, waste and other issues to enable low impact living
6. the ACT to meet its emission reduction targets and phase out the use of fossil fuels
7. introduction of closed loop cycles of production and consumption.

FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

The impacts of climate change—such as extreme weather events and more frequent and severe droughts—threaten our food security. Globally, half of all habitable land is used for food production. Livestock account for 77% of farming land, while producing only 18% of the world's calories (Poore & Nemecek 2018, p. 990). Consuming more plant-based foods will have co-benefits for overall human health and our capacity to adapt to, and mitigate the impacts of, climate change.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. food is essential to community, cultural expression, enjoyment and nourishment
2. the current system of food production, consumption and waste is unsustainable, insecure and economically unjust
3. the long-term viability of agriculture depends on the adoption of ecologically sustainable practices
4. people have a right to know where their food comes from and how it is produced
5. ACT Government has an obligation to ensure the health and wellbeing of our community by ensuring access to affordable, sustainable and nutritious food (see also the ACT Greens [Health Policy](#))
6. food producers, distributors and consumers must consider the ecological impact of producing, transporting, packaging, storing, preparing and disposing of food and food waste
7. local and regional farmers should be supported to develop sustainable and affordable food systems
8. backyard and community food growing are valuable community activities that can contribute meaningfully to food supplies in the ACT
9. agricultural production, processing and distribution should:
 - a. be ecologically sustainable and climate-appropriate
 - b. provide nutritious and healthy food
 - c. support diverse local and regional fresh produce
 - d. be fair to farmers, distributors and consumers
 - e. respect animal welfare
10. food production and consumption play an important role in community-building and food and agriculture education
11. factory farming of animals is detrimental to animal welfare
12. factory farming causes high levels of pollution
13. food and organic waste should be used as a valuable resource
14. urban sprawl and extractive industries pose serious threats to the scarce land and water resources needed to produce food in our region
15. insect pollination plays an important role in food production.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. to reduce the environmental impact of producing the food consumed by people in the ACT
2. to ensure that ACT community members have access to adequate quantities of affordable and nutritious food
3. to enable more consumption of plant-based foods to improve human health and animal welfare while simultaneously reducing the environmental impacts of food production
4. policies and programs to facilitate increased community access to public land for food production, including stronger government support for city farms, community gardens, market gardens, nature strip planting, commercial gardens, aquaponics and community orchards
5. new urban developments to set aside space for community gardens
6. support for local First Nations communities to foster traditional farming practices
7. to reduce excess food packaging
8. policies and programs that allow all food packaging to be recycled in ordinary household recycling bins
9. programs to minimise food wastage (see also ACT Greens [Waste Policy](#))
10. to continue to expand provisions for animal welfare in food production
11. to foster communication and networking between local and regional growers
12. to increase the use of local compost for fertilisers
13. to reduce the use of pesticides and encourage bee-friendly gardens
14. urban planning and government landscape planning to factor in bee friendly habitat
15. to protect farmland and water resources from competing development and use
16. to ensure master plans for rural and urban areas reflect the ACT landscape and resources, and plan food production accordingly
17. to protect the natural ecosystems that underpin the production of food in the ACT, including grasslands and woodlands that provide pollinators with clean air, water sources and nutrients
18. water security for sustainable agricultural production
19. to ensure children in the ACT are educated about growing and preparing food through school gardening and cooking programs
20. broader education and awareness programs on food production and preparation
21. to ensure that all catered ACT Government facilities and events provide plant-based food options.

WATER

Water is vital to all life. Climate change projections for the ACT predict hotter summers and more severe droughts in the future. Water resources must be managed sustainably.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has a right to a minimum and affordable supply of clean water
2. water management must be fully integrated with wider social, economic and ecological policies
3. water and water catchments should be managed in a way that safeguard ecological and human health
4. water should be effectively, efficiently and equitably managed in partnership with the community, First Nations representatives, scientists, industry, agriculture and government
5. water is best managed at the catchment scale, recognising the linkages between land use, vegetation, surface water and groundwater
6. the ACT has an obligation to contribute to reforms in the wider Murray-Darling Basin
7. the ACT has an obligation to ensure that water leaving the ACT is of the same or better quality than water entering the ACT
8. water is an increasingly limited resource and all sectors of the ACT community have an obligation to use water wisely
9. investment in and management of water infrastructure must consider climate change projections and impacts on ecosystem health
10. large scale water usage should be priced to reflect the full social and environmental costs of water extraction, transport, use and treatment
11. trees, vegetation and water bodies play an important role in improving soil health, cooling the city, retaining water in the landscape and managing microclimate and urban amenity
12. water restrictions should cover indoor and outdoor water use
13. the ACT's water resources must remain publicly owned, with transparent management to ensure an equitable pricing structure and integration of environmental objectives.

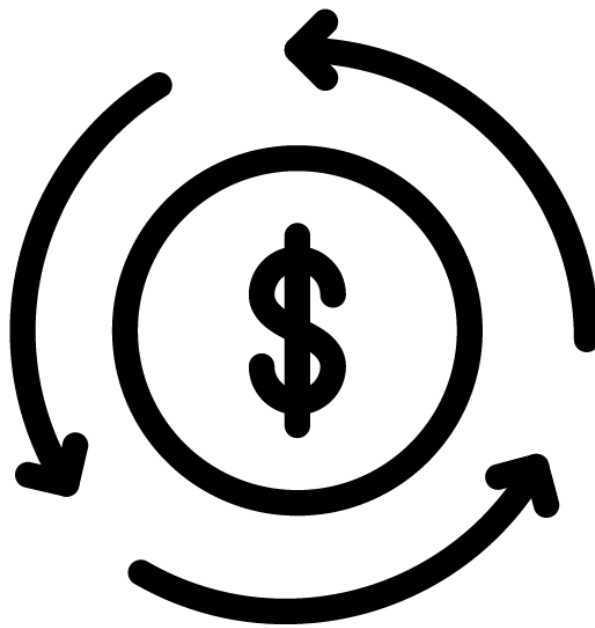
GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a comprehensive water management strategy based on a vision for long-term ecological health, human health and water security in a changing climate
2. a clear framework for setting water restrictions to consider climate change projections, such as more frequent and severe droughts
3. adequate environmental flows to ensure the health of ecological systems and biodiversity
4. drinking water in the ACT to meet or exceed national and international quality standards
5. ACT water catchments to have well-resourced, best practice management
6. community participation in catchment management through partnerships and funding with community organisations, such as ACT ParkCare, Landcare ACT, FrogWatch, citizen science programs and Catchment Groups

7. water-sensitive urban design principles to be embedded into urban planning and development, such as
 - a. ponds and wetlands, to intercept pollutants in stormwater and to protect the ecological and recreational value of lakes and streams
 - b. mulching, vegetation and tree cover, to enhance local surface water retention and recycling, and to hydrate soils and groundwater recharge
8. continued interjurisdictional and regional collaboration and coordination to improve water quality and environmental flows in the Murray-Darling Basin
9. education programs and incentives to encourage water efficiency and water re-use in homes, offices, industry and agriculture
10. use of pumped hydropower technology only where it is 'off-river', to prevent ecological damage; and implementation of clear guidelines about ecological requirements for pumped hydro
11. development of a long-term strategy to address water quality in lakes, ponds and waterways
12. restoration of local waterways to provide habitat, improve soil health, manage water flow, improve amenity and retain water in the landscape.

ECONOMY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS



ACT ECONOMY

The economy is an important tool for managing the production of human needs and wants, but as a tool it should serve the goals of the community. The economy must be redesigned to be environmentally sustainable and fit within the limits of the natural environment. It must also be redesigned to deliver social justice.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the economy is a tool for achieving our social and environmental goals, not an end in itself
2. the pursuit of continuous material-based economic growth is incompatible with the planet's finite resources
3. improved social justice, reduced inequality and the elimination of poverty must be key goals of the economy
4. economic management should prioritise the improvement of our quality of life, rather than the production and consumption of material goods
5. genuine progress indicators are required that include long-term human, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing
6. expanded and continued participatory budgeting is essential for proper governance
7. democratisation of the economy is essential to social justice and the elimination of poverty
8. the ACT economy exists within the ACT's natural environment, and environmental stewardship is therefore central to good economic management
9. a transition to a zero carbon economy is essential for mitigating the existential threat of climate change
10. a just transition to net zero emissions must ensure that inequities are reduced and everyone benefits from addressing the challenges we face
11. economic management is required to respond to environmental constraints, including resource use and waste production
12. ACT Government decisions and activities should aim to create a robust, diverse and sustainable economy that harnesses the ACT community's skills, assets and innovation
13. fair and effective economic markets recognise the differing roles and strengths of private, community and public enterprise and should allocate resources to produce the greatest benefits for society
14. as a democratic institution, the government has an essential role in regulating the economy and guiding markets in accordance with society's goals.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. policies, taxation, incentives and regulation to deliver improved outcomes, as measured by genuine and diverse progress indicators
2. ACT Government decision-making to be based on a triple-bottom-line approach, which balances economic, social and environmental outcomes

3. to implement measures of genuine progress within ACT budget and accounts
4. ACT Government to use a mix of investment, incentives, taxation and regulation to drive a just transition to a sustainable economy
5. a whole-of-government approach to create greater intergenerational equity
6. a more sustainable and diverse private sector that is empowered to achieve environmentally and socially responsible outcomes
7. programs to encourage an equitable distribution of meaningful paid work among those who wish to engage in the workforce, including through the creation of green jobs
8. to ensure every ACT community member can live with a minimum standard of wellbeing, no matter their type of employment or income sources
9. a circular economy based on closed-loop cycles of production, with waste treated as a resource (see also the ACT Greens [Waste Policy](#))
10. support and incentives to encourage the community to repair, share and reuse goods, in order to reduce reliance on finite resources

BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Business, along with the public sector and the community sector, is important for generating employment and managing the production of human needs and wants. The business sector therefore has an important role to play in the transition to an environmentally sustainable, socially just, future.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the ACT needs a robust, diverse and sustainable private sector that complements strong public and community sectors, and grows significant and meaningful employment
2. business, government and community sectors working together can best achieve mutually beneficial outcomes
3. ACT Government procurement decisions are an important way to support the local and regional economy and promote environmental and social responsibility
4. the business sector has an important role in reducing unemployment, underemployment and economic inequality, including through alternative business models such as micro and small business, member- and worker-owned cooperatives, social enterprises and for-profit corporations
5. ACT Government needs to collaborate with the regional business sector to respond to challenges, such as climate change, recession and food security, and to improve environmental and social outcomes
6. in competition and fair cooperation between businesses that encourage a diverse business sector, rather than allowing large businesses to dominate sectors
7. consumers and small businesses should be protected from unethical and unfair business practices
8. consumers should be provided with easily accessible information about their consumer rights. There should be adequate resourcing to enforce these rights.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. ACT Government to provide incentives, advice and support to empower private businesses through the just transition to a clean, green economy
2. ACT Government to assist private businesses to employ people who have difficulty accessing the labour market
3. business assistance programs to focus on businesses and industries that meet ethical guidelines, with unethical industries excluded, such as arms manufacturing
4. government procurement processes to give ACT businesses an incentive to improve their performance in areas such as environmental sustainability and exploitation-free supply chains
5. ACT Government to create the settings for a more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable and equitable private sector
6. increased support for social enterprises, microcredit and cooperatives

7. ACT Government support for research, development and commercialisation to cultivate zero carbon industries and processes, including through research and incubation hubs
8. where consistent with broader social, economic and environmental goals, simpler government processes, charges and regulations to reduce compliance and administration costs, particularly for small business
9. government to have robust and ongoing consultation with the business sector on the development and implementation of ACT Government policy, as part of its broader community engagement processes
10. government procurement processes to support local small and medium businesses to provide goods and services to the ACT, and to support these businesses in dealing with federal government bodies within the ACT
11. strong business regulations to address unfair, unethical and ecologically unsustainable business practices
12. government procurement and regulatory decisions to have a high degree of integrity and transparency, especially when providing financial support to business
13. government to promote the adoption of alternative business structures—such as cooperatives—via information, training, regulation and finance to help alternative business structures succeed
14. greater use of regional supply chains to support the local community
15. strong consumer laws to protect consumers from unfair and unethical business practices
16. a well-resourced regulatory enforcement system to ensure that businesses are compliant with local and federal consumer and workplace laws
17. ACT Government to advocate for the Federal Government to give consumers a right to repair
18. consumers to be supported with information and access to adequately resourced enforcement agencies to protect their consumer rights
19. consumers to be provided with information about the products they purchase
20. ACT Government legislation and policies, including land use and zoning policies, to ensure a diverse retail and small business sector can operate fairly and competitively.

COMMUNITY SECTOR

The community sector is built on principles of human rights and social justice; it is a vital part of the ACT's social and economic fabric and must be strongly supported.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. community sector organisations support social inclusion, provide essential services for people in need and contribute to the life of our Territory
2. the community sector has expertise and valuable insights to offer, and should be included as active partners in public policy development processes, as per the 2012 ACT Social Compact
3. paid staff and volunteers who are part of the community sector bring a wide range of skills and experience, and should have their contributions appropriately paid and compensated, valued and respected
4. the community sector plays an essential role in advocating for community issues and organisations
5. the community sector plays an essential role in public policy development, generating new ideas, conducting and evaluating research, highlighting structural issues and promoting public debate
6. the community sector is an essential partner in building community resilience and disaster preparedness, management and recovery, especially for vulnerable people
7. the community sector needs adequate, stable and secure funding to ensure it can deliver high-quality services to the ACT community and fulfil its important varied goals.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. increased viability and resilience in the ACT community sector through stable funding, governance, career pathways, professional development and remuneration, which further develops the diverse range of skills and knowledge in the ACT
2. a strong and sustainable peak body group infrastructure to support citizen engagement in agenda-setting and decision-making, aggregate community concerns, develop agreed priorities for action, and lead and facilitate community sector development and renewal
3. increased and reliable resources for the community sector to enable it to respond to community needs in a timely and effective manner; to improve its own organisational resilience; and to better provide help in times of increased need, such as during extreme weather events
4. better recognition of the true costs of running community organisations through adequate funding for community-based programs
5. no return of surpluses to government where outcomes have been met
6. Service Funding Agreements between the ACT Government and community sector to include a clause requiring non-discrimination of service provision or employment

7. ongoing support for a community sector industry plan to include revenue generation, infrastructure development, reduction of administrative burdens and appropriate levels of accountability and transparency for community services
8. the community sector to provide evidence-driven practice, delivered by appropriately skilled and fairly remunerated staff. The community sector should be supported in its role to identify community needs and develop innovative solutions to address these needs
9. a new Social Compact to be developed, implemented and maintained as a relevant living document that translates the core principles of partnership, respect and complementarity with the ACT Government. These principles should be embedded in all contract arrangements between the community sector and government
10. protection of and respect for the essential role played by community organisations in the development of public policy and advocacy, which is often based on frontline experience
11. to ensure the experiences of consumers and community-based service users are heard and responded to in service development and evaluation processes
12. to create more opportunities for meaningful volunteering that complement, but do not replace, professionalised community sector work
13. more mechanisms provided for volunteers to receive subsidised training and other support, as part of a comprehensive community sector strategy.

