

## Appendix 1: Policy issues of particular interest

### A. Next steps on climate change action

The parties agree that the world is facing a climate change emergency, and commit to undertaking rapid, science-based action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and transition the ACT to net zero emissions. The parties also commit to working closely with the community, ensuring a just transition for those impacted by the shift to net zero emissions, and growing sustainable industries and jobs.

The ACT Labor and Greens Agreement will take the next essential steps to a net zero-emissions ACT, through the following actions:

1. Phase out of fossil-fuel-gas in the ACT by 2045 at the latest, support energy grid stability and support vulnerable households, by doing the following:
  - i. Implement a program of zero-interest loans of up to \$15,000 for households and not-for-profit community organisations to assist with the upfront costs of investing in: rooftop solar panels; household battery storage; zero emission vehicles and efficient electric appliances. The program will include an education and communications component about energy efficiency and the shift from gas to electric.
  - ii. Progress a project with relevant asset owners and key stakeholders to reduce the emissions intensity of the existing ACT gas network as much as is possible, by injecting zero-emissions gas alternatives.
  - iii. Enact minimum energy efficiency standards regulations for rental properties in 2021 with progressive implementation over the coming years.
  - iv. Implement a five-year, \$50 million program to improve building efficiency and sustainability for social and public housing, low income owner-occupiers, and the lowest performing rental properties; this includes upgrades to government housing, and financial incentives to implement minimum energy efficiency standards in rental properties.
  - v. Deliver at least 250MW of new 'large-scale' battery storage distributed across the ACT.
  - vi. Develop the Molonglo Commercial Centre as an all-electric commercial centre (no new connections to gas mains network, but allow transition gas arrangements such as tanks), in partnership with expert stakeholders, and use lessons from this project to assist the phase out of fossil-fuel gas in the ACT, and demonstrate national best practice.
  - vii. Legislate to prevent new gas mains network connections to future stages of greenfield residential development in the ACT in 2021-22. Future stages of Jacka and Whitlam will be all-electric.
  - viii. Commence a transition project, working with industry and other stakeholders, to advance all-electric infill developments, with a goal of no new gas mains network connections to future infill developments from 2023.
  - ix. Ensure all new ACT Government buildings and facilities are fossil-fuel-gas free, including new leases. All retrofitting in Government buildings and facilities will have a goal of net-zero emissions post retrofit.
  - x. By 2021, implement the ACT ICRC recommendations to make it simpler for ACT consumers to get better energy deals by requiring electricity retailers to provide customers with a reference bill for a typical consumer, and notify customers if they have a plan that could reduce a customer's bills.

2. Significantly expand the number of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) in the ACT by doing the following:
  - i. Engage with the ZEV industry and adopt an ambitious target for new ACT vehicle sales to be zero emission by 2030.
  - ii. Provide financial incentives for the purchase of zero emission vehicles. This includes free vehicle registration for new zero emission vehicles for two years, introduced as soon as practical.
  - iii. Develop additional financial incentives to support greater ZEV uptake by businesses and the community sector
  - iv. Implement a pathway for the ACT to use only zero emissions public transport, garbage trucks, taxi and rideshare vehicles by the mid 2030s - with no further purchase of non-zero emissions buses. Short-term leasing of buses to meet peak operational requirements is permitted.
  - v. Build at least 50 electric vehicle recharging stations across Canberra and the region, holding a reverse auction for their construction in 2021-22. This will include working with service station providers to explore broader public charging infrastructure.
  - vi. Enact regulation in conjunction with the Territory Plan Review to require charging infrastructure for new multi-unit residential and commercial buildings, and investigate measures to support retrofitting of charging infrastructure in existing buildings.
  - vii. Conduct market sounding to attract zero emission vehicle industries and other economic and training opportunities to the ACT.
  - viii. Research and pilot further Vehicle2Grid and Vehicle2Home projects to improve energy efficiency and grid reliability.
  
