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**ACT GREENS  
2024 POLICY PLATFORM**

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# CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



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## **BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION**

Ecosystems provide vital services that maintain life on our planet. The protection and conservation of remaining biodiverse areas are 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. local First Nations knowledge should always be integrated into sustainable natural resource management and conservation
2. ecosystems have inherent value
3. the best way to support biodiversity and threatened species is by creating healthy ecosystems; we should take a holistic approach, rather than reductionist approach, towards ecosystem management
4. Integrated Pest Management is an ecosystem approach of management methods to control pests and should be prioritised over pesticides
5. current generations have a responsibility to ensure that local and global ecosystems are maintained and strengthened for future generations
6. maintaining, expanding and connecting protected areas is vital to preserving healthy ecosystems and biodiversity
7. ecosystem management and restoration activities must integrate understandings of climate change and its impacts
8. the precautionary principle should be integrated into all decision making where there is potential for serious or irreversible environmental damage
9. the major threats to biodiversity are ecosystem destruction and fragmentation caused by, for example, the spread of invasive species and climate change
10. high-value biodiverse areas that cannot be replaced must be protected; biodiversity offsets should only be used as a last resort, after efforts to avoid and mitigate any human impacts, and only if evidence suggests biodiversity offsets will work
11. the ACT's unique grassland and woodland environments should be valued, restored and protected
12. government, the private sector, volunteer organisations and people must work together to improve biodiversity
13. community involvement in biodiversity and conservation should be enabled and supported
14. conservation and re-introduction of local species should be encouraged throughout the ACT

15. economic interests should not compromise the conservation of ecosystems or the survival of protected species, including the economic interests of governments and landholders to sell greenfield land for development
16. 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. Increases in the urban tree canopy, permeable surfaces and deep soil zones which support the management of urban heat and the provision of urban habitat across the whole of the ACT.
3. to maintain and enhance the resilience of local and regional ecosystems by increasing ecological connectivity; protecting existing habitats and restoring and connecting habitat including wildlife corridors through the urban environment
4. all government-funded initiatives that protect the ACT's ecosystems and threatened species, including through support for community-based projects, must monitor, evaluate, and report on their status and be funded to do so
5. increased funding for biodiversity education programs to raise awareness, foster understanding and inspire action to conserve and protect the variety of life and ecosystems in the ACT region.
6. increased resourcing for ACT Government online maps and apps to improve geospatial data systems to survey, monitor, base decisions on, and publicise free and accessible local information on threatened species, vulnerable ecosystems and the state of the ACT environment.
7. strengthened protection of the ACT region ecological network and areas valued by First Nations. This includes protecting and connecting conservation areas, water bodies and creeks, urban open spaces, sensitive ecological communities, as well as other potential wildlife habitat and the ecological corridors linking them.
8. integrated land and water management at the regional scale to manage biodiversity pressures; protect or regenerate habitat; and build landscape level habitat connectivity beyond the ACT border.
9. evidence-based management of ecosystems
10. increased ongoing funding for invasive species management to adequately address the negative impacts of invasive species in the ACT, given climate change accelerates their impacts

11. to reduce the impacts of domestic cats on native wildlife through local consultation, education and enforcement of cat containment laws
12. increased ongoing funding for strategic invasive species management programs
13. to encourage and promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in all aspects of pest control to minimise pesticides by using a wide range of management methods.
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. continue to strengthen community partnerships to manage the ACT's environment, and enhance ongoing support and funding for continued volunteer efforts in caring for these areas including ACT ParkCare, Landcare ACT, ACT Wildlife, citizen science programs and Catchment Groups
17. continue to integrate First Nations cool burning practices into ACT fire prevention, management and recovery strategies to minimise bushfire risk while maximising biodiversity outcomes, including removing existing barriers and continuing to create First Nations fire management employment opportunities at all levels
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.

#### CANBERRA NATURE PARK

19. adequately resourced Parks and Conservation service that ensures Canberra's reserves are adequately protected from invasive species incursions
20. better education in the community about the importance of the nature reserves within our footprint, including the importance of residual box-gum and grassland habitat in the ACT

## **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 adequate land management and 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 disasters is particularly important. Mitigating the risk of damage and destruction is key.
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 must 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
7. disasters will impact on communities in ways that are currently difficult to predict

### **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, and actively mitigate risk
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 proactive 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, and other disasters that are influenced by climate change



5. evidence-informed proactive bushfire management practices with a range of fuel reduction measures, including burns that protect ecosystems and the maintenance of fire trails, 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 disaster management
8. government provision of emergency funds to affected households and organisations to address immediate and long-term consequences of disasters
9. recognition of the importance of volunteer emergency services personnel, continued collaboration between volunteer and professional emergency services and sufficient volunteer training opportunities
10. increased funding for community engagement, training and disaster preparedness programs
11. expertise and resources for emergency response services to be provided to vulnerable countries in our region
12. 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
13. increased resources for the recruitment of professional firefighters to meet anticipated increased demands and community need
14. increased support, resources and protections for emergency responders, including maintenance of core skills, specialist training programs, wellbeing initiatives and post-incident support
15. fire stations and equipment ensured to be fit for purpose, interoperable and equipped to promote firefighter wellbeing
16. responsibilities of relevant coordinating agencies to be clear and up to date with bushfire zone development regulations
17. public, safe, comfortable and accessible 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 reduce emissions and adapt to the unavoidable impacts. Inadequate action on climate change has already resulted in widespread negative social, ecological and economic impacts around the world, including but not limited to more extreme bushfires and severe weather events, harm to public health—including mental health— disruptions to food, power and communications supply, and increased displacement of people and animals. The ACT is already experiencing the effects of climate change through changes to temperature and frequency of extreme weather events.

## 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 to below 1.5 °C
2. climate adaptation is necessary in addition to mitigation due to the effects of locked-in climate change.
3. ACT Government must ensure a just transition for those impacted by ACT Government actions in the shift to net zero emissions
4. delayed action increases the risks we face and will result in costly and devastating impacts on our communities and ecosystems
5. democracy, justice and equity must be guiding principles in the transition towards net zero emissions
6. use of all fossil fuels needs to be rapidly phased out
7. reducing emissions at their source should be our primary method of addressing climate change, rather than offsetting emissions
8. addressing climate change requires broad participation by the community; community leadership should be enabled and supported
9. the planning of our built environment is integral to our transition to net zero emissions
10. existing vegetation must be protected, re-vegetation is necessary to draw down greenhouse gases, though not a replacement for reducing emissions.
11. major electricity infrastructure assets should be in public or community ownership

## 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 to maintain at least 100% renewable electricity, transition off fossil gas, increase energy efficiency, and reduce energy consumption, increase local electricity generation and storage capacity, improve the resilience of the electricity network, improve reliability and support innovative local energy solutions
4. to build capacity within our communities and industries to expand the local renewable energy sector, including through increasing community and public 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 to ensure a just transition to net zero emissions, with priority given to low-income and rental households
7. ACT Government to set standards, such as building standards, that enable and inform the transition to net zero emissions
8. to continuously improve energy efficiency in existing public housing, and ensure all public housing is 100% electric
9. to continuously improve the energy efficiency of and electrify government property assets, such as community halls and government office buildings
10. to increase public education on the ways in which the community can reduce its consumption of energy in addition to increasing energy efficiency
11. to continue work to phase out the use of fossil gas in the ACT
12. to ban the installation of new gas appliances so that all new appliances are electric, and provide support for the transition to households requiring assistance
13. 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
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 zero emissions transport—including a high-quality bus and light rail network—and extensive provisions for walking, cycling and e-mobility, and car share networks
16. ACT Government to continue to promote the uptake of zero emissions vehicles, including through delivery of zero interest loans for EV and chargers, incentives and advice for apartment charging stations, an expanded public charging station network, and continued transition to a 100% zero emissions ACT Government vehicle fleet
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 commercial, residential and government 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 energy efficiency programs—and government strategies for hospitals and schools to reach zero emissions
19. the ACT to have a science-based approach to climate change adaptation by ensuring that:
  - a. the ACT deliver on its goal of at least 30% tree canopy coverage and 30% permeable surfaces by no later than 2045 to assist city cooling and provide

- habitat, 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. programs are put in place to support vulnerable communities to upgrade houses to cope with increasing temperatures
20. ACT Government to lead the way by reducing its own 'scope 1' and 'scope 2' emissions to zero, and to exemplify best practice in zero emissions building, transport, waste and procurement, including minimising (embodied) 'scope 3' emissions
  21. ACT Government to continue implementation of a 'social cost of carbon' to evaluate the climate change impacts of budget, policy, procurement and infrastructure decisions
  22. 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
  23. ACT Government to implement measures to reduce the ACT's 'scope 3' emissions, and regularly report these emissions
  24. ACT Government to support innovation, research and development of renewable energy technologies and climate change solutions.

## **ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT OF THE ACT**

Humanity currently uses 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 land, 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 2019, p. 9).

### **PRINCIPLES**

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the ACT 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 and applied

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, with interim targets
2. the ACT to be a leader in encouraging and enabling a small ecological footprint way of life
3. the ACT government to support the ACT community to take action to reduce the impact of its consumption on local, regional, national and global environments
4. regional and national collaboration to find solutions to transport, urban development, water, food production, waste and other issues to enable low impact living
5. the ACT to meet its emission reduction targets and phase out the use of fossil fuels as part of achieving net zero
6. the ACT Government to introduce regulation, policy, procurement and budget initiatives that support a circular economy (see also the ACT Greens Circular Economy Policy)
7. the ACT Government to set firm city limits and stop Canberra's urban sprawl.

## FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

How we produce our food is vitally important to the health of the planet and people.

Sustainable agriculture to grow food locally in our city and surrounding rural areas can reduce our emissions, protect against food price spikes and shortages, and ensure Canberrans can access affordable, fresh food, helping protect us from climate shocks and providing new jobs and new ways for our community to connect.