EMPLOYMENT, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND WORKPLACE WELLBEING

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has a right to meaningful, secure paid employment
2. workplaces must be inclusive and free from discrimination and harassment
3. job insecurity, unemployment and underemployment further entrench inequality in our society
4. there must be equal pay for equal work, regardless of attributes informed by the *ACT Discrimination Act 1997*²
5. all people who undertake work are entitled to the same workplace rights, including migrant workers, temporary workers, independent contractors, gig economy workers and unwaged workers, such as volunteers
6. free, independent and democratic unions are an essential pillar of a civil society
7. there must be a fair and equitable industrial relations system for all workers to protect the interests of working people from the disproportionate power of employers
8. the right to be a member of a union and/or to collectively bargain, collectively withhold labour and collectively organise in the workplace is essential to achieving a sustainable and democratic future
9. there must be accessible, independent systems for workplace dispute resolution, including conciliation and arbitration before an independent tribunal
10. workplace laws should provide better work-life balance, with people having more control over their working arrangements and rights to flexible working practices
11. as technology and more efficient work practices reduce the need for specific types of labour, it is necessary for our society to examine ways of sharing paid work on a more equitable basis and to explore new opportunities for work and community ventures
12. physical and mental workplace health and safety should underlie all other aspects of work, and workers' compensation schemes should be accessible and fairly applied to all workers, regardless of their industry
13. workers and their representatives are entitled to democratic participation in decisions about the future direction and development of the organisations for which they work
14. the objectives of profitability and efficiency should not override economic, social and ecological objectives
15. unpaid domestic work, caring work, volunteer and community work should be recognised and valued the same as other forms of paid work

² As of June 2020, the *ACT Discrimination Act 1997* applies to discrimination on the ground of any of the following attributes: accommodation status; age; association with a person who has, or is believed to have, any of these attributes; breastfeeding; disability; employment status; gender identity; genetic information; immigration status; industrial activity; intersex status; irrelevant criminal record; parent, family, carer or kinship responsibilities; physical features; political conviction; pregnancy; profession, trade, occupation or calling; race; relationship status; religious conviction; sex; sexual orientation; subjection to domestic or family violence. In this policy, the ACT Greens also reject discrimination on the ground of First Nations identity and geographic location.

16. unions are their membership, and it is up to members to decide how their union functions, without political interference from government
17. the growing gap between the lowest-paid and highest-paid workers, both in individual organisations and businesses and in society as a whole, is detrimental to the long-term wellbeing of the workforce and economic outcomes
18. climate change is already threatening the occupational health and safety of workers, and government and other employers must manage and mitigate the risk to workers from climate change
19. wage theft disproportionately impacts vulnerable groups, such as international students, provisional visa holders, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and young people.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. ACT Government to set an example of good industrial relations policies and practices that respect staff and offer conditions that attract and retain quality staff
2. ACT Government to lead Australia in best practices in the legislation, implementation and enforcement of workplace laws
3. an end to wage theft in the ACT
4. ACT Government contracts to follow best practice contractual industrial relations standards
5. to end all forms of unlawful discrimination in the workplace, including in recruitment, promotion and pay, through adequate resourcing of anti-discrimination education, compliance and enforcement
6. elimination of discriminatory pay gaps and institution of mechanisms to guarantee equal pay for work of equal value, regardless of attributes informed by the *ACT Discrimination Act 1997*³
7. ACT Government to support processes for people who wish to pursue collective negotiations in the workplace
8. fully resourced strategies to reduce bullying and harassment in all ACT workplaces
9. a balance between paid work and personal time, with fair pay for overtime and unsociable working hours
10. innovative and flexible working arrangements to be offered to employees, subject to no-disadvantage tests
11. introduction of employee representation on boards of large companies, and a requirement for corporations to create schemes for their workers to have an active role in financial and organisational decisions
12. ACT Government to provide businesses with support to increase employee participation in decision-making
13. increased protection for whistleblowers, including workers reporting unsafe work practices and/or environments

³ Please refer to the footnote of Principle 4 in this policy for the full list of attributes.

14. legislated strong right of entry powers for unions to protect workplace safety and workplace rights
15. requirements for all employers to inform new and existing employees that they are entitled to join a union and other workplace associations, as well as which unions are responsible for the sector
16. workers to have access to clear and comprehensive information about workplace rights
17. measures to protect contracted staff, outworkers, casual workers and those employed through labour hire, including an end to sham contracting arrangements
18. appropriate compensation in Workplace Health and Safety cases
19. adequate resourcing for WorkSafe ACT
20. incentives for workplace childcare facilities and mandatory implementation of family-friendly workplace policies for all large employers
21. to halt and reverse the increasing disparity in pay between executives and lowest-waged workers in the ACT Public Service, including in ACT Government corporations and statutory authorities
22. recognition of interns and practical (prac) students as workers to prevent exploitation and to ensure internships are mutually beneficial for interns and employers, including internships undertaken as part of a prac or tertiary study
23. to introduce healthy workplace and lifestyle programs, such as facilitating active travel to work and breaks for exercise and wellbeing at work.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone should have equitable access to digital communications to enable full participation in community life
2. technological developments disrupt how activities traditionally occur and government has a role to ensure everyone has access to and benefits from this progress
3. the digital economy can be an enabler of significant reductions in overall environmental impacts, including through Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS), online meetings, flexible working locations and the 'sharing economy'
4. government data and information should be freely available to the community, while ensuring that people's privacy is protected
5. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment has considerable and often unnoticed environment impacts, including the energy and materials required for equipment, networks, storage and disposal of equipment.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT to have world-leading internet connections, including public access connections
2. ACT Government to be an innovator and leader in adopting digital technologies to reduce its environmental impact, and to provide better ACT Government services to consumers, businesses and employees
3. community education to provide information about data sovereignty, personal security and privacy
4. ACT school students to be taught open-source data literacy and educated on issues around data sovereignty, personal security and privacy
5. people to have reasonable access to digital information produced and held about them by the ACT Government and its agencies
6. government to provide the ACT community, in all its diversity, with access to local ICT employment and training opportunities
7. all ACT Government publications to be published using Creative Commons (CC) licensing; where possible, government should make underlying data sets available
8. government to support small businesses in the ICT sector as a way of increasing innovation, local employment opportunities and partnerships with tertiary education providers in the ACT
9. government to minimise the environmental impacts of its own ICT equipment by undertaking life-cycle analyses of ICT infrastructure
10. ACT Government to ensure that ICT infrastructure is resilient so that it is available in times of disaster, such as bushfires
11. ACT Government to facilitate access to digital resources and public education programs on how digital resources can be used at libraries and through partnerships with the community sector.

PUBLIC SECTOR AND TAXATION

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. government has a critical role in providing services and infrastructure for the community
2. government has a critical role in reducing economic inequality
3. taxes, charges and expenditure decisions should increase social equity, reduce poverty and raise revenue in a way that achieves economic, social and environmental goals
4. a strong and secure revenue base is needed to provide the government services and infrastructure required by the ACT community
5. the economic position of the ACT Government must be sustainable over the long term
6. government economic management and budget processes must seek to balance social, environmental and economic objectives, using broad measures of genuine progress
7. the ACT economy and the wellbeing of ACT community members require public investment in public infrastructure that delivers long-term economic, social and environmental benefits
8. natural monopolies and essential public services should generally be in public ownership
9. decisions on whether infrastructure and government services should be delivered and operated by government, the community sector and/or the private sector should be assessed through a triple-bottom-line lens
10. ACT community members and community organisations should be enabled and encouraged to provide input to government decisions on budget, taxation, infrastructure and service delivery
11. government procurement policies and ethical investment of all public funds are an important tool for achieving society's social, environmental and economic goals
12. the public service must provide apolitical and reliable advice to government, and democratically elected Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly should respect the advice of this important institution.

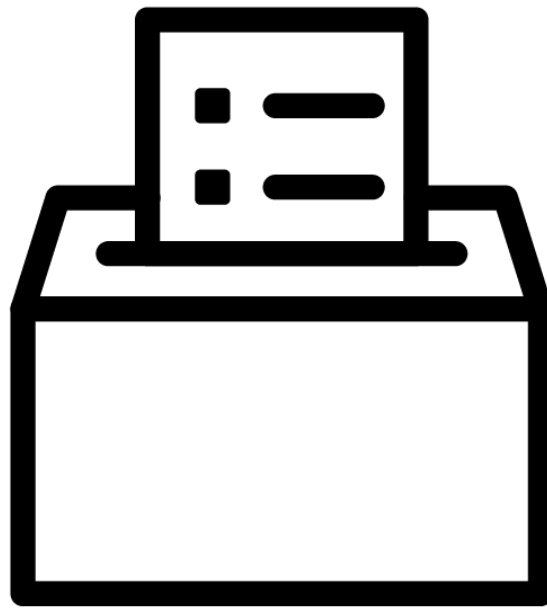
GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. government to provide universally accessible public and community services, such as health and education
2. ACT's system of taxes, charges and concessions as a whole to be progressive, with low-income people paying proportionally less in taxes and charges
3. an effective system of concessions and assistance, targeted to those most in need
4. service delivery to be outsourced from government to the private or community sector only when it is of clear long-term community benefit. Bringing service delivery back into government should be considered as a valid option wherever possible
5. broad measures of community wellbeing to be developed and used to guide public expenditure and taxation decisions
6. the budget position to be sustainable over the medium to long term

7. the taxation system to discourage social and environmental harms and provide incentives for socially and environmentally sustainable behaviours
8. ACT Government to promote nationally coordinated processes that retain a fair distribution of taxation revenue and avoid interstate competition that weakens the overall taxation system
9. legislated standards for the ethical investment of public money to include both positive and negative investment screening
10. full divestment of the ACT Government from harmful industries, such as fossil fuels, weapons manufacturers, gambling industries, tobacco and alcohol industries, as well as industries that breach international labour laws or cause harm to the environment or animals
11. ACT community to have greater levels of participation in budget, public expenditure and taxation decisions
12. introduction of employee representation on boards of ACT Government corporations, and a requirement for government-owned corporations to create schemes for their workers to have an active role in financial and organisational decisions
13. procurement processes to include submission criteria that require tenderers to meet high environmental, employment and consultation standards
14. procurement processes to be conducted fairly and with transparency
15. infrastructure projects to be generally funded through responsible government borrowing, and public-private partnership arrangements for infrastructure projects to be used only when it is of clear long-term community benefit
16. infrastructure projects to be accountable, transparent and subject to quality public engagement for their duration including through the publication of documents such as environmental impact statements, business cases, triple-bottom-line analyses and cost-benefit analyses.

GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



ARTS AND CULTURE

The arts have played a significant role in all cultures, history and heritage, from time-honoured and ancient to contemporary and new media forms. They extend our ways of knowing and experiencing the world and make a vital contribution to our collective identity.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. arts and cultural activities help define our many communities and should be open and accessible for everyone to engage with, participate in and enjoy
2. First Nations cultures make a vital and continuing contribution to arts and culture in the ACT
3. an active and diverse ACT arts sector enriches our community and strongly contributes to community members' quality of life and wellbeing
4. a diversity of arts practice, including both community-level and high-level professional arts practice, should be supported in the ACT
5. the ACT arts community is an important part of our economy.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. increased availability and opportunities for community-wide participation in arts and cultural activities, with accessible venues throughout the ACT
2. arts funding to reflect the need for arts and cultural programs to be accessible, representative and affordable for the whole community
3. increased opportunities for local artists, including musicians, visual artists, performers and dancers, to develop their abilities to a high level and showcase their work
4. strong, well-resourced links between artists, workplaces, schools, institutions, urban designers and developers
5. increased financial engagement between ACT businesses and the arts, in recognition of the important role played by private sponsorship and philanthropy in the arts
6. open, transparent and peer-reviewed processes for government funding decisions
7. a vibrant and sustainable ACT-based professional arts industry across diverse platforms, including digital and new media
8. a thriving live music and events scene in the ACT with designated entertainment precincts
9. high-quality music and arts education throughout the education system, including in preschool, primary, secondary, college, tertiary and specialist institutional levels in the ACT
10. recognition of and appreciation for the work of musicians and artists based in our region
11. a systemic and integrated approach to developing and implementing arts policies
12. a regional approach to music, arts, and cultural events and activities
13. funding to be directed towards art and art therapy to assist in the promotion of health and wellbeing, including in mental health, aged care, the disability sector and the community more broadly.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. meaningful, ongoing community engagement is vital for democracy and a society that values inclusion
2. ACT Government decision-making, legislation, policies and programs should be informed by genuine, proactive and ongoing community engagement that is meaningful and transparent
3. the full range of informative, consultative, participatory and deliberative community engagement processes should be utilised, and the ACT Government should engage in good faith, providing sufficient information, time and other resources to allow for meaningful community participation
4. effective and meaningful community engagement requires adequate, balanced and timely involvement of a diverse range of people and groups
5. community engagement processes must be clear in purpose and provide accurate descriptions of the types of consultation to be used; in particular, the community should be told how their engagement will influence government actions
6. government should report back to the community about outcomes of community engagement, including the impact community views and opinions had on government actions
7. communities should be empowered and enabled to collectively identify issues and solutions for their own needs in a way that is supported, respected and responded to by the ACT Government.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. ACT Government to become a national leader in participatory governance
2. mutual trust, respect and increased cooperation in decision-making between the ACT Government and the ACT public
3. sufficient resourcing of a Community Engagement Unit to ensure the comprehensive coordination of engagement between the community and ACT Government agencies
4. to ensure that community engagement processes take account of commitments made by government about engagement, such as the 2012 ACT Social Compact. Such processes should be adequately and appropriately resourced and include appropriate timeframes for engagement
5. incentives for ACT Government agencies to demonstrate excellence in community engagement activities

6. to update the Community Engagement Manual to include deliberative democratic processes, and to extend the training of ACT Government officers in effective use of the Community Engagement Manual
7. implementation of participatory democratic mechanisms for prioritising and spending of public funds
8. appropriate resourcing allocated to ensuring the community is well informed about government and community projects and activities in the ACT
9. full participation of people and community organisations in public debate without fear of negative repercussions from the ACT Government and employers
10. consistent, active measures to engage all members of the ACT's diverse communities in participatory and community engagement processes, with genuine opportunities for all people affected by outcomes to be involved in community engagement activities
11. the scale of community engagement processes to match the potential impact of ACT Government legislation, policies and programs, and community engagement processes to reach people likely to be affected by legislation, policies and programs
12. appropriately resourced processes to inform the community about the outcomes of the processes in which they participate, including reasons for accepting or rejecting community recommendations.