3. Reform the ACT's building and planning systems to ensure a transition to best practice climate-ready and environmentally sustainable buildings and planning. This includes:
  - i. Adopting an ACT Appendix to the Building Code of Australia in conjunction with the Territory Plan Review, which will set out improved sustainability standards that all new buildings must meet (addressing issues such as insulation, glazing, passive design, phasing out gas, and the requirement for electric vehicle charge points).
  - ii. Driving sustainable building innovation by piloting land release to include at least one 'showcase' sustainable development each year, such as a 150% living infrastructure plot ratio or a 'Scope 3' zero-emissions development that produces no net greenhouse emissions during construction and operation, and reduced car parking.
  - iii. Increase new dwelling site supply to meet increased demand across the housing spectrum.
  - iv. Require at least 70% of new housing development to be within Canberra's existing urban footprint, with an ambition to increase this share, in the context of an overall increase to the number of dwelling sites released over the coming decade.

## **B. More and better Housing Options for all Canberrans**

1. The ACT Labor and Greens Government will improve social housing and housing affordability over the next four years as part of the roadmap for increased supply of affordable housing that is outlined in the ACT Housing Strategy, which includes:
  - i. Working with the land owners and community organisations to deliver the MyHome proposal in Curtin

- ii. Expanding the Early Morning Centre to a seven day per week service
  - iii. Increasing emergency accommodation funding through OneLink
  - iv. Expanding specialist homelessness service capacity (\$18 million over four years)
  - v. Constructing a build-to rent affordable rental co-located with Common Ground Gungahlin and complete Common Ground Dickson
  - vi. Providing additional funding for systemic advocacy in the housing sector, including restoring funding cuts created by the Federal Government for Shelter ACT
  - vii. In close partnership with the community and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, supporting the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled community housing provider
  - viii. Expanding further the existing land tax exemption program for affordable housing by increasing the cap to 250 and removing the time limit for this exemption.
  - ix. Develop youth specific social housing services, such as the Government's previously announced commitment to a youth foyer at CIT Woden
2. The ACT Labor and Greens Government acknowledge that continued growth and renewal of social housing and increased affordable housing supply is required to meet housing need in the ACT.
- i. The Government will aim to deliver a total of 400 additional public housing dwellings by 2025, inclusive of the 260 additional dwellings already committed by the Government for the period 2019-2025.
  - ii. The parties share a commitment to working towards an ambitious affordable rental housing target for dwellings focused on affordability for the second income quintile, and acknowledge there are significant challenges in land availability, industry and sector capacity to deliver additional housing, and capital demand on the Territory Budget. The Government will strive to deliver additional affordable housing dwellings despite these constraints, with a goal of 600 additional dwellings by 2025-26.

### **C. Action to improve Canberra's planning system**

The ACT Labor and Greens Government will improve and simplify the ACT's planning system, by taking the following action:

1. Complete the current planning review, in consultation with Canberrans, to deliver a planning system that is clear, easy to use and provides improved spatial and built outcomes across the Territory. The review objectives are:
  - i. Simplification of the planning system
  - ii. Facilitation of residential development and housing supply while ensuring Canberra remains sustainable, liveable and attractive
  - iii. Improving community confidence through system clarity
  - iv. Incorporation of character, context and design as key elements of the system
  - v. Enabling greater flexibility in the assessment of varying development types
  - vi. Provision of a pathway to achieve net zero emissions
2. Outcomes that will be delivered through the Planning Review process include:

- i. Substantially lifting the quality and sustainability of the design and construction of new developments
  - ii. Improving community consultation and involvement in the development of Canberra
  - iii. Helping households and business become climate-change ready
  - iv. Delivering a “community compact” process to find ways to encourage affordable housing while protecting our trees, green space and heritage. The compact will bring together a wide range of different groups in the community, including residents’ groups, younger people, government and developers
  - v. Ensuring the planning and housing system continues to deliver affordable housing
3. We will deliver specific initiatives as part of the four year reform agenda:
- i. Implementing the previously agreed recommendations of the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal’s inquiry on development applications
  - ii. Commencing a 10 year pathway to shift to world’s best practice on climate-ready and environmentally-sustainable buildings, including expanding the ACT Appendix to the Building Code of Australia
  - iii. Further refining land sale processes, and examining if any amendment to land sales legislation is necessary (including clear valuation assessment processes for non-monetary design benefits), to allow major sites to be released for high-quality proposals, not just to the highest financial bidder
  - iv. Continuing work towards reaching a 30% urban tree canopy across Canberra by changing the Tree Protection Act and planning system to protect our safe mature trees and make room for trees during development
  - v. Provide ongoing and secure funding for the National Trust ACT, and funding for the Heritage Council to upgrade the Heritage database and website
  - vi. Fund an independent planning advisory service for residents impacted by planning decisions or development applications, so they can seek advice on lodging complaints or seeking review of decisions.
4. The Government will seek advice on the best way to facilitate the outcomes contained in the Government’s Waste Strategy to locate waste processing facilities in Hume.