## 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. climate change and increasing severe weather events are increasingly impacting food production and transportation, requiring a government and community response to ensuring food security into the future
5. people have a right to know where their food comes from and how it is produced
6. 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)
7. food producers, distributors and consumers must consider the ecological impact of producing, transporting, packaging, storing, preparing and disposing of food and food waste
8. local and regional farmers should be supported to develop sustainable and affordable food systems
9. backyard and community food growing are valuable community activities that can contribute meaningfully to food supplies in the ACT
10. 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
11. food production and consumption play an important role in community-building and food and agriculture education
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. Canberra and its surrounding region supporting a thriving local and sustainable food system that helps fight climate change and build community resilience
2. increases in local food production and support for our rural and urban farmers to implement regenerative and ecologically sustainable farming practices
3. to ensure that everyone in the ACT can access affordable, fresh and nutritious local food
4. to enable greater supply of plant-based foods to improve human health and animal welfare while reducing the environmental impacts of food production
5. 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

6. urban developments to set aside space for community gardens
7. support local First Nations communities to harvest on country, and re-establish and grow traditional farming practices and enterprises
8. programs to minimise food wastage, including from food packaging (see also ACT Circular Economy Policy)
9. to continue to expand provisions for animal welfare in food production, and prevent the establishment of inhumane industrialised, large-scale intensive animal husbandry in the ACT
10. strengthen the local food system of the Canberra region by providing support for programs that foster collaboration and cooperative organising by local and regional farmers, food manufacturers, and food supply logistics
11. to support the increased use of local compost for fertilisers
12. to reduce the use of pesticides and encourage pollinator-friendly gardens
13. urban planning and government landscape planning to factor in pollinator-friendly habitat
14. to protect farmland and water resources from competing development and use
15. to ensure that the Territory plan and district strategies identify prime agricultural land and reflect sustainable food production potential in zoning and district strategy policies and goals
16. 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
17. water security for sustainable agricultural production
18. to ensure children in the ACT are educated about growing and preparing food through school gardening and cooking programs
19. to support secondary and tertiary education programs on agriculture
20. support community engagement campaigns that promote the importance of and pride in local food and buying local, help people know how to access affordable local food and support everyone to be able to learn how to cook

## **WATER**

Water is vital to all life. Waterways are the lifeblood of our city and have important cultural value to the First Nations people of the ACT. With a growing population, and with climate change projections for the ACT predicting hotter summers and more severe droughts, we need to be strategic and efficient in how we use and manage water.

### **PRINCIPLES**

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has a right to clean water to meet daily needs

2. water catchments should be managed in partnership with First Nations in recognition of the cultural value of waterways for First Nations people and the cultural knowledge they hold
3. water and water catchments should be managed in a way that safeguard ecological and human health
4. water management should be evidence-based and informed by key stakeholders
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 and to demonstrate leadership in water efficiency and management
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. investment in and management of water infrastructure must consider climate change projections and impacts on ecosystem health
9. large scale water usage should be priced to reflect the full social and environmental costs of water extraction, transport, use and treatment
10. 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
11. the ACT's water resources must remain publicly owned, with transparent management to ensure an equitable pricing structure and integration of environmental objectives.
12. The ACT's urban lakes and ponds also have ecological functions and biodiversity and need to be managed accordingly.

## GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. healthy urban and regional waterways that support a diversity of life, improve water quality, support health and wellbeing, particularly for adjoining residents, and offer safe and sustainable public amenity
2. culturally sensitive waterway management in partnership with First Nations people
3. a comprehensive water management approach based on a vision for long-term ecological health, human health and water security in a changing climate
4. a clear framework for setting water restrictions that takes into consideration climate change projections, such as more frequent and severe droughts and increasing levels of volatility in year-to-year rainfall
5. adequate environmental flows to ensure the health of ecological systems and biodiversity
6. drinking water in the ACT to meet or exceed national and international quality standards
7. ACT water catchments to have well-resourced, best practice management



8. 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
9. water-sensitive urban design principles to be embedded into urban planning and development and enforced
10. continued interjurisdictional and regional collaboration and coordination to improve water quality and environmental flows in the Murray-Darling Basin, including in the Upper Murrumbidgee River
11. programs to encourage water efficiency and re-use in homes, offices, industry and agriculture
12. 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
13. a long-term strategic approach to improving water quality in lakes, ponds and waterways
14. restoration of local waterways to provide habitat, improve soil health, manage water flow, improve amenity and retain water in the landscape.

## GLOSSARY

**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).

**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).

**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.

Integrated Pest Management: "...an effective combination of a wide range of management methods including plant resistance, refuge crops and effective sampling to name just a few. It is an ecosystem approach to crop production and protection that combines different management strategies and practices to grow healthy crops and minimise the use of pesticides. IPM control methods include, but are not limited to: ...chemical control (as a last resort)." CSIRO

(<https://www.csiro.au/en/research/animals/pests/integrated-pest-management>).

**Local First Nations community:** Local First Nations community refers to all First Nations peoples who live, reside and/or work in the ACT community.

**Pests:** Per the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 this means:

1. in relation to an animal, plant or thing – any animal, plant or other biological entity that injuriously affects the physical condition, worth or utility of the first-mentioned animal or plant or of that thing, or
2. in relation to a place – an animal, plant or other biological entity that injuriously affects the use or enjoyment of that place.

**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).

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

**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 Ngannawal Peoples are recognised by the ACT Government as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

## REFERENCE LIST

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# **ECONOMY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**



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## **ACT ECONOMY AND TREASURY**

The economy is inherently political: poverty and inequality are political decisions. Economic policy is about weighing the objectives of societal development and social justice against available resources. The Greens' vision is for an economy that cultivates abundance within the constraints of our natural ecosystems. An economic system that cannot meet the basic needs of all in society, including for food, housing, energy, healthcare and education, is not compatible with a just society.

### **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 poverty elimination must be key goals, with democratisation of the economy essential
4. economic management should prioritise improving 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 participation by communities in economic decisions and budgeting harnesses their expertise and supports good governance
7. the ACT economy exists within the natural environment, and environmental stewardship is therefore central to good economic management
8. economic management must be consistent with environmental requirements, including a transition to a circular economy with net-negative emissions to mitigate the existential threat of climate change
9. a just transition to net-negative emissions must be equitable and ensure that everyone benefits from addressing the challenges we face
10. ACT Government decisions and activities should create a robust, diverse and sustainable economy that harnesses the ACT community's skills, assets and innovation
11. as a democratic institution, the Government has an active and essential role in managing the economy and regulating and intervening in markets to operate in accordance with and deliver on society's goals.

### **GOALS**

The ACT Greens want:

1. ACT Government decision-making, budget-setting, policies, taxation, spending and regulation to deliver improved outcomes, as measured by genuine and diverse progress and wellbeing indicators
2. ACT Government to use a mix of investment, incentives, taxation and regulation to drive a just transition to a sustainable and circular economy
3. a whole-of-government approach to fostering greater intergenerational equity
4. a more sustainable and diverse private sector that is empowered to achieve environmentally and socially responsible outcomes
5. programs to encourage an equitable distribution of meaningful paid work among those who wish to engage in the workforce, including through green jobs creation
6. to ensure every ACT community member can live with a minimum standard of wellbeing, no matter their employment status or income sources
7. a circular and net-negative emissions economy based on closed-loop cycles of production, waste treated as a resource (see also the ACT Greens Waste Policy), repair, share and goods reuse encouraged, and natural systems regenerated

## **BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

Business, along with the public sector and the community sector, is important for generating employment while producing and servicing 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. business, government and community sectors working together can best achieve mutually beneficial outcomes
2. the ACT private sector needs to be robust, diverse and sustainable, to complement strong public and community sectors, and provide meaningful employment where people want to live and work
3. procurement decisions by the ACT Government and other public sector organisations are an important way to support the local and regional economy, innovation, and promote environmental and social responsibility
4. the business sector has an important role in reducing unemployment, underemployment and economic inequality, including through micro and small business, and alternative business models such as member- and worker-owned cooperatives and social enterprises
5. ACT Government needs to collaborate with the regional business sector to respond to social and environmental challenges and improve wellbeing outcomes
6. in competition and fair cooperation between businesses that encourage a diverse business sector, instead of allowing large private 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 and access to affordable remedies.

### **GOALS**

The ACT Greens want:

1. ACT Government to support businesses through the just transition to a clean, green economy, including through regulation, incentives and advice
2. ACT Government to assist and encourage businesses to employ people who have difficulty accessing the labour market
3. business assistance programs to focus on businesses and industries that meet ethical investment 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 and promotion of alternative business structures such as social enterprises, microcredit and cooperatives
7. ACT Government support for research, development and commercialisation to cultivate circular economy industries and processes with net-negative emissions, 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 developing and implementing 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. greater use of regional supply chains to support the local community
14. strong consumer laws and product information to protect consumers from unfair and unethical business practices
15. a well-resourced and accessible regulatory enforcement system to ensure that businesses are compliant with relevant laws
16. ACT Government to support a right to repair, both through work at the territory level and lobbying the Federal Government for change
17. 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 a diverse mix of organisations that represent various shared interests across the ACT population, provide vital services, and advocate for those interests to Government, business and other community groups. Those organisations built on principles of an environmentally sustainable, socially just future play an important role in the ACT's social and economic fabric.

### PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. community sector organisations support social inclusion, provide essential services for people in need and contribute to the wellbeing of the ACT
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. community sector staff and volunteers 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 those people most at risk
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. a viable and resilient 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. an independent, well-resourced community sector that is empowered to advocate to government and hold government to account
3. 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

4. robust 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
5. better recognition of the true costs of running community organisations through adequate funding for community-based programs
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, reduced 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 for volunteers to receive subsidised training and other support, as part of a comprehensive community sector strategy.