EDUCATION

Education is a lifelong process that develops us all as human beings. Free, high-quality education promotes equality of opportunity, is a cornerstone of a healthy democracy and is fundamental to society.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone should have equitable access to education that meets their needs and aspirations, and that provides them with skills and capacities to meaningfully participate in society
2. learning is a lifelong process that is fostered in both formal and informal settings
3. providers of vocational and other future training needs in the ACT must consider the changing labour market, gender equity and the development of new skills for a just transition to a green economy
4. it is the responsibility of government to ensure the provision of high-quality, well-resourced and safe learning environments that are open to all students
5. teaching is an undervalued profession that should be highly respected
6. a responsive and relevant education system is underpinned by community involvement and recognises that parents and carers play a critical role in the education of their children
7. education curricula and teaching across all ages should include education on, and respect for, diversity in all its forms, including historical and contemporary experiences of age, disability, First Nations identity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersex variations, religion, socioeconomic status and our shared colonial history
8. we should continue to develop Canberra as a university city and part of Australia's 'knowledge economy'.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a vibrant public education system, which attains world-class standards of excellence and is built on an evolving and research-based curriculum and pedagogy
2. a fully funded public, secular education system to meet the needs of ACT students in all their diversity
3. full implementation of government and non-government education funding, based on a formula that supports equitable educational opportunities and that is allocated in a transparent, accountable and needs-based manner, such as those outlined in the Gonski principles
4. a range of accessible education and training programs, including literacy and numeracy, to offer new opportunities to adults at all life stages, including adults re-entering the workforce and adjusting to changed circumstances
5. improved transitions between early childhood, primary, secondary, college, tertiary and vocational education sectors, and greater coordination across those sectors

6. to ensure that all students are supported to develop their potential, including those with culturally and socially diverse backgrounds, and students living with a physical or intellectual disability
7. students with disability and/or learning difficulties to have access to integrated and inclusive education opportunities
8. improved student support services, ranging from learning assistance to support for health and welfare needs
9. a safe, student-centred, healthy and high-quality school environment for all students, teachers and other staff that is free from bullying
10. culturally responsible learning methods and resources, particularly for First Nations students
11. active engagement of First Nations community members and their local languages and cultures in school curriculum, in schools and in other educational settings
12. First Nations history to be taught to all students in the ACT
13. all children and young people to have age-appropriate, inclusive and comprehensive social and emotional education to build skills for respectful relationships, compassion, cooperation and resilience
14. a whole-of-family approach to support for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, including ongoing support for English as an additional language
15. affordable and suitable housing for all students in the ACT, including those in the tertiary sector (see also the ACT Greens [Housing and Homelessness Policy](#))
16. to strengthen the links between schools and their communities, to facilitate greater parent and carer involvement in student learning, and to increase access to community services
17. all students to have equality of access to digital technology, and to be supported to be kept safe and to understand the risks and benefits of cyber platforms, including social media platforms
18. an education system uncompromised by corporate influence on teaching and learning
19. children and young people to have direct educational experience with nature, the environment and agricultural systems, including First Nations land management systems
20. schools to be responsive to students at risk of disengagement through the use of clearly identified early intervention and prevention approaches
21. home education to be respected and supported as a viable alternative to mainstream schooling

EARLY CHILDHOOD

22. childcare, early childhood and preschool education policy and planning to improve access to and affordability of high-quality education
23. a continued commitment to the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care, including at least 15 hours per week of preschool, delivered by teachers with early childhood qualifications

HIGHER EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATION TRAINING

24. a strategic approach to identifying emerging training needs for the ACT, with genuine community input

25. a high-quality and accessible Vocational Education and Training (VET) system to offer new skills and re-skilling for future occupations, including industries emerging in the green economy
26. Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) to remain in public ownership and to be funded at levels that allow it to meet the VET needs of the ACT community
27. continued prioritisation of government VET funding to go to CIT
28. a continued joint ACT–Federal Government funding agreement for VET
29. more mechanisms provided for volunteers to receive subsidised training and other support as part of a comprehensive community sector strategy
30. higher education in the ACT to be accessible, affordable and meet the needs of students
31. to ensure opportunities for commercialisation partnerships do not undermine academic freedom and quality of research
32. to further develop the knowledge economy by encouraging universities to establish or expand their presence

WORKFORCE

33. a professional and well-supported education workforce, which is provided with relevant and innovative professional development opportunities
34. greater resourcing for education staff to effectively teach and support children and young people with diverse needs, including students living with disability or learning difficulties, gifted and talented students, and students at risk
35. to maintain and improve the remuneration, conditions and career opportunities of all ACT education professionals and to increase the recruitment and retention of a high-quality workforce
36. a diverse teaching workforce that is reflective of the ACT community.

A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY

A healthy democracy is a fundamental prerequisite for a safe, equitable and happy community living in a healthy, natural world.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the separation of powers between the executive, legislature and the judiciary as set out in the Australian Constitution is critical to good governance
2. a healthy democracy requires probity, transparency and accountability in all aspects of government, including government departments, government-owned entities and statutory authorities
3. an independent media plays an important role in ensuring that government decision-making is transparent and open to public scrutiny; an independent media must be protected from interference and political bias
4. a culture of honest, compassionate and responsive service to our communities is as important to good governance as official rules and procedures
5. legislated integrity and oversight agencies that are free from outside influence are vital to our democracy
6. ACT Government decision-making should have the wellbeing of ACT community members, flora, fauna and country as its central purpose
7. government decision-making should be transparent with respect to its social, environmental and economic impacts, with any negative consequences accounted for and ameliorated, where appropriate
8. ACT residents are best represented in the ACT Legislative Assembly using a Hare-Clark electoral system with multi-member electorates that adequately represent the population
9. proactive, meaningful participation and engagement in democratic processes by and with members of the community is vital for good governance and social cohesion (see also the ACT Greens [Community Engagement and Participatory Democracy Policy](#))
10. ACT Government should be a leader and innovator in good governance
11. parliamentary rules, conventions and structures must keep pace with changing community expectations
12. public servants should have adequate resources and support to provide accurate and thorough advice to the governments they serve, without fear, favour or undue influence
13. a systemic, integrated approach to all policies enhances the implementation of government policies and breaks down silo mentality
14. all ACT Government decision-making should adopt a long-term approach
15. a healthy democracy requires consistent and active measures to engage all members of the ACT's diverse community in decision-making.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. open and transparent access to government information, including a clear presumption of proactive disclosure⁴ as part of a robust freedom-of-information system
2. funding and resourcing to promote existing open government information channels and cabinet outcomes
3. active disclosure of data, analysis, research and other information of public interest by ACT Government departments, statutory authorities and government-owned entities, with protections for people's privacy
4. powers and resources for all integrity agencies to develop and subsequently monitor the implementation of relevant recommendations of any inquiries agreed to by the ACT Government
5. all relevant oversight agencies to be Officers of the Parliament
6. a holistic approach to government decision-making and reporting, including consistent, meaningful and measurable strategic and accountability indicators
7. ACT Government decision-making, legislation, policies and programs to be informed by genuine, ongoing community engagement that is meaningful, respectful and transparent
8. all government projects to have exemplary community consultation and pre-project consultation (see also the ACT Greens [Community Engagement and Participatory Democracy Policy](#))
9. support to be given to communities to proactively develop community initiatives and plans, and for those initiatives and plans to be appropriately considered by government
10. all government legislation and explanatory information to be consistent, written in plain English and made available to the public in accessible formats, including in translations
11. all explanatory statements accompanying legislation to contain human rights impact analyses and community consultation summaries
12. consistent with the 2019 ACT Legislative Assembly's Climate Change Emergency Declaration, all Members to have access to climate impact analyses of proposed legislation
13. implementation plans and adequate resourcing to accompany all major strategies and policies, with online reporting of progress
14. all major government policies, programs and strategies to be independently evaluated within two years of commencing
15. key government strategies to be reviewed every five to ten years and actively monitored by a defined lead directorate or agency
16. government economic management and budget processes to be focused on the wellbeing of community members, flora, fauna and country.

⁴ Current legislation includes a requirement for proactive disclosure of 'open access' information, as well as a presumption that information will be released if considered in the public interest.

HUMAN RIGHTS

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. economic, social, cultural, environmental, civil and political rights are interdependent and must be respected and protected
2. cultural, religious, gender and other differences need to be incorporated into government decision-making to ensure equal human rights are enjoyed by all
3. where policies appear to have conflicting impacts of individual, community and environmental rights, careful and transparent deliberation can identify creative and innovative solutions to policymaking
4. the concept of human rights is dynamic and can evolve to cover new ground through ongoing public discussion.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. protection of and respect for Australia's domestic and international human rights obligations in government decisions and policies
2. continued scrutiny and review of ACT Government decisions and policies through a human rights framework
3. continued implementation of the *Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT)*
4. the ACT Human Rights Act to include a right to a healthy environment
5. human rights concepts to be progressively translated into effective local laws and policies
6. well-resourced promotion and education of a shared understanding of human rights obligations, and ongoing and active community discussions about human rights and their application in the ACT
7. the ACT to continue its role as a leader among Australian jurisdictions in fulfilling human rights obligations and as a key participant in discussions on evolving human rights
8. a culture of human rights to be cultivated across government, non-government and private sectors
9. legislated freedom of expression for ACT Government public servants
10. Service Funding Agreements between the ACT Government and community sector to include a clause requiring non-discrimination of service provision and/or employment.

JUSTICE

Criminal justice is inextricably linked with social and economic justice, as well as civil and political rights.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has a right to live in a safe and peaceful community, free from crime and fear of violence
2. judicial independence is fundamental to a democratic society
3. all elements of the justice system should be transparent to ensure accountability and consistency
4. legal and justice systems must not entrench privilege or disadvantage, and should support activities and reforms to advance ecological sustainability, social equality, democracy and peace
5. the fundamental principles of criminal law should be preserved and upheld, including the presumption of innocence, access to legal representation, open courts, *habeas corpus*, equality and the right to silence
6. ACT Government should pursue justice reinvestment processes to address the systemic causes of crime, for the benefit of the whole community
7. to ensure equality before the law, the justice system must be responsive to those experiencing disadvantage and prejudice, acknowledging that many people who engage in offending behaviour have at some point been victims of crimes and trauma themselves
8. the criminal justice system must recognise the rights of victims of criminal and civil wrongs
9. restorative practices are an essential element to a holistic justice system
10. incarceration is only appropriate as a last resort sentencing option, and alternative penalties should be available to the courts
11. remand in custody should be minimised
12. essential outcomes of the justice system are the good health and rehabilitation of offenders, and the reduction of recidivism and trauma
13. in a prioritisation of alternatives to traditional judicial processes, including early access to dispute resolution mechanisms, restorative practices and beneficial legal advice
14. it is important to foster community understanding and respect for the principles and practices of the justice system.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the criminal justice system to respect the human rights of victims, alleged and convicted offenders, witnesses and others impacted by crime
2. to reduce the number of people incarcerated in the ACT, particularly First Nations peoples
3. to end racism, racial bias and racial profiling across the criminal justice system

4. to end politically motivated law-and-order campaigns and the use of terrorism threats to undermine or discard basic principles of law and human rights
5. commitment to an evidence-driven approach to crime to recognise the value of crime prevention and address the social determinants of crime
6. inter-agency coordination to address the social and economic circumstances that increase people's risk of both committing a crime and becoming a victim of crime
7. victims of both civil and criminal wrongs to receive the necessary social and professional support to facilitate their recovery
8. funding allocated for expansion of criminal justice facilities to instead be invested in programs that address the underlying causes of crime
9. First Nations-designed and First Nations-led initiatives to minimise First Nations peoples' contact with, and to provide alternatives to, the criminal justice system
10. people held in correctional facilities to be provided with a standard of care that ensures they exit detention in good health and with a reduced likelihood of reoffending
11. increased funding of and access to programs for people exiting detention to support their transition back into the community and to reduce rates of recidivism
12. to address drug and alcohol addiction and mental health, which are contributing factors for many who come into contact with the legal system through access to rehabilitation centres and mental health services
13. incorporation of trauma-informed practice in responses to both offenders and victims
14. to have a strategic approach to meeting community legal needs, and to increase resources to community legal centres and Legal Aid
15. ACT Policing to be well resourced and skilled, to have close relationships with the ACT's diverse community, and to be able to respond to the community's diverse needs.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND INTERSEX VARIATIONS

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. freedom of sexual orientation, gender identity, bodily integrity and self-determination are fundamental human rights that must be protected
2. our community is more just and equal when we support, embrace and celebrate intersex people and people with diverse sexualities and gender identities, as well as their friends, families and allies
3. LGBTIQ+ communities have historically and continue to uniquely enrich the ACT
4. the acronym LGBTIQ+ does not present an exhaustive list of identities and experiences; expressions of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex variations are highly individual, and all are valid
5. there are intersections of disadvantages and diversity in the needs and circumstances of LGBTIQ+ people from particular groups, such as women, First Nations peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse people, young people, older people, people with disability, people in prison and people seeking asylum
6. discrimination on the basis or perception of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or intersex status has no place in a just and equitable society
7. the Darlington Statement should be affirmed and implemented; priorities outlined in this document should inform all government policies, initiatives and approaches towards people with intersex characteristics.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. an end to all discrimination, including religious discrimination, against people who have, or who are perceived to have, diverse bodies, sexualities and gender identities
2. removal of all discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status from ACT legislation, regulation and government policy
3. ACT community to celebrate diversity in bodies, sexualities and gender identities
4. an end to the over-representation of people with diverse sexualities, diverse gender identities and intersex variations among those experiencing homelessness, poverty, hate-based violence and social disadvantages
5. fair and timely access for people with needs related to their sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status to required support services, including health, mental health and peer support services
6. funding of consensual medical treatment for gender affirmation services in the ACT, including mental health consultations and associated expenses
7. an end to deferrable medical interventions that alter the sex characteristics of infants and children without personal consent, including surgical and hormonal interventions

8. provision of equitable, affordable, respectful and sensitive health and mental health services in the ACT to address the specific needs of intersex people and people with diverse sexualities and gender identities
9. equal opportunity for intersex people and people with diverse sexualities and gender identities in all private and public employment, including in ACT Government workplaces
10. schools and other education services to respect and support intersex students and students with diverse sexualities and gender identities, as well as their families, through peer support, anti-bullying and other youth-based policies, programs and services
11. education about sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex variations throughout the education system
12. a ban on 'conversion' practices for sexuality and gender identity
13. ACT Government and other decision makers to put the views of LGBTIQ+ people and communities at the forefront of decision making on issues that affect LGBTIQ+ people and communities
14. all prospective parents to be given information on the possibility of having children with intersex variations
15. hospitals to develop clear guidelines for responding to births of children with intersex variations, including the provision of training for doctors, midwives and social workers in intersex awareness
16. young people to consent to their own medical treatment in the process of transition, where they are able to demonstrate sufficient maturity and intelligence to understand and appraise the nature and implications of proposed treatment⁵
17. ACT Government to improve its statistical data collection on people with diverse sexualities, gender identities and intersex variations, as well as their families, including statistical data on hate-motivated crimes and civil offences such as discrimination perpetrated against LGBTIQ+ people, mindful of personal privacy considerations
18. ACT Government to actively work with sporting codes to develop policies and programs to support the participation of transgender and gender diverse people across all levels of sport, from recreational to elite
19. Service Funding Agreements between government, human services organisations and community sector organisations to include a clause requiring non-discrimination of service provision or employment towards members of the LGBTIQ+ community
20. to lobby the Australian Government to remove discrimination in blood donation eligibility
21. to ensure LGBTIQ+ people in the ACT have access to affordable and non-discriminatory reproductive services, such as Assisted Reproductive Technologies and In Vitro Fertilisation treatment and procedures.

⁵ The functional ability to make a decision is also known as 'Gillick competence'.

SPORT AND RECREATION

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. sport and active recreation are essential parts of physical and mental wellbeing
2. participation in sport and active recreation should be accessible to all ACT community members
3. community sporting clubs play a vital role in building stronger and more resilient communities
4. the contribution of volunteers to sport and recreational activities is significant and should be supported
5. sport and recreation are important sources of employment and economic and social activity
6. sporting excellence should be encouraged and recognised, and opportunities for improvement and competition provided
7. sporting events and activities should be undertaken in a way that considers, and minimises the impact on, the changing environment.