#### **D. Building Light Rail Stage 2**

The ACT Labor and Greens Government commits to build Light Rail Stage 2 to Woden. As part of this city-transforming project, we agree to:

1. Proceed to procure the design and construction of Light Rail Stage 2 as soon as possible following assessment of infrastructure procurement options.
2. Assess the viability and benefits of extending light rail to Mawson as part of the Stage 2B business case.
3. Without setting back planning, design and construction of the Stage 2 project, conduct an examination of the feasibility and cost of introducing express light rail services in peak periods.

## **E. Reducing harm from gaming while supporting sustainable clubs**

The ACT Labor and Greens Government recognises that community clubs play an essential part in the social life of many Canberrans, as a meeting place and sponsor of community events. We want to ensure clubs continue to support the community, while introducing and strictly enforcing measures to further reduce harm from gaming. To do this, we will:

1. Establish a Community Clubs Ministerial Advisory Council with government, industry and unions to build a long-term, sustainable clubs sector in the ACT
2. Target a further reduction in the number of electronic gaming machine licences in the ACT to 3500 by 1 July 2025, and support this through the introduction of incentives for Clubs to consider, including additional incentives to move to zero machines within a venue location
3. Establish a rigorous, across-venue self-exclusion regime across the ACT for people experiencing harm from gaming, with significant penalties for breaches. This exclusion regime will align with or exceed reforms currently progressing in NSW to allow exclusion by family members
4. Match or exceed any further harm reduction gaming reforms commenced in NSW, such as cashless gaming
5. Introduce the harm reduction measures of \$5 bet limits and \$100 load-up limits following a thorough review and transitional plan to manage impacts on clubs, particularly smaller clubs that upgrade machines less regularly. A staged rollout of this reform should commence by the end of 2022 at the latest
6. Facilitate planning and other processes to allow clubs to diversify to other revenue-generating streams, particularly development of available land for social housing and land supply purposes, that are supported by the community
7. Provide a just transition for workers in the community clubs and gambling industry by: ensuring that new or transferred employment is on permanent and secure terms; providing support and retraining for employment in new jobs of their choosing; and ensuring worker entitlements are secure in business transfer or winding up. The parties agree to vigorously enforce existing regulatory requirements and support existing workers in the industry with uninhibited access to their union, training, and work health and safety enforcement.
8. Conduct a review into water costs for high-intensity club users of non-potable water in 2021, with the goal to allow clubs to maintain operations while not requiring cross-subsidisation by other ACT water users
9. Establish a five year \$5 million Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund, to be accessed by community clubs
10. Support clubs to become heat and smoke refuges for local communities. This will include ensuring appropriate air filtration systems, and financial payments for venues designated as official extreme weather refuge sites.

## **F. Early Childhood education**

The ACT Labor and Greens Government will improve equitable access to early childhood education and care over the next four years as part of the roadmap outlined in *Set Up for Success: An Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT* which includes staged delivery of universal access to early learning for three year old children in the ACT. All three-year-olds will be able to access one day per week of early childhood education, 48 weeks a year, by 2024.

## **G. Fostering Neighbourhood Democracy**

The Government will commence a pilot of Neighbourhood Democracy projects in five suburbs across all regions of Canberra, using participatory budgeting to determine local expenditure, improving local community connections and resilience, and will include a published evaluation of the program.