## EMPLOYMENT, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND WORKPLACE WELLBEING

We want the economy to serve society, not the other way around. This can only be achieved when the workplaces of our economy provide for the social and economic needs of workers.

### PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has a right to meaningful and secure paid employment
2. workplaces must be inclusive, safe, and free from discrimination and harassment
3. job insecurity, unemployment and underemployment systemically entrench inequality in our society
4. all workers should receive fair and equitable pay, conditions and protections at work, irrespective of how their employment agreements are structured, and in a manner which respects their human rights
5. the growing gap between the lowest-paid and highest-paid workers is detrimental to the long-term wellbeing of the workforce and economic outcomes
6. free, independent, well-resourced and democratic unions are an essential pillar of a civil society
7. the right to be a union member, collectively bargain, collectively withhold labour and collectively organise in the workplace is essential to achieving a sustainable and democratic future
8. unions should be strong, vibrant and unencumbered by unreasonable regulation and outside interference in their right to organise working people and campaign for a better future
9. unions are their membership, and it is up to members to decide how their union functions
10. workers and their representatives are entitled to democratic participation in decisions about the future direction and development of the organisations for which they work
11. 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
12. there must be accessible, independent systems for workplace dispute resolution, including conciliation and arbitration before an independent tribunal
13. workplace laws should provide better work-life balance, with people having more control over their working arrangements and rights to flexible working practices
14. 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

15. 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
16. the objectives of profitability and efficiency should not override economic, social and ecological objectives
17. unpaid domestic work, caring work, volunteer and community work should be recognised and valued the same as forms of paid work
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 is a crime and its victims most frequently come from the marginalised and disadvantaged communities who should be supported by government to secure justice..

## 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 and modern slavery in the ACT, including through regulatory enforcement and empowerment of unions to enforce workplace rights
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. to eliminate discriminatory pay gaps and institute mechanisms to guarantee equal pay for work of equal value, regardless of attributes informed by the ACT Discrimination Act 1991
7. ACT Government to support processes for people who wish to pursue collective bargaining and other forms of consultation and negotiation 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. to reduce time dedicated to paid work and increase personal time without loss of pay, including through reduced working hours and increased public holidays
11. innovative and flexible working arrangements to be offered to employees, subject to no-disadvantage tests
12. to introduce healthy workplace and lifestyle programs, such as facilitating active travel to work, end-of-trip facilities in workplaces, and breaks for exercise and wellbeing at work.

13. to introduce 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
14. ACT Government to provide businesses with support to increase employee participation in decision-making
15. increased protection for whistleblowers, including workers reporting unsafe work practices and/or environments
16. Strong right of entry powers for union officials to assist workers to protect workplace safety and workplace rights
17. 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
18. workers to have access to clear and comprehensive information about workplace rights
19. measures to protect contracted staff, outworkers, casual workers and those employed through labour hire, including an end to sham contracting arrangements which deprive people of fair pay and conditions
20. appropriate compensation in Workplace Health and Safety cases
21. adequate resourcing for WorkSafe ACT
22. incentives for workplace childcare facilities and mandatory implementation of family-friendly workplace policies for all large employers
23. to 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
24. recognition of apprentices, interns and practical (prac) students as workers to prevent exploitation and to ensure compulsory internships are paid and mutually beneficial for interns and employers, including internships undertaken as part of a prac or tertiary study

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

The digital economy is playing an increasingly key role in the wider economic landscape. It is important to ensure equitable access, environmental sustainability, and human rights, including privacy, are at the forefront of how we adapt to emerging technologies.

### **PRINCIPLES**

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone should have equitable access to digital communications to enable full participation in community life
2. digital rights, including internet access, are an extension of existing rights, should be viewed from a human rights perspective, and must be protected and enforced
3. technological developments disrupt how activities traditionally occur and government has a role to ensure everyone has access to and benefits from this progress
4. the digital economy can be an enabler of significant reductions in overall environmental impacts
5. government data and information should be freely available to the community, while ensuring that people's privacy is protected
6. digital data and information should remain within control of the person who created it, even when it is stored in systems owned by third parties.
7. Everyone has the right to privacy online, and freedom from unnecessary surveillance.
8. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment has considerable and often unnoticed environmental impacts, including the energy and materials required for equipment, networks, storage and disposal of equipment.
9. All businesses should be subject to the Australian Privacy Act.

### **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 (such as by installing energy management systems in all government buildings), 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. ACT 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. ACT 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. ACT 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**

Revenue generation for the public sector, including via taxation, is critical to enabling key services and infrastructure to be delivered to all ACT residents. Approaches to revenue should be designed to improve social equity, reduce poverty and meet environmental goals.

### **PRINCIPLES**

The ACT Greens believe:

1. government has a central role in providing services and infrastructure for the community, and in reducing economic inequality
2. economic wellbeing is meaningful only in the context of social and environmental wellbeing, and should be informed by the broadest possible measures of progress
3. government budget decisions should focus economic activity in a way that improves social equity, reduces poverty and meets 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. the ACT economy and the wellbeing of ACT community members require ongoing public investment in public infrastructure that delivers long-term economic, social and environmental benefits
7. natural monopolies and essential public services should be in public or community ownership
8. 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
9. ACT community members and community organisations should be enabled and encouraged to provide input to government decisions on budget, taxation, infrastructure and service delivery
10. government procurement policies and ethical investment of all public funds are an important tool for achieving society's social, environmental and economic goals
11. the public service must provide apolitical and reliable advice to government, and Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly should respect the advice of this important institution.

### **GOALS**

The ACT Greens want:

1. governments to provide universally accessible public and community services, such as health and education

2. the ACT's system of taxes, charges and concessions as a whole to be progressive, with wealthier and higher income people paying proportionally more in taxes and charges
3. an effective and accessible system of concessions and assistance, targeted to those most in need
4. essential services to be delivered by the public and community sectors and to bring outsourced essential services back into public or community administration wherever possible
5. broad measures of social and environmental wellbeing to guide public expenditure and taxation decisions
6. the taxation system to discourage social and environmental harms and provide incentives for socially and environmentally sustainable behaviours
7. 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
8. legislated standards for the ethical investment of public money to include both positive and negative investment screening
9. full divestment of the ACT Government from harmful industries, such as fossil fuels, weapons manufacturers, gambling industries, tobacco/nicotine and alcohol industries, as well as industries that breach international law or cause harm to the environment or animals
10. ACT community to have greater participation in budget, public expenditure and taxation decisions
11. 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
12. procurement processes to include submission criteria that require tenderers to meet high environmental, employment and consultation standards
13. procurement processes to be conducted fairly and with transparency
14. 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
15. 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.

## GLOSSARY

**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).

**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.).

**Ethical investment:** Investment that accords with Greens principles and policies, such as ecological sustainability and human rights; businesses that directly contravene these principles are unethical businesses.

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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).

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

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

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# GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



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## **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, as well as our individual and collective understanding of our place in the world
4. a diversity of arts practice, including both community-level and high-level professional arts practice, should be supported in the ACT
5. public funding of the ACT arts community is necessary to support its vibrancy.

### **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 ensure that arts and cultural programs are 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 which facilitate career pathways for artists
5. open, transparent and peer-reviewed processes for government funding decisions
6. a vibrant and sustainable ACT-based professional arts industry across diverse platforms, including digital and new media
7. a thriving live music and events scene in the ACT with designated entertainment precincts
8. high-quality music and arts education throughout the education system, including in preschool, primary, secondary, college, tertiary and specialist institutional levels in the ACT
9. recognition of and appreciation for the work of musicians and artists based in our region



10. mandated minimum payments for artists in line with the targets of union and other organisations representing artists
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. decision-making is better quality and more durable when all those affected by decisions are able to participate
3. ACT Government decision-making, legislation, policies and programs should be informed by genuine, proactive and ongoing community engagement that is meaningful, accessible and transparent
4. 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
5. effective and meaningful community engagement requires adequate, balanced, well-facilitated and timely involvement of a diverse range of people and groups
6. 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
7. government should report back to the community about outcomes of community engagement, including the impact community views and opinions had on government actions
8. 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 embed participatory governance at the heart of how we run government, including in the operations of the public service
2. broad community trust, respect and increased cooperation to be a key indicator of success in decision-making between the ACT Government and the ACT public
3. resourcing of community engagement expertise in all ACT government directorates to ensure the comprehensive coordination of engagement with the community
4. 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

5. the provision of accessibility measures including translation services, **targeted payment for time**, physical access supports and online participation options to be a standard feature of all government consultation processes
6. 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
7. incentives for ACT Government agencies to demonstrate excellence in community engagement activities
8. to ensure that all relevant ACT Government officers are appropriately trained in deliberative democratic processes
9. implementation of participatory democratic mechanisms such as allowing communities to allocate certain spending of public funds
10. appropriate resourcing allocated to ensuring the community is well informed about government and community projects and activities in the ACT
11. full participation of people and community organisations in public debate without fear of negative repercussions from the ACT Government and employers
12. 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
13. 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 free and equitable access to high-quality public 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. provision of training should take into account the needs of the ACT community, reducing all forms inequality, and the development of skills required for a just transition to a green economy and livable communities
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 should be a highly valued and respected profession
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 history of colonisation and First Nations dispossession
8. we should continue to develop Canberra as a tertiary education 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 well-funded public, secular education system to meet the needs of ACT students in all their diversity
3. transparent, accountable and needs-based funding for education that supports equitable educational opportunities
4. a range of accessible education and training programs, including literacy and numeracy, to offer new opportunities to adults at all life stages, including migrants, adults re-entering the workforce and people 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 universal commitment to the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care, including at least 15 hours per week of preschool from 3 years old, delivered by teachers with early childhood qualifications

#### **HIGHER EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND 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. The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) to remain in public ownership and be fee-free, accessible and meet the needs of students
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. to ensure opportunities for commercialisation partnerships do not undermine academic freedom, freedom of expression, and quality of research
31. to further develop the knowledge economy by encouraging universities to establish or expand their presence

#### **WORKFORCE**

32. a professional and well-supported education workforce, which is provided with relevant and innovative professional development opportunities
33. 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
34. 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
35. a diverse teaching workforce that is reflective of the ACT community.
36. recognition that principals have a primary role as education-leaders within schools rather than as their school's administrator.