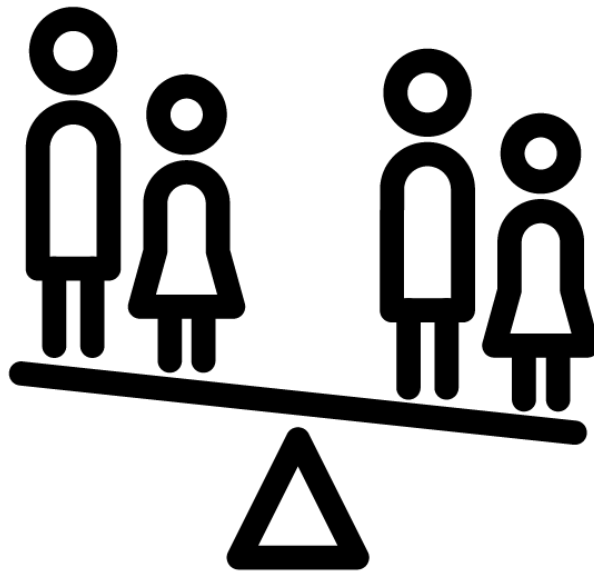
GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. Canberra to be recognised as a world-class sport and recreation city that offers a diverse range of urban and nature-based activities
2. improvements in public health, social inclusion and community strength through increased participation in sport and recreational activities
3. a strong relationship between the ACT Government and sports stakeholders, including small, informal and volunteer-run sporting groups, to deliver long-term strategic plans for sport and active recreation in the ACT and surrounding region
4. targeted assistance to support disadvantaged community members to overcome barriers to involvement
5. equity of access to sporting venues and events for people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people from the LGBTIQ+ community
6. planning and delivery of sporting and recreation infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing region
7. a strong role for community and sporting organisations in the planning, control and management of sporting and recreation facilities and infrastructure
8. reduced insurance costs and financial and administrative burdens on sports organisations, including simple and transparent funding processes
9. a culture of equity, fairness, inclusiveness, non-violence and freedom from harassment, including in junior sport
10. the regulatory environment to support volunteers and community groups, and to make it easier to be involved in and run events

11. to facilitate major sporting events in the ACT, where there are overall benefits for ACT community members
12. to attract mass-participation sporting events to the ACT, recognising the benefits of tourism, employment and volunteering to the ACT
13. greater recognition of women's sport and improved gender equity in sports funding allocations
14. ACT Government to actively work with sporting groups to develop policies and programs to support the participation of transgender and gender diverse people across all levels of sport, from recreational to elite
15. the staging of sporting events and the building of sports facilities and infrastructure to have minimal environmental impacts
16. government to assist sporting organisations adapt to the impacts of climate change—such as hotter and drier conditions, and air quality issues—in the planning of infrastructure and policies regarding participant safety
17. a variety of free, well-maintained facilities and infrastructure to support safe sport and recreational activities in parks, lakes and natural areas throughout the ACT
18. to limit the amount of gambling and alcohol advertising for sporting events, teams and venues.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL EQUITY



ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

The current punitive approach to drug use has failed to stop illicit drug use and its harms. Harm minimisation policies are those directed towards reducing the adverse health, social and economic consequences of drug and substance use.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the use of any drug, including alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceuticals, has the potential to be of harm to the person and their community
2. the ACT should prioritise a non-judgemental public health approach and social framework to addressing drug-related harms
3. social and economic inequality contribute to the harms caused by drugs
4. criminal sanctions for the personal possession or use of illicit drugs are not appropriate or effective, and service systems should prioritise a public health approach
5. there should be greater resourcing for demand reduction and harm minimisation
6. prevention of, and voluntary early intervention in, drug use are the most effective ways to minimise harms
7. policies and programs concerning drugs and people who use drugs and their families should be evidence-driven, have input from people who use or have used drugs, and be subject to continual evaluation
8. understanding the effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and having access to evidence-based information can help empower people to respond to, and reduce, the impacts of drugs on the community
9. the prohibition of drugs is a causal factor in organised crime.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. increased government funding for drug treatment, harm reduction and rehabilitation programs and infrastructure
2. coordinated inter-agency and cross-sectoral approaches to minimise harms from drug use
3. targeted health promotion strategies to promote healthier behaviours towards drinking, smoking and other drug use
4. public information, education and safety programs to enable informed choice and safer drug use
5. public information and education programs to eliminate the stigma of drug use and promote evidence-based discussions in the community
6. improved training for first responders to engage with people who are drug affected
7. evidence-based and age-appropriate drug education programs in schools
8. increased support for programs to address the social determinants of drug use, such as poverty, family and domestic violence, sexual assault and trauma, including childhood trauma

9. increased effectiveness in the treatment and care of people experiencing comorbidity, also understood as substance use combined with mental ill-health, intellectual disability, acquired brain injury and/or other relevant diagnoses, and improved long-term care options for high risk groups with complex needs
10. targeted strategies to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug harms among high risk groups that have high rates of use
11. increased government engagement with First Nations communities on the impacts of drug use on First Nations people and families, and increased First Nations community control over drug policies, laws and programs that affect First Nations communities
12. initiatives to reduce high rates of blood-borne disease transmission resulting from drug use in places of detention
13. increased support and services for families and communities adversely affected by the use of alcohol, tobacco and/or other drugs
14. decriminalisation of possession and non-commercial sale of drugs
15. a review of the ACT Spent Convictions Scheme to consider pathways for expungement of criminal records related to personal possession, use and cultivation of cannabis
16. increased availability of currently illicit substances for regulated medical or therapeutic purposes and associated research
17. implementation of harm reduction drug testing, such as static and mobile pill testing, into the normal operations of public health activities
18. provision of free and reliable testing for legislated road safety intoxication levels of substance use, including alcohol, at major community events, festivals and licensed venues.

CARERS

Carers provide essential paid and unpaid care and support to family members, partners and friends who have needs associated with disability, ageing, physical health, mental health and/or substance use.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. carers, paid and unpaid, make a substantial social and economic contribution to the ACT community
2. caring is a potentially rewarding role that should be undertaken by choice, not because of inadequate social or health services
3. relationships involving the provision of care are a partnership in which both parties have a right to quality of life
4. carers have a right to equity in opportunity, particularly in relation to participation in education, employment and community activities
5. carers should be involved in decisions that have an impact on them as people
6. carers' knowledge and experience should be recognised
7. respite can be necessary for the health and wellbeing of carers and the person/s in their care
8. there are a wide variety of carers who each have different needs
9. a lack of secure, long-term supported accommodation for people with disability impacts adversely on carers, and older carers in particular
10. because of their caring role, carers are often not in the full-time workforce and have lower income and retirement savings. The majority of carers are female, and many carers of older people are themselves older.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. increased recognition of carers' knowledge and experience in the workforce
2. increased community awareness and respect for carers as an essential part of the care team
3. support for the health and wellbeing of carers to consider the diversity of carers and caring roles
4. carers to receive adequate support before crises occur
5. carers to be involved in the development of carer-related policies to ensure strategies align with carers' needs
6. stronger rights for carers, including the right to make choices and optimise their own quality of life
7. a person-centred response to carers' needs
8. clear and up-to-date information to be available to carers about services that could be suitable for them and the person/s in their care

9. carers to receive adequate advice and assistance about how to best care for their family members, partners and friends
10. carers to be able to access advocacy support, respite services, physical and mental support and other supports, including assistance to coordinate support for the person/s in their care
11. a coordinated, well-resourced and strategic response to meet the needs of carers and the person/s in their care
12. better information on the needs of young carers and research-based specific responses
13. increased opportunities and support for young carers to complete formal schooling, further education and training.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. we must provide a healthy, safe and sustainable environment for children and young people to live and thrive in
2. children and young people must be respected and valued for who they are now, as well as who they may become in the future
3. children and young people are entitled to express their opinions and to have their opinions taken into account by decision-makers
4. decisions that affect children and young people must be in children and young people's best interests and be guided by their opinions
5. the rights of children and young people in the ACT must be protected and promoted, including the right to education and safety, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
6. children and young people have a right to relax, play and join in on a wide range of cultural, artistic and recreational activities
7. children and young people have a right to live free of physical and emotional abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination
8. foster carers and kinship carers play an important role in the child and youth protection system. Children and young people benefit from having stable, long-term carers
9. children and young people who are unable, for their best interests, to stay in their family⁶ are entitled to care and protection that respects their individual rights, needs, beliefs, cultures, languages, sexuality and gender identity
10. a child's right to be safe overrides a parent's right to have contact with their child
11. children and young people who do not live with their parents have a right to know and maintain meaningful relationships with their non-resident parent and extended family, where this is practicable and safe
12. supports to prevent and reduce harms in the early stages of life (generally, for children aged between 0–8 years) can have profound effects in terms of reducing harms, and the impact of harms, later in life.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. children and young people to be valued as active ACT community members
2. elimination of neglect, abuse and disadvantage among children and young people in the ACT
3. continual review of ACT legislation to strengthen the human rights of children and young people

⁶ The ACT Greens recognise that families come in many forms and that parenthood can exist outside of biological reproductive processes.

4. effective mechanisms for children and young people to express their needs, opinions and aspirations to the ACT Government, including through collaboration with representative and advocacy organisations and the broader community
5. people aged 16 and 17 years to have the option to vote in ACT elections
6. continual enhancement of the ACT's urban and non-urban environment as a child-friendly and young person-friendly Territory
7. children and young people to have improved access to, and feel welcome and safe in, public spaces and community facilities throughout the ACT
8. children and young people to have safe and accessible transport options to meet their needs, developed through effective engagement with government
9. provision of appropriate and accessible youth services in the ACT, including mental health services for people aged 12–25 years and for people aged 12–16 years in particular
10. provision of appropriate and accessible child health services in the ACT, including mental health services for children aged 8–12 years
11. enhanced early intervention and prevention services and resources for children and young people at risk
12. children and young people to have access to safe and affordable housing through public housing, community housing and supported accommodation
13. First Nations-led solutions and initiatives to address the over-representation of First Nations children in ACT Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS)
14. programs that identify and assist children and young people who are at risk of leaving the education system, with a focus on enhanced outcomes for First Nations students
15. provision of adequate funding and support for kinship carers
16. high-quality and well-funded services for children and young people who have suffered or are at risk of suffering abuse and neglect, including the provision of adequate funding for CYPS and the out-of-home care system
17. services that recognise the importance of maintaining positive relationships between children and their birth parents, and that seek to support reunification, where possible and appropriate
18. clear targets to drive improved outcomes for young people making the transition from out-of-home care to independent living, including support for people aged 18–25 years
19. the age of criminal responsibility to be raised to 14 years old
20. families and children who have contact with CYPS to have full access to information held about them.

DISABILITY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has a right to independence, self-determination, choice and freedom from discrimination in their lives
2. governments hold primary responsibility for ongoing leadership in fulfilling obligations set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
3. people's individual abilities differ for a variety of medical, societal and environmental reasons; all barriers to equitable access and full participation in society should be removed
4. people with disability, and their families and carers, should be supported to actively participate in disability policy development, service planning and delivery
5. people with disability should be at the centre of decision-making regarding the services they access
6. accessible education, training and employment for people with disability are key to positive social inclusion and wellbeing
7. people with disability should have access to a range of secure and affordable housing options
8. adequate provision of transport options for people with disability is necessary for full participation in society
9. people with disability are entitled to protection from abuse and neglect
10. the health and wellbeing of carers of people with disability is important
11. service providers' sustainability needs to be considered, to ensure the needs of people with disability and systemic issues are addressed
12. early access to appropriate care for children and young people with disability can prevent longer term significant health costs
13. disagreements about whether a person's issues are defined as health related or disability related should not prevent that person from receiving adequate and appropriate care.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. people with disability to be able to participate fully in all aspects of life, including in education, training and employment
2. people with disability to have access to facilities and support personnel to undertake their chosen activities
3. people with disability to be involved in all levels of decision-making and policymaking, including in their own service development and delivery
4. scrutiny of disability support services to meet service standards, to ensure the provision of quality services
5. improvements to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to fully meet its potential to provide adequate funding for people, including funding for respite services and individual and systemic advocacy services

6. people with disability to have access to a range of secure, affordable housing options that meet their needs
7. ongoing support to be provided for people with disability who are not covered by the NDIS but who still require assistance to fully participate in the community, including people aged over 65 years
8. equal access to education, training, adult education and lifelong learning
9. better pathways for school leavers with disability to make the transition from school into meaningful employment, educational and vocational programs and other community-based activities
10. support for social enterprises operating in the ACT to employ people with disability, and an increase in social procurement from the ACT Government
11. improved employment opportunities and practices for people with disability, including for employers to adhere to employment and wage standards and to support the adaptation of workplaces for accessibility
12. elimination of barriers for people with disability to access ACT community and public transport systems, information and communication technologies, and public facilities and services
13. elimination of interpersonal and sexual violence against people with disability, particularly women, and appropriate responses to any residual incidences
14. an increased range of services that support carers of people with disability
15. improvements in pay, conditions and career structures for providers of disability services
16. important community announcements to be made in Australian Sign Language (Auslan).

FAMILIES

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. families, in their diversity, are essential to the wellbeing and strength of our community
2. supportive relationships enhance people's wellbeing and resilience
3. family structures are increasingly diverse and should be valued in all their forms
4. long-term public investment in health, education and family support services, particularly in the early years of childhood (0–8 years), is a sound investment in our society's future
5. parents and carers are entitled to choice and support to balance family commitments with their involvement in the workforce and community life
6. some families may require additional support to build skills, develop resilience, realise their potential and reduce the risks of harm.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. meaningful engagement with families and local communities to evaluate and develop ACT Government policies and services
2. targeted initiatives to ameliorate living costs for low-income families and families that are at-risk and facing disadvantage
3. policies to support and acknowledge the specific needs of separated families, sole-parent families, step families, blended families, families with parents with disability, families with adolescent parents, First Nations families, families with same-sex and gender diverse parents, and families in which children are cared for by grandparents or extended family or who are carers themselves
4. effective, responsive, accountable, transparent, safe and high-quality services for all families in the ACT
5. accessible and affordable high-quality early education services for all families in the ACT
6. family-friendly work policies, including parental leave and flexible working arrangements, for all parents and carers
7. increased investment from both the ACT Government and the Australian Government in family support services, including intensive and coordinated support
8. family-centred services to ensure the safety of families, and prevent and respond to serious issues of abuse, neglect and domestic violence
9. at risk families to have access to food relief, meal services and practical assistance
10. families that have contact with child and youth protection systems to have full access to information held about them.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone must be able to live their lives free from violence and fear of violence
2. violence in family and domestic settings takes many forms, and can include physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse
3. gender inequality, stereotyping and discrimination can lead to violence and is a whole-of-community issue
4. while anyone can be subjected to violence and abuse in family and domestic settings, statistics show that women are much more likely than men to experience family and domestic violence (Our Watch, 2020) and this is likely to be an underestimate⁷
5. significant long-term cultural and social change around respectful relationships is required to create respectful relationships and end the systemic disadvantage currently faced by women and girls. This disadvantage can put women and girls at greater risk of violence and abuse in family and domestic settings
6. the legal system must prioritise the safety of vulnerable people before any other consideration
7. the responsibility for violence always rests with the person using violence.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a coordinated and comprehensive ACT-wide response to the family and domestic violence crisis and the elimination of violence against women and children. This response must be evidence-based and well-resourced to address primary prevention action, crisis response, overlapping vulnerability, intersectionality, justice response, housing and long-term support
2. ACT Government to play a leadership role in ongoing national work to reduce family and domestic violence, including promoting and funding coordinated national and local responses
3. nationally consistent implementation of, and adequate funding for, primary prevention of violence strategies, including support for respectful relationship education for people throughout their lives
4. to address the negative effects of family and domestic violence—physical, emotional and economic—through adequately funded, culturally responsible, accessible, women-led and women-directed health and education programs
5. further development of, and support for, national anti-violence campaigns and programs, including family and domestic violence, primary prevention and early intervention programs

⁷ The ACT Greens Family and Domestic Violence Policy focuses primarily on women and children to reflect these statistics. In focusing on women and children, the ACT Greens do not wish to minimise the significance of violence experienced by many other people in family and domestic settings.