## 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. a healthy democracy is the foundation of a thriving and vibrant society
2. 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)
3. people are able to more meaningfully participate in a democratic society when their basic needs are unconditionally met, and they live free from discrimination and persecution, supported by a prosperous natural environment
4. ACT Government should be a leader and innovator in good governance ensuring that decision-making has the wellbeing of ACT community members, flora, fauna and country as its central purpose
5. a healthy democracy requires openness, probity, transparency and accountability in all aspects of government, including government departments, government-owned entities and statutory authorities
6. a culture of honest, compassionate and responsive service to our communities is as important to good governance as official rules and procedures
7. rights to protesting and whistleblowing, without fear of discrimination or reprisal, are a hallmark of a healthy democracy
8. maintaining the separation of powers between the executive, legislature and the judiciary is critical to good governance
9. the ACT has the right to make its own laws in the same manner as a State of the Commonwealth, free from interference from the Australian Parliament
10. a well-resourced, diverse and 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
11. legislated and well-resourced integrity and oversight agencies that are free from outside influence are vital to our democracy
12. 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 and its diversity
13. the size of the legislature should be sufficient to fully facilitate the productive and efficient operation of all the functions of the parliament
14. parliamentary rules, conventions and structures must keep pace with changing community expectations

15. public servants should be empowered to provide frank and fearless advice to government, but also expected to take action to implement the lawful policies of democratically-elected governments
16. all ACT Government decision-making should consider current and future generations

## GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the right to vote to be extended and exercised as broadly as possible, including to permanent residents and people from the age of 16
2. 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
3. a holistic approach to government decision-making and reporting, including consistent, meaningful and measurable strategic and accountability indicators
4. ACT Government decision-making, legislation, policies and programs to be informed by genuine, ongoing community engagement that is meaningful, respectful, accessible and transparent
5. all government projects to have exemplary community consultation and pre-project consultation (see also the ACT Greens Community Engagement and Participatory Democracy Policy)
6. 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
7. all explanatory statements accompanying executive legislation to contain a human rights compatibility statement, a community consultation summary, and information on the progress towards wellbeing indicators, including on quantitative climate impacts
8. government economic management and budget processes to be focused on the wellbeing of community members, flora, fauna and country.
9. open and transparent access to government information, including a clear presumption of proactive disclosure as part of a robust freedom-of-information system
10. funding and resourcing to promote existing open government information channels and cabinet outcomes
11. 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
12. 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
13. all relevant integrity and oversight agencies to be Officers of the Assembly, with their statutory independence clearly codified



14. the number of members of the legislative assembly to be expanded to reflect the size of the population, the needs of good governance and the effective working of the assembly

## HUMAN RIGHTS

The ACT is a Human Rights jurisdiction, where all legislation is prepared and scrutinised with the intent of protecting and advancing human rights. As the first jurisdiction in Australia to introduce a Human Rights Act, the ACT has both the opportunity and a responsibility to model the ways in which governments can best respect human rights.

### PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. human rights include economic, social, cultural, environmental, civil and political rights. They are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, 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 and a right to housing
5. entities operating in the ACT under federal laws to be subject to human rights legislation
6. human rights concepts to be progressively translated into effective local laws and policies
7. 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
8. 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

9. a culture of human rights to be cultivated across government, non-government and private sectors
10. freedom of expression by ACT Government public servants to be protected
11. people in the ACT to have an accessible complaints mechanism for breaches of human rights
12. human rights to be enforceable through the ACT Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal
13. 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 human rights. Addressing the social determinants of crime is key to reducing the number of people in the criminal justice system.

### PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has a right to live in a safe and peaceful community, free from crime, violence, and discrimination whether from individuals, businesses, institutions or government agencies
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. justice and policing should emphasise de-escalation and cultivating peaceful communities, rather than using fear and violence as tools of deterrence
8. 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
9. the provision of universal social services can improve social cohesion, reduce the risk of harmful behaviours, and significantly reduce the perceived need for policing activities which risk the punitive targeting of marginalised communities
10. the justice system must recognise and support the rights of victims of crime and civil wrongs
11. restorative practices are an essential element to a holistic justice system
12. incarceration is only appropriate as a last resort sentencing option, and alternative penalties should be available to the courts
13. remand in custody should be minimised
14. essential outcomes of the justice system are the good health and rehabilitation of offenders, and the reduction of recidivism and trauma
15. in a prioritisation of alternatives to traditional judicial processes, including early access to dispute resolution mechanisms, restorative practices and beneficial legal advice

16. it is important to foster community understanding and respect for the principles and practices of the justice system.

## GOALS

I The ACT Greens want:

1. the criminal justice system to respect the human rights of all, including victims, alleged and convicted offenders, and witnesses
2. investment in First Nations-designed and First Nations-led initiatives to minimise First Nations peoples' contact with, and to provide alternatives to, the criminal justice system
3. to end racism, racial bias and racial profiling across the criminal justice system
4. children and young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system to be supported by services to help address their needs, including accommodation, drug and alcohol use, and trauma
5. the age of criminal responsibility to be raised to at least 14 years of age for all criminal offences
6. at-risk children to be supported by appropriate therapeutic services and alternative pathways to the criminal justice system
7. improved systems, resources and training to improve the experience of victim survivors of sexual assault in engaging with police and the criminal justice system
8. the promotion and expansion of ACT restorative justice services which are best practice and accessible
9. to reduce the number of people incarcerated in the ACT, particularly First Nations peoples
10. to support increased diversion programs at all points in the criminal justice system
11. funding for programs that address **criminogenic behaviour** be prioritised over expanding correctional facility capacity
12. 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
13. 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
14. increased housing support for people involved in the criminal justice system
15. increased support for families of people in the criminal justice system
16. to address drug and alcohol dependency and mental health difficulties, which are contributing factors for many who come into contact with the legal system, through access to rehabilitation centres and mental health services
17. wherever possible, all services to be trauma-informed, disability-informed, culturally safe, accessible, and inclusive
18. 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

19. ongoing commitments to an evidence-driven approach to crime to recognise the value of crime prevention, justice reinvestment and addressing the social determinants of crime
20. inter-agency coordination and sufficient resourcing to address the social and economic circumstances that increase people's risk of both committing a crime and becoming a victim of crime
21. victims of both civil and criminal wrongs to receive the necessary social and professional support to facilitate their recovery
22. a reduction in the scope of functions for which the police force are responsible through the redirection of functions to well-funded and unarmed alternative services
23. ACT Policing to be sufficiently resourced and skilled to be able to respond to the community's diverse needs, and subject to oversights under ACT law.
24. an accessible, affordable and equitable civil justice system
25. to have a strategic approach to meeting community legal needs, and to increase resources to community legal centres and Legal Aid
26. a best-practice approach to the youth justice and care and protection systems, recognising these are key drivers of entry into the adult justice system, especially for First Nations peoples

# 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 people with diverse sexualities, gender identities and variations in sex characteristics, 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 variations in sex characteristics 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 variations in sex 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 variations in sex characteristics 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 variations in sex characteristics 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 any variations in sex characteristics 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. 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
8. equal opportunity for intersex people and people with diverse sexualities and gender identities in all private and public employment, including in ACT Government workplaces
9. 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
10. education about sexual orientation, gender identity and variations in sex characteristics throughout the education system
11. To defend the bans on so-called 'conversion' practices for sexuality and gender identity, and on non-consensual and deferrable medical interventions which alter sex characteristics
12. ACT Government and other decision makers to give LGBTQIA+ people and communities agency in decision making on issues that affect LGBTQIA+ people and communities
13. all prospective parents to be given information on the possibility of having children with variations in sex characteristics
14. hospitals to develop clear guidelines for responding to births of children with variations in sex characteristics, including the provision of training for doctors, midwives and social workers in intersex awareness
15. 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 treatment<sup>1</sup>
16. ACT Government to improve its statistical data collection on people with diverse sexualities, gender identities and variations in sex characteristics, as well as their families, including statistical data on hate-motivated crimes and civil offences such as discrimination perpetrated against LGBTQIA+ people, mindful of personal privacy considerations
17. 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
18. ACT Government to ensure that organised early childhood activities and education are gender-inclusive
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 LGBTQIA+ community

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<sup>1</sup> The functional ability to make a decision is also known as 'Gillick competence'.



20. to lobby the Australian Government to remove discrimination in blood donation eligibility
21. to ensure LGBTQIA+ 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.

## 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 and the climate.

### 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 to 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.

## GLOSSARY

**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).

**Criminogenic:** something that can cause or lead to criminal behaviour. It is used to describe factors or situations that increase the likelihood of someone committing a crime. For example, living in a high-crime area or having a history of abuse can be considered criminogenic.

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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).

**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).

**Intersex:** Some people are born with variations in 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.

**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.

**LGBTQIA+:** LGBTQIA+ is an umbrella term respectfully used to refer to the diversity of people that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and/or asexual. 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 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.

**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).

**Officers of the Assembly:** An Officer of the Assembly is a role created by Territory law to keep the government accountable in a certain area, such as elections, corruption, or interacting with the public. They are independent of the government of the day, appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and report through the Speaker to the Assembly rather than to a government minister. As of 2023, this includes the Auditor-General, the Electoral Commissioner, the Ombudsman and the ACT Integrity Commissioner.

**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.).

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

**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).

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# HEALTH AND SOCIAL EQUITY





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## **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, Canberra's valleys are adversely affected by pollution from wood heater smoke, as demonstrated by continued PM2.5 monitoring. 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. to ensure the air quality strategy is up-to-date, adequately funded and all actions delivered as soon as possible and practicable
2. improved monitoring of outdoor air quality, and published and accessible up-to-date air quality data from monitoring stations throughout the ACT
3. indoor air quality in public buildings to be kept at safe levels
4. protection of community health during periods that have reduced air quality, such as through publicly accessible air refuges, information and provision of medical equipment
5. construction standards to ensure buildings can provide acceptable indoor air quality
6. mental health and wellbeing monitoring and support during extended smoke events
7. planning to protect vulnerable people, such as older people and children, from poor air quality
8. full implementation of the phase-out of wood heaters with support for vulnerable and low income households throughout the transition to zero-emission alternatives.

## **ANTI-RACISM AND MULTICULTURALISM**

The ACT is a multicultural community and this should be celebrated and respected in our social, business and political institutions. With a third of the population born overseas, or one generation removed, ensuring peoples of all cultural backgrounds feel safe and hold space to practise their way of life is necessary to creating an inclusive society.

### **PRINCIPLES**

The ACT Greens believe:

1. achieving an inclusive and harmonious society requires everyone to be actively anti-racist and cognisant of their own ethnic, racial and national positioning and privilege
2. achieving a just, equal society requires that we be willing to dismantle the legacy of white supremacy wherever we recognise it
3. stereotyping, discrimination, racism and the colonial status quo must be eliminated
4. that we must actively listen and provide safe, culturally appropriate spaces for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people to engage in policy without fear of judgement or retribution
5. democratic processes and government decision-making should be done in active collaboration with people from CALD backgrounds
6. full and supported access to education, training and economic opportunities should be provided to CALD people
7. cultural and linguistic diversity should be actively fostered and promoted within the context of respecting democracy and universal human rights
8. the ACT should continue to be a safe and welcoming place for asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and people who identify as CALD
9. CALD people should be included and supported to fully participate in the ACT community
10. cultural and linguistic diversity in the ACT community greatly enriches our community, and multiculturalism should be embraced and celebrated.

### **GOALS**

The ACT Greens want:

1. the fostering of anti-racism through raising community awareness and encouraging actively anti-racist behaviours
2. to actively dismantle systemic and structural legacies of racism and white supremacy
3. the elimination of discrimination and protection of equal opportunities for all people, regardless of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, national and religious background
4. the ACT community to embrace and celebrate cultural, religious and, national and linguistic diversity

5. to ensure that people from CALD backgrounds have full access to legal support, education and information on their rights and entitlements
6. 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
7. active outreach and engagement to ensure CALD communities can participate fully in ACT Government processes and policy development
8. to strengthen the capacity and ability of government to work with people from CALD backgrounds
9. adequately resourced, responsive and culturally responsible support for humanitarian entrants, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and other CALD people who settle in the ACT, including trauma-informed services and other support for health, housing, education, life skills and social connections
10. community programs to foster harmony and social cohesion, particularly for new and emerging CALD communities
11. to support community groups to retain and maintain their language and culture including support for community-based language schools
12. important community information to be made available in a range of languages, including information about health, education, justice and government services.

## **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 for 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 family<sup>2</sup> 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 desire 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

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<sup>2</sup> The ACT Greens recognise that families come in many forms and that parenthood can exist outside of biological reproductive processes.



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
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 be able 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 and recreational 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 at least 14 years old for all criminal offences
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; they are experts in their own lives
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. service providers' sustainability needs to be considered, to ensure the needs of people with disability and systemic issues are addressed
11. early access to appropriate care for children and young people with disability can prevent longer term significant health costs
12. 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.
13. Disability Pride creates empowered, inclusive and accessible communities that recognise the diversity of ways that bodies and minds work as a normal part of human existence.

## 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, to do meaningful work that supports their employment goals, pay workers with disability a fair and liveable wage, 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. all services in the ACT to be accessible to Auslan users, including ensuring community announcements are made in Auslan, support for the development of skills and qualifications in Auslan and access to Auslan interpreters.

## 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, foster parents 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 that meets their parenting needs
7. parental leave and return to work policies that support, facilitate and encourage infants and young children to be breastfed for the World Health recommended timeframe of six months exclusive breastfeeding and breastfed for a minimum of 2 years
8. increased investment from both the ACT Government and the Australian Government in family support services, including intensive and coordinated support

9. family-centred services to ensure the safety of families, and prevent and respond to serious issues of abuse, neglect and domestic violence
10. at risk families to have access to food relief, meal services and practical assistance
11. 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 psychological violence, coercive control and/or 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, the victims are more frequently women, children, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ people
5. significant long-term cultural and social change around respectful relationships is required to address the social determinants of family and domestic violence
6. the justice system must prioritise the safety of people at risk 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, children, and people at risk. This response must be culturally and community sensitive, evidence-based and well-resourced to address primary prevention action, crisis response, overlapping vulnerability, intersectionality, justice response, housing and long-term support
2. the 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, psychological, 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

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. skilled, multi-disciplinary first response teams, including ACT Policing and family violence services, to ensure appropriate and timely responses to instances of family and domestic violence
8. adequate, coordinated and well-resourced community services and advocacy groups to provide care, support and refuge 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, children, and people at risk, 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 land and their unique cultural and spiritual relationship with land, water and sky. We acknowledge that other people and families also have a traditional connection to the lands of the ACT and region and we respect this connection to Country. 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 improving the health and wellbeing of the Traditional Custodians of the ACT and surrounding regions
3. 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
4. recognition of First Nations knowledges, cultures and heritage contributes to sustainable and equitable development and management of the environment
5. First Nations cultures should be celebrated for their positive contributions to, and impacts on, the ACT community
6. First Nations communities have the right to seek Truth, Treaties and a Voice to Parliament, if that is what First Nations communities expressly state to governments
7. local First Nations communities 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. support for greater participation of local First Nations communities in the development, review and implementation of policies, allocation of funding, and implementation of programs for First Nations communities
12. support for more First Nations-owned and/or First Nations-led community-controlled organisations, micro and small business and self-employment initiatives in the ACT
13. strong mechanisms for consultation with, and participation of, 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. introduction of a requirement for First Nations' traditional ownership and knowledge to be recognised, considered and protected as part of the planning and development process.

## **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 an increasingly significant source of harm
5. political donations from the gambling industry have a corrupting influence on democracy
6. 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
7. community organisations and political parties should not depend on gambling as a source of revenue
8. gambling policy must consider equity and avoid compounding social disadvantage
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. introduction of bet limits, mandatory pre-commitments and other measures to reduce the harm from electronic gaming machines
2. reductions in access to cash in gambling venues
3. 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
4. improved monitoring of gambling venue compliance with codes of conduct and self-exclusion measures, and increased enforcement and size of fines for non-compliance
5. evidence-driven reform to address the psychological design features of electronic gambling machines to make gambling activities less dangerous
6. the ACT Government to ban gambling advertisements and sponsorship, particularly during sports broadcasts and in media targeted at children, and advocate for national action

7. bans on online betting promotions and inducements, and strict regulation of online gambling providers
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, psychological, 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 supported to interact with health services before they become unwell
6. the increasing prevalence of chronic disease is heavily influenced by the social determinants of health and it impacts on people and their families, communities, and the health system
7. health inequity and the social determinants of health must be addressed in government decision-making across all portfolios
8. the social determinants of health include commercial determinants such as the influences on the social, physical and cultural environments through business actions and societal engagements
9. people have distinct and specific health needs, as well as cultural safety needs, and healthcare responses should be tailored to meet these needs
10. people accessing health care and representative organisations should play an active role in health care by co-designing policy, providing feedback and participating in other consultative processes
11. 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
12. a well-resourced public sector, alongside a well-resourced community sector where appropriate, is an integral part of the delivery of health services
13. healthcare provision should be evidence-based and responsive to current and emerging research and innovation

14. 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
15. peer support and advocacy programs are a valuable resource to assist people in their recovery
16. the experience, training and skills of all healthcare disciplines are integral to an effective healthcare system
17. all healthcare workers should be able to perform their roles in safety
18. carers play a crucial role in health care
19. healthcare services should be as equitable to, and as accessible for, people in custodial settings as they are to and for people in the community.

## 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 preventive, primary, acute, home, hospital-based, community and end-of-life care
5. to proportionally increase spending on preventive care to end its short-sighted underfunding
6. a whole-of-government approach to achieve improved physical and mental health outcomes for people and communities
7. an integrated health care system, between and within Commonwealth and Territory systems, that ensures health is holistically cared for and no one falls through the cracks
8. recognition that Canberra's public hospital system operates as a regional health service, and fair funding arrangements to reflect this important regional role
9. The new Northside hospital to be publicly run to ensure it is a safe place and provides the full range of care - including contraception advice, terminations, and end of life care.
10. evidence-based and innovative approaches to managing the pressures of emergency, critical and tertiary care
11. 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
12. the ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS) to provide adequate support for people who need to access interstate health services
13. to create an ACT health system, through territory level policies and lobbying of the Commonwealth government, that ensures complete and free access to general

- practitioners and specialists, with a high-quality, professional healthcare workforce that meet the needs of our community
14. the health system to be responsive to feedback from consumers, community and health workers
  15. increased accountability from the ACT Government on consumer outcomes
  16. waiting periods for surgery to be equal to or less than the national benchmarks, including elective surgery
  17. 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
  18. vulnerable and high-risk communities to assist in designing preventive health measures and campaigns that impact their own health
  19. everyone to have access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food (see also the ACT Greens Security and Agriculture Policy)
  20. government policies to reduce the promotion and availability of high sugar foods
  21. support for education about sugar consumption and healthy eating behaviours
  22. the ACT Government to further address the factors driving higher levels of obesity in the community
  23. health services designed and led by First Nations peoples to help eliminate health inequities experienced by First Nations communities
  24. 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
  25. effectively funded peer support and advocacy groups, programs and initiatives to match identified community needs
  26. public health initiatives to help normalise death as part of life and acknowledge the cultural and spiritual considerations of each person
  27. patients' decisions regarding palliative care, end of life, voluntary assisted dying, treatment refusal and advance care directives to be respected and appropriately legislated
  28. to continue and enhance the ban on 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 judgement.