6. measures to address sexism in the media to contribute to efforts to eradicate negative portrayals of women, cybersexism, online abuse and rape culture
7. increased, high-quality training for first responders and mainstream organisations to ensure appropriate and timely responses to family and domestic violence, including ACT Policing and health services
8. adequate, coordinated and well-resourced community services and advocacy groups to provide care and support for people who are impacted by family and domestic violence, recognising the gendered nature of violence and the need to have gendered responses to ensure people's immediate safety and long-term security
9. well-funded individual and systemic advocacy and legal support services to support people who experience domestic and family violence, including community legal centres and resource centres
10. people experiencing domestic violence to receive the necessary social and professional support to facilitate their recovery
11. programs to support workplaces, businesses and the community as a whole to recognise its role in eliminating violence against women and children, and to support people who are experiencing family and domestic violence.

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

The ACT Greens acknowledge that First Nations' sovereignty has never been ceded. We recognise the Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians of this country and their unique cultural and spiritual relationship with land, water and sky. We also recognise and respect the many other First Nations communities and people that reside in the ACT region.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. Australians have a moral obligation to recognise and enact the principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
2. recognition of First Nations sovereignty is important in increasing the health and wellbeing of the Traditional Custodians of the ACT and surrounding regions
3. First Nations peoples have the same rights and obligations as all other people in Australia
4. the quality of the relationship between First Nations communities and government bodies has a crucial impact on the effectiveness of First Nations-focused government programs, as well as for the capacity of First Nations peoples to practice self-determination and achieve equality
5. recognition of First Nations knowledges, cultures and heritage contributes to sustainable and equitable development and management of the environment
6. First Nations peoples should be celebrated for their positive contributions to, and impacts on, the ACT community
7. the Australian First Nations community has the right to seek truth, Treaties and a Voice to Parliament, if that is what First Nations communities expressly state to governments
8. the local First Nations community must be supported in their self-determined aspirations.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a legislative and regulatory framework to value the roles, contributions and cultures of Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians and other First Nations peoples in the ACT region
2. to ensure all First Nations peoples have the opportunity for meaningful participation in all government decision-making processes
3. provision of more accessible and culturally responsible avenues to increase the participation of First Nations peoples in local politics and government processes
4. an ongoing commitment to fund the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028, including appropriate funding to be provided to the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB)
5. greater recognition of and respect for the skills and knowledge of First Nations peoples
6. to ensure that Representative Aboriginal Organisations, ATSIEB and the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC) continue to be consulted on relevant issues and are adequately remunerated for their time

7. equity of outcomes for First Nations peoples in comparison with all other people in Australia on all major indicators of health, education, training, justice, housing, employment and living standards
8. evidence-based approaches to addressing the impacts of intergenerational social disadvantage and trauma, including more culturally responsible initiatives to address the over-representation of First Nations peoples in the ACT justice system, the child protection system and homelessness services
9. increased access of First Nations peoples to government and community social services, including education, health and justice services, through a mix of initiatives that are more culturally responsible, better targeted and based on community needs
10. increased understanding and respect for First Nations cultures across all services, to increase access by First Nations peoples
11. to support greater participation of local First Nations communities in the development of policies, allocation of funding, and implementation of programs for First Nations communities
12. to support more First Nations-owned and/or First Nations-led micro and small business and self-employment initiatives in the ACT
13. increased, paid consultation with Traditional Custodians of the ACT and surrounding regions on the care and management of nature parks and other public land in the ACT
14. increased awareness throughout the ACT community of the significant contribution of First Nations communities to the cultural, social and economic life of Canberra
15. First Nations' songlines to be protected before development proposals are considered.

GAMBLING

Gambling can cause serious social and economic impacts on people, families and communities. An evidence-driven public health approach is required to prevent and minimise gambling harm.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. gambling products can be dangerous and can harm the people who use them, as well as those people's families and communities
2. a public health approach must be used to prevent and minimise gambling harm
3. poker machines are the greatest source of gambling-related harm in the ACT
4. online gambling is emerging as an increasingly significant source of harm
5. government action on gambling must be independent of industry bias; government action must prioritise the health and social wellbeing of people ahead of gambling industry interests and government revenue
6. community organisations and political parties should not depend on gambling as a source of revenue
7. gambling policy must consider equity and avoid concentrating gambling venues in disadvantaged areas
8. gambling products should not be promoted to children
9. gambling venues should be designed to reduce the risk of gambling harm
10. overall, accessibility of gambling opportunities should be reduced, not increased.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. evidence-driven reform to address the psychological design features of electronic gambling machines to make gambling activities less dangerous
2. introduction of bet limits, mandatory pre-commitments and other measures to reduce the harm from electronic gaming machines
3. reductions in access to cash in gambling venues
4. reductions in the number of poker machines and the number of venues hosting poker machines in the ACT, and restrictions on the operating hours of poker machines
5. improved monitoring of gambling venue compliance with codes of conduct and self-exclusion measures, and increased enforcement and size of fines for non-compliance
6. ACT Government to advocate for national action to ban gambling advertisements and sponsorship during sports broadcasts and children's television viewing, and to ban in-game purchasing targeted at children
7. bans on online betting promotions and inducements
8. governments, clubs and community organisations to be supported to phase out their reliance on gambling revenue
9. changes to electoral laws to prevent organisations that are the direct beneficiaries of gambling revenues from giving political donations

10. adequate support and services for people and their families adversely affected by gambling. These supports and services must not further stigmatise those experiencing gambling harm and must be delivered by appropriate organisations
11. independent statutory oversight of gaming and racing
12. policy evaluation and research into gambling to be commissioned and conducted free from industry influence, funded by government or statutory levies over a longer and more stable funding cycle
13. researchers and service providers to have greater access to industry data sets and personnel of the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, to facilitate greater harm reduction
14. public health messaging to increase the ACT community's understanding of the risks of gambling harm.

HEALTH

Health is a state of physical, mental and social wellbeing, with outcomes influenced by the interrelationship of biological, social, economic and environmental factors. The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and these circumstances are shaped by money, power and resources.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. fair, equitable and universal access to quality health services is a basic human right
2. mental health is fundamental to people's wellbeing and should be treated as importantly as any other health condition (see also the ACT Greens [Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy](#))
3. climate change adversely impacts public health
4. an effective health system must be person-centred and provide support across primary health care, preventive health care, disease prevention, early intervention and acute and chronic health concerns
5. access to primary and preventive health care is vital and people should be encouraged to interact with health services before they become unwell
6. the increasing prevalence of chronic disease impacts on people and their families, communities and the health system
7. the social determinants of health must be addressed in government decision-making across all portfolios
8. people have distinct and specific health needs, and healthcare responses should be tailored to meet these needs
9. consumers and representative organisations should play an active role in health care by co-designing policy, providing feedback and participating in other consultative processes
10. strategic decision-making and resource allocation in the health sector should involve collaboration between local and federal governments, community, carers, consumers and service providers, with the aim to deliver long-term sustainable funding for healthcare services
11. a well-resourced public sector is an integral part of the delivery of health services
12. healthcare provision should be evidence-based and responsive to current and emerging research and innovation
13. people have a right to be supported in their health literacy, to be informed about their health concerns and options for treatment, and to participate in decision-making about which treatment to pursue
14. peer support and advocacy programs are a valuable resource to assist people in their recovery
15. the experience, training and skills of all healthcare disciplines are integral to an effective healthcare system
16. all healthcare workers should be able to perform their roles in safety
17. carers play a crucial role in health care

18. people held in correctional facilities must have the same access to health services as all other people.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. our natural and built environment to promote health and wellbeing
2. health services to be adequately prepared for the impacts of climate change
3. increased resources to ensure an efficient, well-funded and responsive public health system
4. high-quality preventative, primary, acute, home, hospital-based, community and end-of-life care
5. a whole-of-government approach to achieve improved physical and mental health outcomes for people and communities
6. recognition that the Canberra Hospital operates as a regional health service, and fair funding arrangements to reflect this important regional role
7. evidence-based and innovative approaches to managing the pressures of emergency, critical and tertiary care
8. planned and adequately resourced services to support people experiencing chronic illness in self-managing their illness, as well as support for their families and communities
9. ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS) to provide adequate support for people who need to access interstate health services
10. timely access to affordable specialist health care across the range of conditions, with a high-quality, professional healthcare workforce that meet the needs of our community
11. the health system to be responsive to feedback from consumers, community and health workers
12. increased accountability from the ACT Government on consumer outcomes
13. increased access to bulk-billing general practitioners and primary dental care, especially for groups in the community that have particular risks and vulnerabilities
14. waiting periods for surgery to be equal to or less than the national benchmarks, including elective surgery
15. ACT community members to have access to reliable, up-to-date and impartial information about health and treatment options, and access to their own records
16. vulnerable and high-risk communities to assist in designing preventative health measures and campaigns that impact their own health
17. everyone to have access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food (see also the ACT Greens [Food Production and Consumption Policy](#))
18. government policies to reduce the promotion and availability of high sugar foods
19. support for education about sugar consumption and healthy eating behaviours
20. ACT Government to further address the factors driving higher levels of obesity in the community
21. health services designed and led by First Nations peoples to help eliminate health inequities experienced by First Nations communities

22. ACT community members to have access to unbiased, non-judgemental, high-quality information and services in areas of sexual health, reproductive health, pregnancy termination and perinatal care
23. effectively funded peer support and advocacy groups, programs and initiatives to match identified community needs
24. public health initiatives to help normalise death as part of life and acknowledge the cultural and spiritual considerations of each person
25. patients' decisions regarding palliative care, end of life, voluntary assisted dying, treatment refusal and advance care directives to be respected and appropriately legislated
26. an end to deferrable medical interventions that alter the sex characteristics of infants and children without personal consent, including surgical and hormonal interventions.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. mental health and wellbeing are fundamental to how people experience their lives, engage with others and connect to the broader community
2. that understanding and responding to mental health must be guided by the social determinants of health, informed by medical models and stage of life transitions, and be trauma informed, culturally responsible and recovery oriented
3. the ACT should strive for an integrated mental health system that promotes positive mental wellbeing, early intervention, prevention, rehabilitation, suicide prevention and acute care of people affected by mental illness
4. mental illness must be de-stigmatised and responded to without judgment.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. mental health support and education to be available for, and accessible to, all people experiencing the impacts of mental illness, including family, carers and friends; at all stages of life, including throughout primary, secondary and tertiary education; and in all contexts, including in the workplace and during periods of perinatal care, unemployment, underemployment, illness, grief, loss, and other difficult and traumatic events
2. health, community justice and social service systems to be mental health literate and capable of recognising and responding to mental health issues
3. government and community-provided mental health services to be accessible, recovery-oriented and responsive to complex issues
4. human service and justice systems to be responsive to the mental health needs of all people, and to provide holistic mental health support, such as housing, supported accommodation, financial assistance and community engagement programs
5. increased opportunities for people with mental health conditions to participate in and contribute to the economic and social life of the ACT, including the ability to access education, engage in meaningful work and hold valued roles in the community
6. support for people with enduring mental health conditions to manage their mental illness in ways that enable them to live the most independent and meaningful lives possible
7. greater integration between mental health services and drug and alcohol treatment services
8. the mental health workforce to have better access to training, professional development and support
9. all mental healthcare workers to be able to perform their roles in safety, and to have access to support for their own mental health and wellbeing
10. increased opportunities for peer workers to be part of the mental health workforce
11. the mental health service system to inform and appropriately support carers in their role of supporting a person with mental illness, including assistance with system navigation,

provision of opportunities for respite and support for their own mental health and wellbeing

12. to build a kind community that nurtures mental wellbeing by promoting participation, connection and inclusion, and minimises loneliness and isolation
13. to ensure that members of the community have time to undertake activities that nourish their mental wellbeing
14. ACT Government to continue to work with the National Disability Insurance Agency to ensure the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) improves its support for psychosocial disability, and to ensure the NDIS delivers its potential to improve the lives of people with mental illness.

MULTICULTURALISM AND CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

The ACT is a multicultural community, and this should be fully reflected in our social, business and political institutions. In the 2016 Census, 32% of ACT residents were born overseas, and just under 34% of people had both parents born overseas. Nearly 24% of ACT residents reported speaking a language other than English at home, the most common languages being Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Hindi and Spanish (ABS, 2016).

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. cultural and linguistic diversity in the ACT community greatly enriches our community, and multiculturalism should be embraced and celebrated
2. cultural and linguistic diversity should be promoted within the context of respecting democracy and universal human rights
3. people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds have significant contributions to make and should be included and supported to fully participate in the ACT community
4. people from CALD backgrounds should be included and supported to actively engage in democratic processes and government decision-making
5. the ACT should continue to be a safe and welcoming place for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants
6. people from CALD backgrounds should have full and supported access to education, training and economic opportunities
7. stereotyping, discrimination and racism must be eliminated and all barriers to CALD communities' full equality must be removed.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT community to embrace and celebrate cultural, religious and linguistic diversity
2. the elimination of discrimination and protection of equal opportunities for all people, regardless of cultural, linguistic and religious background
3. to ensure that people from CALD backgrounds have full access to legal support, education and information on their rights and entitlements
4. CALD communities to be included, engaged and connected with the broader ACT community, as well as supported to build networks within and between CALD communities
5. active outreach and engagement to ensure CALD communities can participate fully in ACT Government processes and policy development
6. to strengthen the capacity and ability of government to work with people from CALD backgrounds

7. adequately resourced, responsive and culturally responsible support for humanitarian entrants, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants who settle in the ACT, including trauma-informed services and other support for health, housing, education, life skills and social connections
8. community programs to foster harmony and social cohesion, particularly for new and emerging CALD communities
9. ACT community-based language schools to be supported
10. important community information to be made available in a range of languages, including information about health, education, justice and government services.