### **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. to create an ACT mental health system, through territory level policies and lobbying of the Commonwealth government, that ensures complete and free access to mental healthcare
3. health, community justice and social service systems to be mental health literate and capable of recognising and responding to mental health issues
4. government and community-provided mental health services to be accessible, recovery-oriented and responsive to complex issues
5. 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
6. 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
7. 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
8. greater integration between mental health services and drug and alcohol treatment services

9. the mental health workforce to have better access to training, professional development and support
10. 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
11. increased opportunities for peer workers to be part of the mental health workforce
12. 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
13. to build a kind community that nurtures mental wellbeing by promoting participation, connection and inclusion, and minimises loneliness and isolation
14. to ensure that members of the community have time to undertake activities that nourish their mental wellbeing
15. the 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.



## 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. the 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. the 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.

## **PREGNANCY, BIRTH AND MATERNITY SERVICES\***

Pregnancy, birth, and early parenting are cherished and important life experiences. The ACT Greens recognise that a range of people utilise maternity services including women, transgender, gender diverse, and intersex people. To reflect this we use the language “woman or birthing person”.

### **PRINCIPLES**

The ACT Greens believe:

1. respecting the woman or birthing person’s choice is central to maternity care
2. respecting the woman or birthing person’s choice extends to care providers using language and terminology that the individual chooses to use for themselves. Care should always be centred on the person gestating and birthing the baby, including but not limited to care providers routinely seeking and using their personalised language needs and preferences
3. it is a woman or birthing person’s right to choose where and with whom they give birth
4. maternity care should be woman or birthing person and baby-centred, where all women and birthing people can feel abundantly supported during antenatal, perinatal, and postnatal care
5. every woman or birthing person deserves to feel happy, healthy and supported, and evidence demonstrates this can be achieved with a strong relationship between the woman or birthing person and their known midwives
6. midwife-led continuity of care is appropriate for all pregnancies, including those with universal care needs and those with additional care needs. Midwife-led continuity of care is cost effective and improves satisfaction for both women and birthing people and health professionals
7. work environments where midwives are supported and facilitated to work to their full scope of practice provides the best outcomes for women and birthing people and midwives
8. “Birthing on Country” is a metaphor for the best start in life for First Nations babies and their families. It is a continuation of thousands of years of knowledge and practice, which provides holistic maternal, child and family health care that embeds cultural integrity and safety during pregnancy, labour, birth and postnatal care
9. women and birthing people should be supported to enable them to breastfeed or chestfeed\* exclusively for the first six months and for a minimum for two years (as recommended by the World Health Organisation)
10. respectful maternity care is also important for parents who experience miscarriage, stillbirth or death of a baby.

### **GOALS**

The ACT Greens want:

1. every pregnant woman or person in the ACT to have access to a publicly funded midwife-led continuity of care model, including in home-birthing settings
2. all women and birthing people who are pregnant with First Nations babies should have access to a culturally appropriate Birthing On Country model of care
3. perinatal mental health support for all
4. the ACT to have a co-designed, midwife-led freestanding birth centre, located alongside or fully separate to the new northside hospital
5. support for establishing breastfeeding or chestfeeding, and for this support to continue when women or birthing people want to return to work.

## **REDUCING HARM FROM ALCOHOL, NICOTINE AND OTHER DRUGS**

Punitive approaches to drug use have 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 ACT should prioritise a non-judgemental public health approach and social framework to addressing drug dependence and drug-related harms, including from alcohol and nicotine
2. social and economic inequality are risk factors for drug dependence and drug-related harms
3. 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
4. prevention of, and voluntary early intervention in, drug use are the most effective ways to minimise harms
5. 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
6. understanding the effects of alcohol, nicotine 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
7. the prohibition of drugs is a causal factor in organised crime.

### **GOALS**

The ACT Greens want:

1. prioritisation of 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, education and safety programs to enable informed choice and safer use of alcohol, nicotine and other drugs
4. public information and education programs to eliminate the stigma of drug use and promote evidence-based discussions in the community
5. high-quality training for first responders to engage with people who are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
6. evidence-based and age-appropriate drug education programs in schools

7. funding sufficient to meet demand in the community for addressing the social determinants of harmful drug use, such as poverty, family and domestic violence, sexual assault and trauma, including childhood trauma
8. to improve tailored care for 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
9. 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
10. initiatives to reduce high rates of blood-borne disease transmission resulting from drug use in places of detention
11. increased support and services for families and communities adversely affected by the use of alcohol, nicotine and/or other drugs
12. to legalise the production, sale and use of cannabis and cannabis products for recreational use
13. to defend and extend the decriminalisation of the possession of drugs in quantities appropriate for personal use
14. the expungement of criminal records related to personal possession, use and cultivation of cannabis
15. increased availability of currently illicit substances for regulated medical or therapeutic purposes and associated research
16. full implementation of harm reduction drug testing and consumption, such as static and mobile pill testing, into the normal operations of public health activities
17. 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
18. roadside drug testing to be focused on road safety rather than the enforcement of drug laws.

## SOCIAL EQUITY

### PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. a fair and democratic society requires equity of opportunity, equality, respect for diversity, equitable access to resources and social inclusion
2. every person can make different social, cultural and economic contributions that benefit our community; inequality deprives our community of 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 fuels 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 policies such as progressive taxation, welfare payments, government charges, universal services, 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. to end structural and systemic discrimination and create 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 structural inequity and the disadvantages that stem from it
4. universal free service delivery of 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 social, economic and intergenerational 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 the design of the welfare system, inadequate retirement savings, systemic and long term pay inequality, ends of relationships and violence.

### GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a proper gender lens applied to both the overall ACT Budget and every item of expenditure
2. respect for the human rights of women and girls locally, nationally and internationally
3. to encourage and facilitate the meaningful participation, engagement and leadership of women and girls in all areas of public and community life
4. educational institutions and workplaces to use affirmative action policies to respond to existing gender inequities
5. to end the gender pay gap and the economic inequalities that accumulate throughout women's lives
6. full and equitable participation of women in public life, leadership and decision-making
7. family and carer friendly provisions in ACT Government enterprise agreements
8. 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)

9. 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
10. 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
11. 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
12. 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
13. all workplaces to take an active role in eliminating and responding to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women
14. ACT Government policies, programs and budgeting to be gender transformative, including approaches to urban planning, transport, housing and the economy
15. well-funded systemic women's advocacy groups, including community legal centres, women's legal centres and women's resource centres
16. continued, safe and free access to reproductive health services that support women's right to choose
17. an end to medical discrimination towards women.

## 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).

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

**Breastfeeding or chestfeeding:** In this context, breastfeeding or chestfeeding means the action of feeding a baby with human milk directly from the body of the person lactating. It is also possible for another parent or person to induce lactation and feed the baby. Other terms are sometimes used for this practice, such as 'bodyfeed'. This policy is intended to support this practice and we support individuals using whichever term they prefer. Providers should routinely seek and use the language that is right for the person they are dealing with.

In this context, we are not talking about other practices such as feeding an infant with a supplemental formula line or feeding a baby with a bottle. We absolutely support all practices to feed babies but we have written this specific policy to acknowledge the support needed to breastfeed or chestfeed as recommended by the WHO.

**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).

**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).

**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).

**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).

**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.

**Maternity services:** Maternity is the name of the field of healthcare provided during pregnancy, labour, birth and shortly after childbirth. Unfortunately, there is no gender-neutral term that is synonymous with the term 'maternity services'.

The terms below each form a part of the maternity care spectrum, but none are synonymous for maternity.

- Antenatal is the period of time before birth; during or related to pregnancy
- Perinatal means the time shortly before or after birth
- Postnatal means the period of time immediately after birth and lasts for 6 weeks.

A range of people utilise maternity services including women, transgender, gender diverse, and intersex people.

**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).

**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).

**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).

**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).

**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).

**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.).

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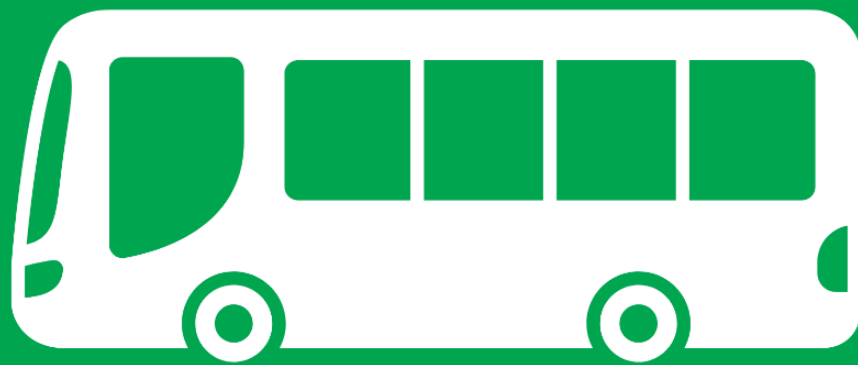
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**THE  
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# URBAN PLANNING AND CITY SERVICES



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## **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 worth within the rights of nature
2. humans are interdependent with animals, and 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
6. factory farming of animals is detrimental to animal welfare

### **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 laws and 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. legitimate research created by citizen scientists to be included alongside and within peer reviewed research in the evidence-base for managing ecosystems for animal welfare
6. to advocate for a meaningful national definition of 'free range' eggs
7. responsible ownership of, care for, and breeding of livestock and domestic animals
8. reduced roadkill in 'black spot' areas by construction of effective mitigation measures, such as wildlife underpasses and overpasses, barriers and signage, and appropriate speed limits
9. to continue cat containment throughout the whole of the ACT
10. better information for consumers about animal products, including through product labelling standards and education about alternatives

11. abolition of the cruel and inhumane use of animals for sport, recreation and entertainment
12. strong regulations on live animals kept in classrooms, including a ban on classroom hatching programs
13. schools to teach and respect animal welfare and rights
14. to maintain and defend the ban of greyhound racing industry in the ACT
15. to stop ACT government funding of the horse racing industry
16. end all government subsidies to sport, recreation and entertainment activities that harm animals

## **CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

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. we need a truly circular economy to replace the old make-sell-dispose economy;
2. a circular economy considers what we need and how we can meet those needs in a sustainable way;
3. A circular economy replaces products with services, designs out waste before it is created and treats residual waste as a resource;
4. Reuse, repair and recycling are all part of a circular economy;
5. A circular economy is essential to climate action because of the high embedded emissions in product consumption and disposal and because of the emissions from organic waste sent to landfill;
6. Product design and production must consider life cycle impacts, including embedded emissions, product life span, capacity for repair and reuse and end of life recycling
7. manufacturers, distributors and retailers should be required to adopt circular economy principles and product stewardship and should take responsibility for what they make and sell
8. consumers should be legally allowed to repair products and access replacement components without voiding warranties
9. Owners of intellectual property in goods should not have the right to limit repair or arbitrarily limit the life span of products
10. incineration is not part of a circular economy and any waste-to-energy process must be done in a sustainable way that does not create environmental harm
11. A circular economy will bring long-term environmental, social and economic benefits to the ACT
12. materials and components of all products should be able to be easily, sustainably and verifiably recycled in waste management systems
13. the private sector should be encouraged to provide sustainable solutions and create new markets for circular economy products and resources
14. the public sector should procure, and support uptake of, circular economy products and resources
15. regional, interstate and international coordination is important to ensure circular economy, waste and recycling markets are integrated
16. financial viability of investment in circular economy solutions should not depend upon a high level of production

17. it is important to educate and support the whole community about the harms of our consumer economy and the benefits of a circular economy.

## GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT to become a leader in creating a circular economy
2. a genuine circular economy strategy based on public data about our waste streams and modern principles about how to build a circular economy
3. to minimise embedded emissions in products and emissions from waste sent to landfill, including through waste avoidance and capturing emissions from landfill
4. to maintain the ban on incineration in the ACT and to consider non-thermal waste to energy treatment options where these are environmentally sustainable.
5. to avoid ACT waste being incinerated in cross-border facilities
6. a quick rollout of sustainable options for food and green waste avoidance and recovery, for households, retail and hospitality sectors, given the urgency of the climate crisis
7. government waste contract management to prioritise environmental sustainability and circular economy principles
8. government policies and programs to support the circular economy and resource recovery sector in the ACT including through land, grants, programs and other means
9. national and regional coordination on waste management programs and policies
10. ACT government strategies and procurement to encourage the uptake of circular economy products and services and products made with recycled materials
11. ACT government strategies to target major and problem waste streams including construction & demolition waste, food and organic waste, textiles, clinical waste, soft plastics and electronic waste
12. mandatory product stewardship and mandatory industry regulation to replace voluntary industry schemes, given that voluntary schemes have largely failed
13. ACT Government agencies to adopt best practice waste avoidance and management systems
14. ensure best practice tertiary wastewater treatment is achieved and end products go to highest value reuse
15. environmental degradation resulting from poor waste management to be addressed through clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation programs
16. government funding to educate and resource the commercial sector and community on the circular economy, waste avoidance, minimisation and recycling.
17. the ACT Government to conduct waste management audits every 2 – 3 years and publish the results

## 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. 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. the Government must ensure that heritage repositories are available to the public in libraries, museums, digital archives and other collections.
7. heritage has value for both locals and visitors and can encourage tourism

## 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. a contemporary heritage strategy to provide clear guidance to all government decision-makers, which sets clear policies, priorities and targets for both indigenous and non-indigenous heritage
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
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 and elimination of any backlogs
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. government-owned heritage-listed properties to be adapted to be energy efficient, accessible and to minimise operational emissions so as to support their ongoing use as residences and places of work

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Everyone deserves a safe, decent and affordable home. But right now, thousands of Canberrans are homeless and even more are in housing stress. For years Governments have been shirking responsibility and walking away from public housing. They have left the problem to the private market, which has failed to deliver the homes that people need. It's time to treat housing like a public good instead of a private investment, and affirm the Government's responsibility to ensure everybody has a home.

### PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the ACT is situated on stolen First Nations land and this does continuing harm to First Nations peoples including through higher rates of homelessness
2. housing is a fundamental human need and a social good, ensuring decent housing for all is necessary for a just society
3. decent housing includes security of tenure, affordability, accessibility, habitability, location, cultural adequacy, environmental sustainability, privacy, access to community, and availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure
4. housing should not be a driver of poverty, wealth accumulation, and inequality
5. housing has been commodified and turned into a vehicle for financial investments, detracting from its principle purpose to society as a source of shelter. This needs to be unwound, including through the expansion of public and community housing.
6. increasing the diversity of public housing tenants helps normalise, stabilise and destigmatise public housing
7. government should simplify access to housing across all tenures and regulate for the protection of people's data
8. government should prioritise investment in quality public housing, with an acknowledgement that non-profit community housing providers and the private sector also contribute to relieving housing stress.
9. provision of decent housing requires a whole-of-community approach that addresses issues such public spending, taxation, regulations, zoning, and campaigning for change at the federal level
10. housing affordability is defined by the price to buy, pay off, or rent a house and the costs associated with running a household, including energy, services and transport
11. security of tenure is essential for the quality of life of all housing occupants
12. control over how and where you live should not depend on ownership, this includes the ability to control and adapt your home and contribute to decisions affecting their local community
13. there is a fundamental power imbalance between tenants and landlords, requiring strong rights and protections for tenants

14. older people should be supported to access local housing options, including moving into appropriately sized housing or for example retirement villages, that facilitate their needs and ongoing connections to community
15. housing and urban design should promote and facilitate community connections, accessibility, social cohesion and social inclusion.
16. all housing exists on stolen land and housing justice must prioritise First Nations self-determined access to housing.

## **GOALS**

The ACT Greens want:

### **PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HOUSING**

1. by 2030 at least 10%, and growing total public housing stock, moving towards universal access to public housing with income-based rents
2. a publicly owned housing developer that ensures development is driven by government, community, and good design, not developer profit
3. options for private sellers to sell suitable housing or land to the ACT Government in order to increase the public housing stock
4. public housing to be good quality, well looked-after and convenient
5. management of public housing to facilitate more democratic control and agency by tenants
6. proper resourcing for repairs and maintenance of public housing, including through insourcing or cooperative models
7. social housing options to cater for the diverse needs of tenants and provide adequate support to people with special housing needs
8. the needs of current and future tenants to be the primary consideration when undertaking public housing redevelopment programs
9. adequate funding for Housing ACT and other social housing providers to meet their operational needs and continuously grow the ACT's public and social housing stock
10. sufficient levels of appropriate long-term and secure supported accommodation options for people with disability and/or mental illness
11. delivery of First Nations-led co-designed and community controlled housing models for First Nations communities
12. expansion of the justice housing stock for people who would otherwise be on remand, are exiting the Alexander Maconochie Centre or are on community corrections orders
13. social housing to be well-located, close to public transport and community facilities

### **ENDING HOUSING INSTABILITY AND STRESS**

14. homelessness to be rare, brief and non-recurring
15. incentives to encourage landlords and property investors to provide housing models to people on low incomes or facing homelessness

16. evidence-based, well-resourced services to support people with their immediate accommodation needs, including wrap-around supports that enable people to sustain a stable home and live a good life
17. crisis and stable housing and accommodation for people experiencing adversity, transition or homelessness 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
18. a dedicated and long-term funding stream for specialist crisis accommodation and support services, including for people impacted by domestic and family violence, that recognises the impact of trauma and responds to the complex needs of those experiencing homelessness,
19. improved access to emergency accommodation and elimination of wait times for social housing
20. supports for all those experiencing housing stress, including rental stress and mortgage stress

#### **DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL**

21. sufficient housing supply to help deliver affordable and adequate housing options
22. to improve the equity of access to land and housing, such as through more progressive land taxes and vacancy taxes
23. ACT Government to take a leading role in campaigning and lobbying on federal housing policies, including policies which commodify housing and the historic and substantial underinvestment in public housing.
24. 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
25. environmentally sustainable housing construction and operation to contribute to a healthy environment and ease the cost of living
26. government-support for creating a sustainable, safe, unionised and high-quality building and construction industry, for instance through expanded vocational training, mental health support for workers and industry development programs

#### **TENANTS' RIGHTS**

27. to empower tenants and safeguard their right to decent housing, including through measures such as rental controls, rights to modify and repair their homes, security of long-term tenure, a rental ombudsman or advocate, support for responsible landlords and penalties for repeated misconduct, and proper resourcing and empowerment of tenants unions
28. greater public management of rental processes, for instance expansion of the bond authority to register tenancy agreements, regulation of the information and payments requestable by rental services, and regulation of landlord blacklists
29. improved dispute resolution processes for tenancy disagreements
30. ongoing funding for tenants' rights and housing justice research, advocacy and policy development

31. clear and accessible education for landlords on their responsibilities

## **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 at the heart of creating a sustainable, liveable and affordable city
3. improving public and active transport is crucial to addressing congestion, pollution, public health, inequality, liveability, 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 to be centred around public and active transport, and reduce the necessity and burden of private car ownership to live and work in the ACT