OLDER PEOPLE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. a well-functioning society values all its members, recognises the contributions that older people make—including volunteer and family support work—and celebrates intergenerational leadership
2. in a society that maximises the social, economic and political participation of older people, and that recognises older people as an important part of the community in which they live
3. in promoting positive views of ageing, rejecting ageism and challenging negative stereotypes of older people
4. older people have a right to health and aged-care services that meet their needs, regardless of their age, income, health status, able-ness, First Nations identity, race, cultural background, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersex status, religion and geographic location
5. older people have a right to live with dignity, to have their voices heard, to feel safe, and to live without abuse, neglect and violence
6. older people have particular housing needs, and options should be available that suit their circumstances and respect their wishes, including ageing in place
7. in the value of intergenerational activities.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. protection of the rights of older people, including freedom from age-based discrimination, and safety from abuse and neglect
2. older people to be given the opportunity to influence the design and implementation of policies that affect their wellbeing and the community of which they are part
3. provision of accessible information for older people about ACT Government services and community services. The provision of this information should respect different levels of skills in, and exposure to, digital technology, and should take into account diverse social circumstances
4. older people to be supported and encouraged to be part of the ACT community, socially included and involved in community activities, including through the provision of safe and accessible transport
5. to promote 'positive ageing' and to facilitate the ACT community benefiting from older people's wisdom, experience and perspectives
6. acknowledgement of and respect for the diversity of older people
7. policies and strategies to assist older people to determine the timing and pace of their withdrawal from paid employment, including in the public service, and to support older people as they enter retirement, including promoting opportunities for volunteering
8. to end age-based discrimination in the workforce

9. ACT and Australian Governments to assess and respond to current and future demand for aged-care services. These services should focus on person-centred care, which gives older people more choice and control over the care they receive, including as they move towards end-of-life care
10. more awareness and services to support the growing number of older people affected by dementia, including support for all organisations and the broader community to become dementia friendly
11. ACT Government to respond to the changing needs of older people and the ageing of the ACT community in a coordinated, well-resourced and sustainable way, recognising diverse cultural needs
12. government and community organisations to review and improve the safety of older people in their homes, in service settings and in the broader community, including appropriately funded oversight and advocacy services
13. housing design to meet the needs of older people in all their diversity
14. provision of a range of housing options for older people with low levels of assets or finances and those who have faced lifetime disadvantage, with a particular focus on the growing number of older women at risk of homelessness
15. provision of opportunities for people to 'age in place' where suitable, including downsizing options for older people in their local area and Homeshare arrangements
16. effective schemes to encourage and facilitate advance care planning and enduring power of attorney.

SOCIAL EQUITY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. a fair and democratic society relies upon equity of opportunity, respect for diversity, equitable access to resources and social inclusion
2. every person makes different social, cultural and economic contributions that benefit our community; inequality deprives our community from receiving these beneficial contributions
3. structural inequity in society detrimentally affects both people and society as a whole with respect to educational achievements, contact with the criminal justice system, social conflict, and physical and mental health outcomes
4. inequality of wealth and income leads to increased aspirational consumerism and environmentally unsustainable consumption
5. people on low incomes or experiencing disadvantage are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change
6. a just transition to net zero emissions should be well planned and managed to ensure it reduces poverty and inequality
7. systemic poverty, violence and social disadvantage are not inevitable and should be eliminated
8. social services, such as health, education, justice and social care, should be high-quality and universally accessible through government and community service providers
9. poverty, violence and systemic disadvantage disproportionately affect particular groups of people within our community; this can be on the basis of age, able-ness, First Nations identity, race, cultural background, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersex status, religion, socioeconomic status, employment status and/or geographic location
10. growing inequality of wealth and income is a concern for our society and can be addressed through progressive taxation, government charges, government concessions and fair wages
11. for those who seek it, meaningful and appropriately paid work, can promote dignity, mental health and social inclusion.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. an end to structural and systemic discrimination and an inclusive, respectful and compassionate society
2. a society in which people have self-determination and opportunities to contribute, and in which people can live fulfilling lives that enable them to reach their full potential
3. an end to disadvantages stemming from structural inequity
4. commitment to universal service delivery in health and education, and a strong social welfare, justice and housing system

5. provision of community infrastructure to support local communities to be productive and connected
6. coordinated, well-resourced, short-term and long-term government responses to poverty and social disadvantage
7. all government policy to be developed with a focus on alleviating intergenerational social and economic inequalities, including housing, health, environment, justice, taxation, industry and economic policy
8. better-integrated services for people affected by poverty, including people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and for those who are impacted by intergenerational inequality
9. targeted measures and assistance to address the drivers of poverty and disadvantage
10. respectful partnerships between government, community and business sectors in an effort to prevent and respond to violence, poverty, social exclusion and homelessness
11. long-term, whole-of-community approaches to prevent and alleviate social inequity
12. ACT and Australian Governments to work together to equitably provide meaningful and appropriately paid employment for people who wish to engage in the workforce
13. systems of taxes, government charges, concessions and subsidies to be progressive and reduce income and wealth inequality
14. fines, penalties and administrative systems to consider people's capacity to pay, to ensure these systems do not unfairly increase the hardship experienced by disadvantaged people
15. all ACT Government taxes, charges and subsidies assessed to identify their impact on social equity, prosperity and wellbeing
16. equitable access to clean air, water and public space for everyone in the ACT.

WOMEN

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. women are a diverse group, and some women experience multiple intersecting disadvantages, such as First Nations women; women with disability; trans, lesbian and bisexual women; women in prison; and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These intersections of disadvantages and increased vulnerabilities require a coordinated and multidisciplinary response
2. the historical and continuing contribution of women to the ACT, Australia and the world should be recognised and celebrated
3. full and supported access to education and economic opportunities for girls and women provides benefits for the whole community
4. gender inequality, gender stereotyping and gender-based discrimination lead to violence against women and girls, and is a whole-of-community issue that must be eliminated
5. the long-term structural and continuing disadvantages experienced by women must be acknowledged and eliminated
6. older women are at greater risk of homelessness due to inadequate retirement savings, systemic and long term pay inequality, relationship breakdowns and violence.

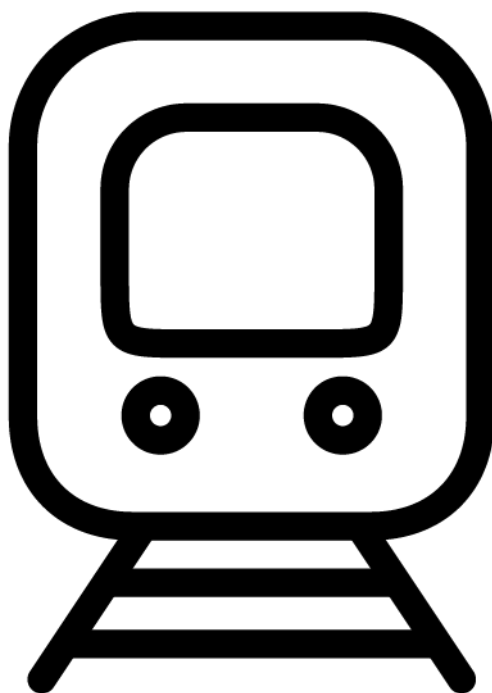
GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. respect for the human rights of women and girls locally, nationally and internationally
2. to encourage and facilitate the meaningful participation, engagement and leadership of women and girls in all areas of public and community life
3. educational institutions and workplaces to use affirmative action policies to respond to existing gender inequities
4. to end the gender pay gap and the economic inequalities that accumulate throughout women's lives
5. full and equitable participation of women in public life, leadership and decision-making
6. an end to discrimination, harassment and violence against women and girls, recognising that young women (aged 18–24 years) experience sexual violence at a much higher rate than women in older age groups and men (Our Watch, 2020)
7. whole-of-government strategies to address discrimination against women and girls, recognising that specific groups of women experience multiple disadvantages and an intersectional approach will be needed
8. a comprehensive approach to the elimination of violence against women and girls to be evidence-based and well-resourced. This approach should include primary prevention and crisis response to violence against women and girls, and address overlapping vulnerability and intersectionality, justice responses, housing and long-term support
9. community and school-based education programs that aim to improve attitudes towards women and girls, challenge gender stereotypes and require the use of inclusive language

10. adequate, coordinated and well-resourced community services and advocacy groups to provide care and support for all women and girls impacted by violence, to ensure their immediate safety and long-term security
11. all workplaces to take an active role in eliminating and responding to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women
12. ACT Government policies, programs and budgeting to be gender transformative, including approaches to urban planning, transport, housing and the economy
13. well-funded systemic women's advocacy groups, including community legal centres, women's legal centres and women's resource centres
14. continued, safe and affordable access to reproductive health services that support women's right to choose
15. an end to medical discrimination towards women on the basis of religious beliefs.

URBAN PLANNING AND CITY SERVICES



ANIMAL WELFARE

As sentient beings, animals feel pleasure and pain. Some animal species are treated poorly for human consumption or entertainment, while other species are facing the threat of extinction from human-induced climate change, loss of habitat and other destructive processes. Animals deserve our care and respect.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. animals have inherent value
2. where humans manage, interact and come into contact with animals, we should ensure the highest standards of care
3. the public has a right to know about the production methods of animal products
4. non-animal alternatives for research and education purposes should be used wherever possible; where there are no alternatives, there must be adequate safeguards to reduce animal suffering
5. native fauna and invasive species management must use bioregional approaches based on habitat and other ecological criteria.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. adoption of a broad approach to tackle domestic animal neglect and cruelty through rehabilitation, education and counselling of owners, as well as legislative solutions, including both regulation and criminal justice
2. animal welfare standards to be enforced
3. animal welfare services to be well resourced
4. humane and evidence-based approaches to managing ecosystems, including the control of overpopulated, invasive and pest species
5. to advocate for a meaningful national definition of 'free range' eggs
6. responsible ownership of, care for, and breeding of livestock and domestic animals
7. reduced roadkill in 'black spot' areas by construction of effective mitigation measures, such as wildlife underpasses and overpasses, barriers and signage
8. to reduce the impacts of domestic cats on native wildlife through local consultation, education and enforcement of cat containment areas, as well as gradual implementation of cat containment throughout the whole of the ACT, beginning with suburbs that border on nature reserves
9. better information for consumers about animal products, including through product labelling standards and education about alternatives
10. abolition of the cruel and inhumane use of animals for sport, recreation and entertainment
11. continued banning of greyhound racing industry in the ACT
12. a Royal Commission into cruelty and abuse in horse racing.

HERITAGE

Significant cultural, natural and built heritage sites must be respected and protected for current and future generations. The ACT occupies unceded First Nations land, and Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs) in the ACT include Ngunnawal, Ngambri and Ngarigo representatives.⁸ Heritage protection should balance the cultural significance of this land with the contemporary significance of Canberra as the Australian National Capital.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. a careful balance must be met between protecting heritage places and allowing the ACT to meet demands of growth and sustainability
2. heritage protection is not limited to the preservation of buildings and other built places and objects; it also includes preservation of cultural and natural heritage, such as First Nations sacred and culturally significant sites and objects, and the memories and stories of First Nations Elders
3. the best way to sustainably preserve most built heritage is as a living asset, which allows for continuity of use and community connections
4. our shared built heritage should be maintained, restored and refurbished by joint efforts between government, non-government bodies, the private sector and private individuals
5. dwellings with heritage value should be well maintained and allowed to be retrofitted in line with sustainable practices and bushfire protection measures, where possible
6. government must ensure that heritage repositories are available in libraries, museums, digital archives and other collections.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. recognition of and respect for the conservation skills and heritage knowledge of the Traditional Custodians
2. consideration of heritage in the development of urban planning policy for new developments and in existing suburbs
3. an overall vision and a funded ten-year plan for the protection of natural, cultural and built heritage sites, including First Nations cultural heritage sites and non-Indigenous heritage sites from nineteenth and twentieth centuries
4. increased community conversations about heritage significance, what has and does not have heritage significance, and how heritage significance should be protected and/or utilised
5. retention of representative buildings and landscapes that contribute to the character of the ACT, provide a sense of place, and remind us of the ACT's shared Indigenous and non-Indigenous histories

⁸ For current information about ACT RAOs, see https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/development-at-heritage-sites/consultants_and_trades_directory/consultants_directory/representative-aboriginal-organisations.

6. provision of adequate resources for the ACT Heritage Council, RAOs, community groups and relevant non-government peak bodies to fulfil their roles under the *Heritage Act 2004 (ACT)*, including timely consideration of heritage nominations
7. heritage groups and other community groups to have a right to appeal and to provide input into relevant development proposals
8. improved alignment, wherever possible, of ACT and national heritage protection laws to overcome the present jurisdictional complexity, which risks some sites falling between the cracks and not being protected
9. incentives to be created for investment in protecting privately owned heritage places, as appropriate, where open to the public
10. conservation management plans to be prepared and implemented for key heritage housing precincts
11. in certain situations, where previous buildings are not able to be preserved, architecture of new buildings to respect any heritage characteristics of the surrounding area
12. government-owned heritage-listed properties to be adapted to be energy efficient and to minimise operational emissions
13. inclusion of the ACT Central National Area, lake and inner hills on Australia's National Heritage List, in a way that protects the character of the ACT's planned city landscape while allowing community needs, such as housing and transport, to be met.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Equitable access to safe, secure, liveable, appropriate and affordable housing is a human right and an essential prerequisite to good health and social inclusion. The private housing market is not able to meet all housing needs.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the role of housing as a community good should be prioritised over the role of housing as a vehicle for wealth generation
2. appropriate, affordable and adequate housing should be delivered by government, the private sector and non-profit community housing providers, including through partnerships where suitable
3. provision of affordable housing requires a whole-of-community approach that addresses issues such as land release, lease conditions, land price, land rent schemes, stamp duty, land tax, land rates, funding models, building standards and planning policy, in addition to addressing federal policies the ACT Government cannot control
4. ACT Government has a duty to ensure there is sufficient public housing, community housing, supported accommodation and crisis accommodation to meet current and projected demand for lower-income households and those whose housing needs are not met by the private market
5. housing affordability is defined by the price to buy or rent a house and the costs associated with running a household, including energy, services and transport
6. security of tenure for both private and public tenants enhances quality of life and is integral to the provision of rental housing
7. tenants should enjoy minimum housing standards, and both tenants and landlords should have strong rights, responsibilities and protections
8. ACT suburbs should contain a mix of housing options that cater for diverse needs
9. older people should be supported to access local housing options that facilitate their ongoing connections to community
10. housing design should promote and facilitate community connections, accessibility, social cohesion and social inclusion.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the 2018 ACT Housing Strategy to be fully implemented
2. sufficient housing supply to deliver affordable and adequate housing options
3. to encourage innovative community housing and cooperative housing in the ACT by removing regulatory and financial obstacles to innovative models of home ownership, stable tenure and tenant management
4. environmentally sustainable housing construction and operation to contribute to a healthy environment and ease the cost of living

5. incentives to encourage landlords and property investors to provide housing models to people on low incomes or facing homelessness
6. crisis and stable housing and accommodation for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including necessary support services, to be delivered in an environment of funding certainty with the option of long-term service provision
7. a dedicated and long-term funding stream for specialist crisis accommodation and support services, including for people impacted by domestic and family violence
8. improved access to emergency accommodation and elimination of wait times for social housing
9. social housing to reach at least 10% of all housing in the ACT
10. social housing options to cater for the diverse needs of tenants and provide adequate support to people with special housing needs
11. the needs of current and future tenants to be the primary consideration when undertaking public housing redevelopment programs
12. adequate funding for Housing ACT and other social housing providers to meet their operational needs, without the need to reduce the overall size of the housing portfolio
13. sufficient levels of appropriate long-term and secure supported accommodation options for people with disability and/or mental illness
14. creation of a justice housing portfolio for people who would otherwise be on remand, are exiting the Alexander Maconochie Centre or are on community corrections orders
15. delivery of First Nations-led co-designed housing models for First Nations communities
16. access to public transport routes and essential services to be a primary consideration during the site selection process for social housing
17. improved dispute resolution processes for tenancy disagreements
18. a continued program of legislative reform to better protect tenants, including security of tenure by ending 'no cause' evictions
19. ongoing funding for tenants' rights and housing justice research, advocacy and policy development
20. clear and accessible education for landlords on their responsibilities
21. ACT Government to take a leading role in Council of Australian Governments (COAG) discussions about federal housing policies, such as capital gains tax, negative gearing and money laundering laws, and the impact of these policies on housing affordability.

TRANSPORT

Transport is an essential social service that is integrally related to environmental impacts, community connectivity and social and economic justice. A fair and sustainable ACT requires a highly connected, affordable, convenient, safe and accessible transport network that serves everyone in the community.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. sustainable transport includes public and active transport, zero-emission vehicles, car share and carpool networks, and the use of technology to reduce travel
2. public and active transport are essential to creating a sustainable, liveable and affordable city
3. improving public and active transport is crucial to addressing congestion, pollution, public health, climate change and energy security
4. innovation and improvements in transport planning and technology should promote equality and social wellbeing and reduce emissions
5. transport in and around the ACT, including freight, should be as environmentally sustainable as possible, and should rapidly transition to zero emission technologies
6. public and active transport should be provided and managed in a way that ensures maximum public benefit and is available to everyone, no matter their circumstances
7. public and active transport infrastructure with good network connections must be provided as a convenient and safe city service
8. transport regulations, planning and infrastructure should improve road safety, prioritise human life, and address the greater vulnerability of certain road users, such as motorcyclists, cyclists, pedestrians, children and older people
9. the ACT should work with New South Wales to move towards an integrated, sustainable and effective cross-border transport network
10. our transport infrastructure and networks should enable private car ownership to be an option, not a requirement, to live and work in the ACT

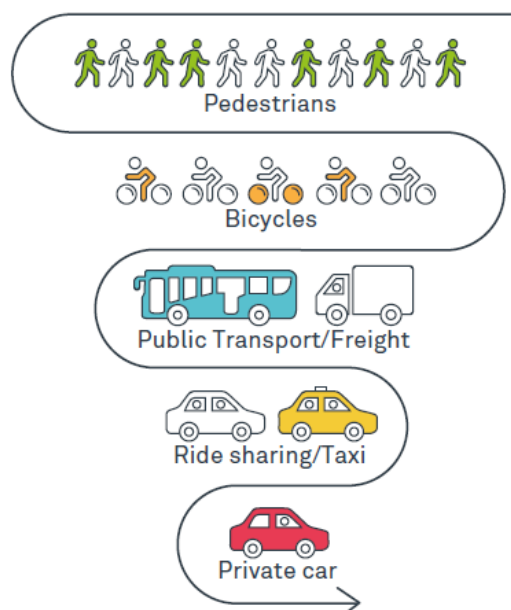
GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a reliable, high-quality, frequent and convenient seven-day ACT-wide public transport network to seamlessly integrate light rail, buses and other transport modes
2. urban planning policies to develop quality sustainable transport corridors in new and established areas
3. transport investment to be prioritised according to the transport modal hierarchy (see Figure 1)
4. policies and infrastructure to make the ACT a leader in adopting zero emission electric vehicle technology
5. ACT Government to operate a zero emission vehicle fleet (taking into account a whole-of-life assessment), including public transport
6. the ACT to significantly increase the proportion of its freight travelling by sustainable means, such as by rail rather than air

7. ACT public transport operations and services to deliver a high-quality customer service experience
8. all major government facilities and new developments to have access to high-quality public and active transport, as well as end-of-trip facilities, such as secure cycle storage, showers, changing facilities, lockers and drying space for clothes
9. high-quality transport services—including regular public transport and tailored services—to accommodate the needs of people with disability, older people and other people with a transport disadvantage
10. to provide incentives for public and private sector organisations in the ACT to support their workforce to use sustainable transport
11. zero fatalities or serious injuries in the transport system, in line with the ACT Government's 'Vision Zero' philosophy
12. improved personal safety and perceived personal safety for people travelling in the ACT, including via public and active transport
13. ACT Government to actively advocate for the creation of a national high-speed rail network that incorporates Canberra, with an immediate focus on medium speed rail to Sydney
14. cross border commuters to have improved transport options to centralised stations within the ACT, including bus, light rail and other rail options
15. planning of public and active transport network and infrastructure to include consideration of the different gendered and life role ways in which transport systems are used
16. parking policies to reflect the ACT's transport modal hierarchy
17. provision of a broad range of innovative 'last mile' transport options, which better support people to use public and active transport networks
18. the cost of congestion to be included in transport planning
19. public transport to take priority over private car travel, including right of way where appropriate and dedicated lanes where necessary.

Figure 1: Transport modal hierarchy



The transport modal hierarchy prioritises and encourages more sustainable modes of transport and discourages less sustainable modes of transport. It also takes safety into consideration. Priority is given to pedestrians, then cycling, public transport and freight, ride sharing and taxis, and lastly to private car travel.

Source: Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate 2018, p. 13.

URBAN PLANNING AND BUILT FORM

High-quality urban planning and design is essential for Canberra to continue to be a liveable city and to maintain Canberra's character as the 'Bush Capital'. High-quality urban planning and design incorporates sustainable buildings, and open and accessible public spaces, as well as vegetation to address the heat island effect. It also enables social connections between and within ACT communities and for visitors.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. urban planning and development in the ACT should be based on ecologically sustainable development principles
2. excellence at all levels of urban design and construction contributes to quality of life, aesthetics and sustainability
3. urban planning should promote health, social inclusiveness, equity, diversity and a sense of community, safety and place
4. planning and development must be free from corruption
5. planning and development processes must create space for informed community participation at each stage
6. high-quality infill development can bring many benefits and is a positive alternative to suburban sprawl on the city's perimeter
7. urban open space should be high quality, multipurpose and accessible to all ACT community members, and should be managed in response to changing community needs
8. urban planning and development in the ACT should take a regional approach that considers neighbouring jurisdictions.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

SUSTAINABILITY

1. the ACT to be a world leader in ecologically sustainable and community-oriented urban planning, development and design that facilitate our transition to net zero emissions
2. a low-carbon city with energy efficiency in new and retrofitted buildings, reduced embodied energy and carbon in construction, and the capacity for carbon sequestration
3. consideration of the full lifecycle costs of development to be embedded in planning and development policies
4. transport corridors clearly designated in the Territory Plan to drive transit-oriented development
5. redevelopment of areas to be done in a way that increases social, economic and environmental sustainability
6. to mandate or incentivise the integration of rooftop and vertical gardens into Canberra's urban design, especially when large tree canopy cannot be achieved

7. minimum requirements for bike storage and visitor bike racks for new residential and commercial developments
8. to increase the urban tree canopy cover in the ACT to reach at least 30% by 2045—with realistic interim planting targets—and to increase water-absorbing permeable surfaces, such as soil and gravel, consistent with the Living Infrastructure Plan to cool the city
9. tree species selection to be non-invasive and based on summer shade provision, fire risk analysis and resilience to a changing climate
10. planning and building regulations and incentives to require new commercial, residential and government buildings to minimise lifecycle emissions. This includes increasing minimum energy efficiency and energy use requirements, designing buildings to use renewable energy, ensuring new suburbs maximise solar passive orientation and solar design, and providing appropriate incentives and subsidies

QUALITY

11. to promote and demonstrate options for high-quality smaller homes in the ACT
12. where possible, incentives for adaptive reuse of existing structures, rather than demolition and new construction
13. urban planning to consider the ACT's cultural, natural and built heritage (see also the ACT Greens [Heritage Policy](#))
14. infill developments to demonstrate excellence in urban design and construction through providing energy-efficient buildings that help us adapt to climate change, and through providing high-quality public parks and streetscapes with trees and green spaces
15. local neighbourhood shopping districts to be further developed as important places for commercial and community activity
16. high-quality building design and construction standards to ensure a long low-maintenance life span for buildings
17. building construction standards to be effectively enforced
18. best practice codes and guidelines for apartment designs to ensure solar access, cross ventilation, a sense of place and liveability in the long-term changing environment

INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

19. the planning system to be responsive to community proposals and needs, and to encourage innovation and sustainability
20. well-resourced, meaningful and adequate consultative planning processes to resolve planning issues fairly and in a timely manner
21. local communities to be informed, enabled and resourced to respond to planning issues
22. regulation and enforcement of building processes, and building certification processes to be significantly reformed
23. enforcement of lease conditions, to prevent—among other issues—land banking schemes and the abandonment of derelict and/or incomplete buildings
24. planning processes and decisions to be highly transparent to the community

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 25. housing projects to enable Canberra to be a people-friendly city that is liveable for all ACT community members, including children, older people and people with disability
- 26. a diversity of housing choices to improve affordability and enable ACT community members to find homes that suit their different life stages in their local area
- 27. promotion of health and social inclusion by providing access to public and active transport and high-quality city services
- 28. public investment in affordable housing types to reduce homelessness and housing stress

GROWTH

- 29. infill developments to be required to include high-quality open space and streetscapes that promote active living, and to be adaptive to climate change with trees, green spaces and water-sensitive urban design
- 30. increased urban density, including mixed-use facilities, in areas with strong public and active transport routes to best accommodate growth
- 31. any future outer growth of the city to be very carefully considered in relation to the best metropolitan planning and ecological principles. It is expected that city limits will not be greater than those in the current Territory Plan and the 2019 National Capital Plan
- 32. public and active transport solutions to reduce the requirement for car park spaces in multi-unit developments

URBAN OPEN SPACE

- 33. sufficient high-quality, urban open space to contribute to urban cooling, water conservation, air quality, biodiversity and food production
- 34. high-quality, public open space and facilities for all residential areas, including playgrounds, sports fields and passive recreation spaces
- 35. regular review of planning and management of urban open space in response to climate change, water, food security, population growth, bushfire risk and wildlife habitat
- 36. the ACT community to play a stronger role in urban and open space planning through joint management of public land
- 37. increased support for the development of the ACT's community gardens, urban farming and food forests
- 38. data collection, monitoring and evaluation of urban greenery indicators to be reported and made publicly available
- 39. continued restrictions on outdoor advertising and increased enforcement of existing regulations
- 40. ACT planning and land maps to clearly display biodiversity and tree coverage data, including up-to-date information on biodiversity quality

INTEGRATION

- 41. ACT Government metropolitan planning to be undertaken in close cooperation and communication with the Australian Government, including the National Capital Authority

and other agencies; the New South Wales (NSW) Government and its agencies; and with NSW councils within the Canberra Region and South-East NSW

42. a metropolitan planning process to recognise and respond to the ACT's location within the Murrumbidgee River Corridor and the Murray-Darling Basin. This planning process should respond to Canberra's role as the National Capital and as a hub for community services, economic activity and transport within the Canberra Region and South-East NSW.

WASTE

There is no waste in nature. Ecologically sensitive design, production and consumption of goods considers life cycle impacts and works towards a zero waste goal in a circular economy.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. waste should be treated as a resource; waste management should be based on a hierarchy of avoiding and reducing consumption, reusing and repairing goods, and recycling residual waste into beneficial products
2. minimising waste requires a circular economy that keeps product components and materials in circulation for as long as possible, at their highest value
3. product design and production must consider life cycle impacts, including the product's life span, capacity for repair and ability to be reused and recycled
4. where kerbside recycling does not exist, manufacturers, distributors and retailers should be required to adopt product stewardship, taking financial and physical responsibility for a product at the end of its life
5. consumers should be legally allowed to repair products, including the ability to access replacement of individual components. Owners of intellectual property in goods should not have the right to limit repair or arbitrarily limit the life span of products
6. management of waste and other resources is important for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and facilitating our transition to net zero emissions
7. waste-to-energy processes, such as incineration, sit at the bottom of the waste hierarchy (see Figure 2) and should be limited to processes that utilise biodegradable waste, such as composting and anaerobic digestion, which do not create their own environmental harms
8. high resource recovery rates will bring long-term environmental, social and economic benefits to the ACT, and these benefits must be considered in decisions about the creation, management and ultimate disposal of waste
9. materials and components of all products should be able to be recycled in Australian resource and waste management systems
10. the private sector should be supported to provide sustainable solutions and create new markets for the various streams of waste
11. regional, interstate and international coordination is important to ensure waste and resource recovery markets are integrated
12. financial viability of investment in waste management solutions should not depend upon a high level of waste production
13. it is important to educate and support the whole community about waste, the impacts of waste and how to reduce waste.

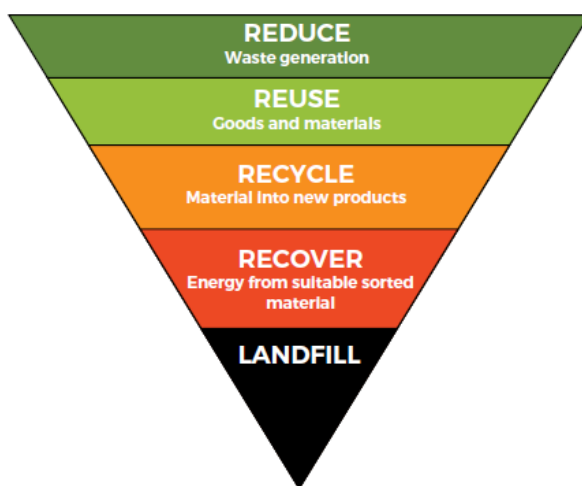
GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT to become a leader in creating a circular economy
2. a holistic waste strategy to include the waste hierarchy of 'avoid, reduce, repair, reuse and recycle'

3. to minimise and/or capture greenhouse gas emissions from landfill, such as methane
4. waste-to-energy processes of incineration, combustion, gasification, pyrolysis and plasma arc technologies to be precluded in the ACT; the ACT Greens support non-thermal treatment options
5. sustainable options for food and green waste recovery, including in retail and hospitality sectors
6. 'wood waste' from native forest operations not to be considered within the renewable energy target
7. government policies and programs to foster the resource recovery industry in the ACT as part of growing a circular economy
8. strategies and technologies to divert waste from landfill
9. national and regional coordination on waste management programs and policies
10. careful consideration of waste being exported from, imported into or staged through the ACT, by prioritising the ability to be recycled
11. a coordinated approach to electronic waste management in the ACT, consistent with federal product stewardship legislation
12. all ACT Government agencies to adopt sustainable waste management systems and procurement policies
13. increased collection and recycling of waste from urban public places
14. a review of existing regional sewerage plants to ensure best practice tertiary treatment is achieved and clean sludge is reused
15. detailed life cycle analysis of waste management investment before waste is created
16. minimisation of hazardous and intractable waste, and historic stockpiles or existing sources of hazardous and intractable wastes to be dealt with using advanced technology
17. environmental degradation resulting from poor waste management to be reversed through clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation programs
18. government funding to educate and resource the commercial sector and community on waste avoidance, minimisation and recycling.

Figure 2: The waste hierarchy



The waste hierarchy aims to minimise the generation of waste, maximise the recovery and re-use of resources, and minimise the amount of waste that goes to landfill (ACT NoWaste 2018, p. 8).