### **GOALS**

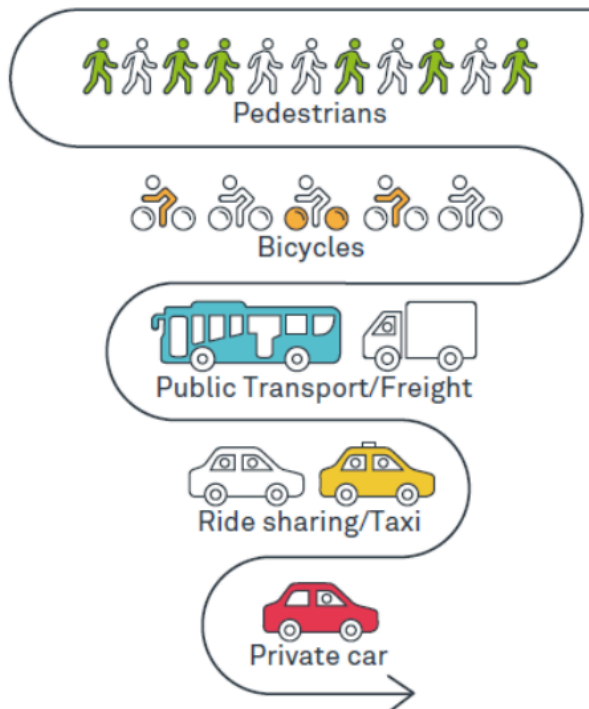
The ACT Greens want:

1. a reliable, high-quality, frequent, popular, convenient and zero emissions 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 keep the ACT as 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. the ACT transport network and infrastructure planning, funding and fees to work towards recognising existing inequalities and reducing them
9. new and existing 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
10. 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
11. to provide incentives for public and private sector organisations in the ACT to support their workforce to use sustainable transport
12. zero fatalities or serious injuries in the transport system, in line with the ACT Government's 'Vision Zero' philosophy
13. improved personal safety and perceived personal safety for people travelling in the ACT, including via public and active transport
14. ACT Government to actively advocate for zero-emissions long distance passenger and freight travel, including the creation of a national high-speed rail network that incorporates Canberra, with an immediate focus on medium speed rail to Sydney
15. cross border commuters to have improved transport options to centralised stations within the ACT, including bus, light rail and other rail options
16. 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
17. transport infrastructure funding and parking policies to reflect the ACT's transport modal hierarchy, while accounting for accessibility concerns
18. provision of a broad range of innovative 'last mile' transport options, which better support people to use public and active transport networks
19. the cost of congestion, induced demand, road building and maintenance to be included in transport planning
20. public transport to take priority over private car travel, including right of way where appropriate and dedicated lanes where necessary.

21. expedited development of the ACT's light rail network

**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, personal mobility devices, 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, affordable and diverse housing, 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. urban planning is inextricably linked to the issues of housing and homelessness, transport, climate change, the environment and more, and these issues are essential to consider in making decisions about planning
3. urban planning decisions are essential to delivering upon the right to decent housing including criteria around affordability, accessibility, location and cultural adequacy.
4. excellence at all levels of urban design and construction contributes to quality of life, aesthetics and sustainability
5. urban planning should be human and nature centred, not car or profit driven, and promote health, social inclusiveness, equity, diversity and a sense of community, safety and place
6. planning and development must be free from corruption
7. planning and development processes must empower communities to influence change through creating space for informed community consultation and participation at each stage
8. community consultation and participation should include relevant people and communities and be broader than current residents
9. high-quality infill development including in transport corridors and commercial centres brings many benefits and is a positive alternative to suburban sprawl on the city's perimeter
10. in a more compact city, urban open spaces are vital and should be high quality, multipurpose and accessible to all ACT community members, and should be managed in response to changing community needs and environmental demands
11. 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 facilitates our transition to net zero emissions
2. a low-carbon city with high 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 and with adaptive reuse incentivised
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. minimum requirements for bike storage, visitor bike racks, and facilities for charging e-bikes for residential and commercial developments
7. to prioritise tree canopy within our urban footprint, and where this is not possible, mandate or incentivise the integration of rooftop and vertical gardens into Canberra's urban design, especially when large tree canopy cannot be achieved
8. to increase water-absorbing permeable surfaces, such as soil and gravel, consistent with the Living Infrastructure Plan to cool the city
9. to increase the urban tree canopy cover in the ACT to reach at least 30% by 2045—with realistic interim planting targets, and with a focus on improving equity in new suburbs which lack an existing canopy
10. tree species selection to be non-invasive and based on summer shade provision, fire risk analysis and resilience to a changing climate
11. a climate resilient ACT including making homes and third places safe from heat, fire, smoke and flood
12. planning and development must protect and enhance our biodiversity and natural environment (see also the ACT Greens Biodiversity and Conservation Policy)
13. planning and building regulations and incentives to require existing and 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, insulation, using sustainable and appropriate materials, and providing appropriate incentives and subsidies

## QUALITY

14. to promote and demonstrate options for high-quality smaller homes in the ACT
15. where possible, incentives for adaptive reuse and renovation of existing structures, rather than demolition and new construction
16. urban planning to consider the ACT's cultural, natural and built heritage (see also the ACT Greens Heritage Policy)
17. infill developments to demonstrate excellence in urban design and construction through providing energy-efficient buildings that are all-electric, zero operating

emissions and climate resilient, and through providing high-quality public parks and streetscapes with trees and green spaces

18. high-quality building design and construction standards to ensure a long low-maintenance life span for buildings
19. building construction standards to be effectively enforced
20. best practice codes and guidelines for apartment designs to ensure solar access, cross ventilation, full electrification including electric vehicle charging, a sense of place and liveability in the long-term changing environment

### **INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

21. the planning system to be responsive to community proposals and needs, including the needs of future community members and intergenerational inequality, and to encourage innovation and sustainability
22. urban planning to be driven by community needs and desires, including through participatory democracy
23. well-resourced, meaningful and informed consultative planning processes to resolve planning issues fairly and in a timely manner
24. local communities to be informed, enabled and resourced to respond to planning issues
25. regulation and enforcement of building processes, and building certification processes to be significantly reformed
26. enforcement of lease conditions and planning decisions
27. promotion of options for citizens to ensure compliance with planning law
28. planning processes and decisions to be highly transparent to the community
29. good quality and accurate information in the public realm on the planning process, and how the community can participate in planning processes

### **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

30. all development projects to enable Canberra to be a people-friendly city that is liveable for all ACT community members, including children, older people, people with disability, and those on low-incomes
31. planning decisions to incorporate the right to decent housing and to continue to enshrine housing affordability planning to foster community, including through the creation of third places
32. a diversity of available housing types to enable intergenerational living, ageing in place and voluntary movement
33. promotion of health and social inclusion by providing access to public and active transport and high-quality city services
34. requirements placed on developers and developments to provide options for varied demographics and third places, without reducing the availability of decent housing
35. additional public housing stock to be delivered in all new and existing suburbs to ensure that public housing is provided equitably across the city and not segregated geographically or by housing typology

## GROWTH AND CONNECTIVITY

36. thoughtfully densified 15-minute town centres, without need for a car, including access to workplaces, shops, volunteering, transport, greenspaces and gardens and disability services
37. city limits to prevent urban sprawl, with the needs of increased populations addressed through urban densification, including mixed-use facilities, combined with strong public and active transport routes to best accommodate growth (see also Our Vision for Canberra's Future: ACT Greens Planning Policy).<sup>3</sup>
38. any future outer growth of the city only to be 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
39. 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 and biodiversity-sensitive urban design
40. encourage equitable densification and capacity utilisation including through taxation and regulating excessively large dwellings
41. prevent developer profiteering such as land hoarding, including through taxes, regulations, compulsory acquisition, and lease cancellation
42. encourage more efficient urban infill through land and block consolidation, for instance through land pooling (see also Our Vision for Canberra's Future: ACT Greens Planning Policy).<sup>4</sup>
43. a change in the territory plan to reduce the requirement for car park spaces in multi-unit developments, particularly for development on public and active transport routes
44. local neighbourhood shopping districts to be further developed as important places for commercial and community activity, and to be built contemporaneously to new suburbs

## URBAN OPEN SPACE

45. sufficient high-quality, urban open space to contribute to urban cooling, water conservation, air quality, biodiversity and food production
46. high-quality, public open space and facilities for all residential areas, including playgrounds, sports fields and passive recreation spaces
47. public open space to be accessible for all persons to use comfortably and safely
48. 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 and connectivity

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<sup>3</sup> ACT Greens (2023, August). Our Vision for Canberra's future: ACT Greens Planning Policy <https://greens.org.au/act/news/media-release/our-vision-canberras-future-act-greens-planning-policy>

<sup>4</sup> ACT Greens (2023, August). Our Vision for Canberra's future: ACT Greens Planning Policy <https://greens.org.au/act/news/media-release/our-vision-canberras-future-act-greens-planning-policy>

49. the ACT community to play a stronger role in urban and open space planning through joint management of public land
50. increased support for the development of the ACT's community gardens, urban farming and food forests
51. data collection, monitoring and evaluation of urban greenery indicators to be reported and made publicly available
52. continued restrictions on outdoor advertising and increased enforcement of existing regulations
53. ACT planning and land maps to clearly display biodiversity and tree coverage data, including up-to-date information on biodiversity quality

## **INTEGRATION**

54. 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
55. a cooperative regional 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

## GLOSSARY

**15-minute town centre** – All Canberra districts to create neighbourhoods where residents are able to access basic needs – such as shops, healthcare and education, within 15-minutes of public and active transport.

**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).

**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).

**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).

**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.

**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.

**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).

**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 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).

**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).

**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).

**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.

**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).

**Third places:** Third places are social environments other than the home and the workplace, they include places such as parks, religious sites, public libraries and recreational facilities.

**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.

**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.

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

**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).

**Wrap-around:** Wrap-around means that services are intended to 'wrap around' the participation and holistically and intensively manage the participant's individualised needs.

**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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