Source: ACT NoWaste 2018, p. 8.

GLOSSARY

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB): ATSIEB is a representative body that was established in 2008 to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT to have a strong democratically elected voice. ATSIEB provides direct advice to the ACT Government with the ambition of improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans (ATSIEB, 2020).

ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS): Subject to meeting eligibility criteria, IPTAS provides financial assistance towards travel and accommodation costs to permanent residents of the ACT who are required to travel interstate for specialist medical treatment that is not currently available in the Territory (ACT Health, 2020).

Affordable housing: Affordable housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households, and priced (whether mortgage repayments or rent) so these households are able to meet their other essential basic living costs. Housing is often defined as affordable when a household spends less than 30% of their income on housing costs, and that household falls within the lowest 40% of household incomes (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Ageing in place: Ageing in place means that as people get older they can remain living in their home rather than entering residential aged care, even when the impacts of old age (e.g. the increasing risk of illness or disability) affect their mobility and mental ability (AHURI, 2019).

Alexander Maconochie Centre: The Alexander Maconochie Centre is the ACT's prison for people who are sentenced to full-time imprisonment and remand (ACT Justice and Community Safety, 2020).

Bet limit (gambling): A bet limit is the maximum amount a person can place on any bet.

Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS): A BEMS is an electronic network used to monitor and control a building's electrical and mechanical services, including heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and lighting. A BEMS gives owners and operators automated precision to optimise the performance and energy efficiency of their buildings from a single, intuitive digital interface (Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, 2020).

Circular economy: A circular economy is centred on keeping our products, components and materials circulating in use for as long as possible at their highest intrinsic value (ACT Commissioner for Environment and Sustainability 2019b, p. 12).

Community: A community is a network of people and organisations linked together by a web of personal relationships, cultural connections and identities, networks of support, traditions, shared socioeconomic conditions, and common interests. Usually communities are composed of diverse groups, competing interests and rights; but sometimes they may be reasonably homogenous (Wighton and Smith 2017, p. 30).

Community housing: Community housing is housing for people on low incomes provided and/or managed by a not-for-profit organisation. Community housing providers generally

provide a mix of rental rates for different tenants - some rents are set at a proportion of the tenant's income (social), others are set at a proportion of market-based rental rates (affordable) (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Cool burns: Cool burns, also known as cultural-ecological burns, are a specific method of First Nations cultural burning. Cool burns are generally of low intensity and severity. The main purpose of a cool burn is cultural renewal; other outcomes can include renewal of native vegetation, protection of culturally significant sites, reduction of bushfire hazards, and maintenance of groundwater sources and water catchment areas (Williamson 2015, p. 21).

Creative Commons (CC): The CC licences provide a simple standardised way for individual creators, companies and institutions to share their work with others on flexible terms without infringing copyright. The licences allow users to reuse, remix and share the content legally (Creative Commons Australia, n.d.).

Crisis accommodation: Crisis accommodation is one form of supported accommodation where people and households experiencing homelessness are provided with safe emergency accommodation for a short period while receiving support to transition to longer term, stable accommodation (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Cultural responsibility: Cultural responsibility means acting in accordance with rules, structures and processes that are informed by the diverse cultural needs, traditions, values and norms of a particular community. These rules, structures and processes are generated in dialogue with each community and therefore have broad support within that community. What counts as culturally responsible is different for each community and can change over time.

Cybersexism: Cybersexism is online participation in sexism.

Darlington Statement: The Darlington Statement, made in March 2017, is a joint consensus statement by Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand intersex organisations and independent advocates. It sets out the priorities and calls by the intersex human rights movement in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand (Black et al., 2017).

Demand reduction: Demand reduction involves preventing the uptake and delaying the onset of use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; reducing the misuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the community; and supporting people to recover from dependence through evidence-informed treatment (AIHW, 2020).

Domestic violence: Domestic violence refers to violence, abuse and intimidation between people who are currently or have previously been in an intimate relationship. The perpetrator uses violence to control and dominate the other person. This causes fear, physical harm and/or psychological harm. Domestic violence is a violation of human rights (White Ribbon Australia, 2020).

Ecological connectivity: Ecological connectivity is the degree to which separate patches of habitat are connected. This connectivity is important because it enables crucial ecological process to occur, such as seed dispersal, gene flow between populations and animal

migration. Methods to increase ecological connectivity include establishing landscape corridors and stepping-stone reserves.

Ecological footprint: An ecological footprint is a calculation of the amount of land and water required to support demand for goods and services and our use of resources. It also takes into account the area needed to absorb our waste (including greenhouse gases). The ecological footprint provides a calculated measure of the extent of human impact on the earth, determines our relative consumption of global resources, and helps us understand the link between our lifestyles and the environment; providing us with a means by which to assess the sustainability of our lifestyle (ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment 2015, p. 1).

Family violence: Family violence refers to violence between family members (for example children and parents) as well as intimate partners. Some communities prefer the term 'family violence' to domestic violence (White Ribbon Australia, 2020).

First Nations peoples: The ACT Greens use the term 'First Nations peoples' to refer to all nations and clan groups that occupied the land that would become Australia prior to colonisation. First Nations peoples never ceded their sovereignty and continue their connections with land, water, sky, culture and community. The ACT Greens acknowledge the limitations of any term in accounting for the complexity and diversity of First Nations identities and experiences.

Foster carers: Foster carers provide a safe, stable home environment for children and young people who cannot live with their families. Ideally, foster care continues until children and young people can be reunited with their families. However, sometimes things don't work out and the child may remain in foster care (ACT Together, 2020a).

Gender identity: Gender identity is the gender with which a person identifies internally. Gender identity can refer to appearance, mannerisms or other gender related characteristics of a person, with or without regard to the person's designated sex at birth (ACT Human Rights Commission, 2020).

Gender transformative: The phrase 'gender transformative' describes policies and initiatives that work to change existing gender norms and relations, with the aim of achieving gender equality.

Gillick competence: Gillick competence is a term used in medical law to decide whether a child (under 16 years of age) is able to consent to their own medical treatment, without the need for parental permission or knowledge (AGA, 2020).

Hare-Clark electoral system: The Hare-Clark electoral system is a type of proportional representation system where electors vote by showing preferences for individual candidates. To be elected, a candidate needs to receive a quota of votes. Each elector has a single vote, which can be transferred from candidate to candidate according to the preferences shown until all the vacancies are filled (ACT Electoral Commission, 2020).

Homeshare arrangements: Homeshare arrangements bring together older householders who could benefit from help and companionship at home, with a homesharer who is prepared to lend a hand in return for affordable accommodation. Homeshare arrangements exist to increase the options for older people to remain at home with independence and dignity, while fostering intergenerational understanding and providing a viable housing option for mature people in need (Care Connect, n.d.).

Intersex: Intersex people are born with physical or biological sex characteristics (such as sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, hormonal patterns and/or chromosomal patterns) that are more diverse than stereotypical definitions for male or female bodies. For some people, these traits are apparent prenatally or at birth, while for others they emerge later in life, often at puberty (Black et al. 2017, p. 2). Intersex bodies are healthy bodies that rarely require immediate surgical intervention.

Kinship care: Kinship care is when children who cannot live with their birth parents are placed by Child, Youth and Protection services in the care of relatives or significant people in the child's life (ACT Together, 2020b).

Knowledge economy: A knowledge economy is an economy in which knowledge is treated as a major commodity and in which there is generation of, access to, and use of technological development in all sectors.

Last mile transport options: Last mile transport options assist public transport users to complete their journey and aim to transform mobility systems in cities. Last mile transport options include transport options like bicycles, scooters and other means of short distance transport (Mehmet, 2020).

LGBTIQA+: LGBTIQA+ is an umbrella term respectfully used to refer to the diversity of people that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and/or queer. The term is also intended to capture diverse sexualities and gender identities, including (but not limited to) people who are agender, non-binary, gender fluid, questioning, asexual and pansexual, as well as people who prefer to use specialised personal terms to describe their own body, gender or sexuality.

Local First Nations community: Local First Nations community refers to all First Nations peoples who live, reside and/or work in the ACT community. The ACT Greens use this phrase in its most inclusive sense to include Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians as well as other Traditional Custodians in the region—the Ngarigo and Ngambri peoples—and all other First Nations peoples and communities.

Mental health: A broad term referring to the social, psychological and emotional wellbeing of a person (HelpingMinds, 2020).

Mental ill-health: If mental health refers to a balanced state of mind, mental ill-health indicates that something is off-balance, off-centre and it is impacting on someone's ability to live a normal life (HelpingMinds, 2020).

Mental illness: A mental illness or disorder is classified more severe than mental ill-health. When mental health becomes mental ill-health, then mental illness can follow. Mental illness is

a clinically diagnosable illness affecting how a person thinks and feels, behaves and interacts with other people and this can range from anxiety or depression, to eating disorders, bipolar or schizophrenia. These illnesses are a result of biological, developmental and/or social factors and can be managed with cognitive and behavioural psychological therapies, psychosocial support and medically in the same manner as a physical disease would be treated (Samaritans, 2020).

National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care: The National Quality Framework is a national system for the regulation and quality assessment of education and care services. It applies to most long day care, preschool/kindergarten, family day care and outside school hours care services (Australian Government & Education Services Australia, 2020).

No cause evictions: No cause evictions allow landlords to evict a tenant at the end of a fixed-term lease, or during an on-going lease, without giving any reason, even when the tenant has paid their rent on time, looked after their rental home and the landlord wants to keep renting it out (Greens NSW, 2017).

No disadvantage tests (industrial relations): The no disadvantage test has been part of the enterprise bargaining system since its inception. The test requires the regulatory authorities to examine the conditions set down in the enterprise agreement in order to ensure that those conditions do not 'disadvantage' the employee when compared with the employee's conditions under previously applying regulatory arrangements (Mitchell et al., n.d., p. 3).

Out-of-home care: Out-of-home care refers to alternative accommodation for children and young people who are unable to live with their parents. Out-of-home care includes several different living arrangements, such as foster care, relative or kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living (SNAICC, 2016).

Positive ageing: Positive ageing is a practical way of improving the changes of having a better life as we age. It focuses on the emotional and psychological aspects of ageing and accepts that the mind can have a significant impact on our physical and emotional wellbeing. A positive ageing approach advocates a realistic understanding of ageing that fully recognises its positive aspects as well as the more challenging ones (Coonamble Shire Council, 2020).

Precautionary principle: The precautionary principle states that, 'where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation' (Principle 15 of the 1992 Rio Declaration from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development).

Pre-commitment (gambling): Pre-commitment provides a restriction on gaming machine expenditure to prevent players spending more money than they originally intended. This is achieved by fixing a maximum limit on losses before the commencement of play (BetSafe, 2020).

Public housing: Public housing is housing for people on low incomes provided and/or managed by Housing ACT (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Registered Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs): RAOs fulfill an important role in the identification and management of First Nations cultural heritage places and objects in the ACT. As of June 2020, there is no provision for RAOs to be remunerated for consultation under the ACT Heritage Act (*ACT Heritage Act, 2004*).

Remand in custody: Under the Bail Act 1992, a person who is charged with an offence and refused bail is held on remand. This occurs initially in the police cells, with the person transferred to prison as soon as practicable. A prisoner who is on remand remains in custody until they are either granted bail, found not guilty, or sentenced. If a person on remand is sentenced to imprisonment, the sentence will generally be backdated to the date they first came into custody (Dahlstrom, n.d.).

Right of entry: Right of entry refers to the part of Commonwealth workplace laws that regulate the rights of organisation employees and their elected officers (such as trade union officials) to enter premises (Fair Work Ombudsman, n.d.).

Right to repair: A right to repair is the consumers' ability to have faulty goods repaired at a competitive price by a manufacturer, a third party, or in some instances, self-repair, using available replacement parts and having access to information.

Self-exclusion (gambling): Self-exclusion operates by self-identified problem gamblers voluntarily surrendering the right to enter the gaming areas of their local venues (Parliament of Australia, n.d.).

Sexual orientation: Sexual orientation refers to a person's sexual and/or romantic attraction to other people (AGA, 2020).

Sham contracting: A sham contracting arrangement is when an employer attempts to disguise an employment relationship as a contractor relationship. They may do this to avoid certain taxes and their responsibility for employee entitlements, such as minimum wages, superannuation and leave (Australian Government Department of Business, 2020).

Sharing economy: A sharing economy is an economy in which consumers have shared access to goods and services, rather than having individual ownership, as in car sharing or peer-to-peer accommodation provision.

Social Compact: The 2012 ACT Social Compact is a statement of understanding about the relationship between the ACT Government and the community sector. It outlines principles of good communication and partnership for the benefit of all people and communities in the ACT (ACT Government 2012, p. 3).

Social housing: Social housing is an umbrella term describing subsidised housing for people on low to moderate incomes including public, supported and community housing. Social housing is provided and/or managed by the government (public housing) or by a not-for-profit organisation (community housing) (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Supported accommodation: Supported accommodation is short, medium and long-term accommodation for people with complex needs who require higher level care and support.

Supported accommodation often includes support agencies on-site (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Traditional Custodians: The ACT uses the phrase 'Traditional Custodians' instead of 'Traditional Owners' to refer to the First Nations peoples of this region, due to the land title system in the ACT. In the ACT, land title holders do not own the land, but hold up to 99-year leases on the land. The Ngunnawal Peoples are recognised by the ACT Government as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Transition (LGBTIQA+ policy): Transition is a process in which a person changes their gender identity from that which was assigned to them at birth. The transition process can, but does not need to, include social and/or medical transition (AGA, 2020).

Transport modal hierarchy: The transport modal hierarchy prioritises and encourages more sustainable modes of transport and discourages less sustainable modes of transport. It also takes safety into consideration. Priority is given to pedestrians, then cycling, public transport and freight, ride sharing and taxis, and lastly to private car travel (see Figure 1 of the ACT Greens [Transport Policy](#)).

Transport-oriented development: In urban planning, transport-oriented development is a type of urban development that maximizes the amount of residential, business and leisure space within walking distance of public transport.

Underemployment: Underemployed workers are employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have (ABS, 2007).

United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC): UNEC is a significant Aboriginal body providing advice to the ACT Government and ATSIEB in relation to heritage and connection to land matters for the Ngunnawal people. UNEC is made up of representatives nominated by each of the Ngunnawal family groups and meets up to four times a year in Canberra (ACT Community Services, n.d.).

Vision Zero philosophy: The Vision Zero philosophy means no deaths on ACT roads and in the public transport system.

Wage theft: Wage theft is the denial of wages or other entitlements which are rightfully owed to an employee.

Waste hierarchy: The waste hierarchy aims to minimise the generation of waste, maximise the recovery and re-use of resources, and minimise the amount of waste that goes to landfill (see Figure 2 of the ACT Greens [Waste Policy](#)) (ACT NoWaste 2018, p. 8).

Zero waste: Zero waste is a set of principles focused on waste prevention that encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused. The goal is for no rubbish to be sent to landfills, incinerators or the ocean (Greens WA, 2020).

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The ACT Greens recognise that our office is on the land of the Ngunnawal Peoples and we pay respect to their elders, past, present and emerging. As sovereignty was never ceded, the Greens recognise that to become a truly reconciled nation, we must act to empower, listen to and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families and communities.