

CONNECTING CANBERRA WITH A GREAT PATH NETWORK

LET'S MAKE IT EASY TO WALK, RIDE AND WHEEL AROUND CANBERRA

The ACT Greens want every Canberran to be able to get where they need to go easily and affordably – and to enjoy the trip while they're at it – on well-maintained, well-located and well-connected paths.

But right now walking, scooting, riding, pushing a pram or rolling to the bus stop or the local shops simply isn't a reliable option. Too often local paths are cracked, dangerously uneven, or missing altogether.

Despite the Greens best efforts to shift car-centric city planning, paths are treated as an optional extra. It's time to reprioritise our city to maximise the health benefits of active travel, make our city truly accessible for all the people who visit and live here, and cut transport emissions – Canberra's main source of climate pollution.

The ACT Greens will invest in local paths to make this choice available for more people.

THE ACT GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Fix your streets faster by cutting maintenance and repair deadlines from 18 to 6 months
- ▲ Deliver proactive path maintenance with an ongoing program of quality audits, sweeping and cleaning
- ▲ Inject a major funding increase for path maintenance to set the standard needed for a truly liveable city
- ▲ Put people, not cars, at the centre of urban design by fully implementing the new Active Travel Design Guide by 2030
- ▲ Give pedestrians priority at appropriate street crossings, as we did during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic
- ▲ Fund new raised pedestrian crossings around ACT schools and provide every public school with a school crossing supervisor
- ▲ Insource maintenance work rather than depending on private contractors to speed up the rollout of improvements.

SAFE, CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS

GREATER INVESTMENT IN PATH MAINTENANCE

When the Greens knock on doors to hear about what issues are top-of-mind for voters, paths come up a lot. Cracked, uneven, or unsuitable paths are something Canberrans tell us about all the time.

In recent years, the ACT Government has spent \$5M to \$6.5M on path maintenance. This is not enough – just ask anyone who uses our paths! The Greens plan will increase annual spending on path maintenance to \$15M each year.

This will ensure there are more ACT Government-employed maintenance crews to both respond quickly to repair requests, and proactively monitor and renew footpaths as needed.

FIX YOUR STREET, FASTER

We will set a deadline for path repairs to be made within 6 months of the problem being reported.

Currently, this target is 18 months. That's far too long, and even this long timeframe is not being met. An audit in 2021 showed that more than half of identified cases were not fixed within 18 months.

Fully insourcing path maintenance will do away with lengthy and repetitive

procurement processes that slow down even basic repairs.

NEW PATHS TO FILL THE MISSING LINKS

It's not just better maintenance of existing paths that we need, but more investment in new path connections.

The Greens will increase investment in new paths to ensure all Canberrans can get to their local shops, schools, parks or bus stops safely and conveniently, no matter where they live.

WALKING TO SCHOOL HELPS PEOPLE AND PLANET

Being active while you travel delivers great benefits for your health and wellbeing, cuts congestion and road accidents and cuts climate pollution.

But parents won't take or send their kids to school on foot without more raised crossings, traffic calming and safer speed limits.

The Greens' plan will deliver all these, as well as crossing supervisors for every school by 2028.

PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY

During heavy COVID restrictions, pedestrian signals were automated to give priority to foot traffic. People loved it – no more 'beg buttons'!

The Greens want to do this permanently at busy intersections in town centres and major local shops between 6am and 8pm.

We also want to make it easier to cross the street. We will investigate street crossings with large medians and make sure pedestrian lights let people cross the street in one cycle, not two.

SWEEPING OUR PATHS

Great paths aren't much good if they're overgrown with weeds or covered in gravel, mud or dirt. And we can't fix cracks if we're not regularly surveying them.

The Greens will establish new dedicated teams in each district of Canberra to do ongoing sweeping and cleaning of paths across the city. These teams will be out and about all across our suburbs to make sure paths are clean and well maintained. We will also ensure there is enforcement where e-scooters and cars are parked across paths.

BUILD BEST-PRACTICE PATHS AND INTERSECTIONS

The ACT Government has a fantastic [Active Travel Design Guide](#) that shows just how well we could build urban areas for people, not just cars. But there's no time commitment for when paths in the ACT will be built to these best-practice standards.

The ACT Greens will fully implement the design guide going forward to ensure all new paths, intersections, crossings and more are truly people-friendly and safe, encouraging people to get out of their cars and use them.

BUILDING A TRULY LIVEABLE CITY

Over 60% of the ACT's climate emissions come from transport, making our everyday travel choices the ACT's biggest polluter.

But right now, most people don't have a realistic alternative. We need much better public transport and paths if we want to tackle climate change, which is why, this election, the ACT Greens are putting forward this paths plan in conjunction with our plans for [much more frequent public transport](#).

Canberra's congestion is growing three times faster than other Australian capitals. If we don't do something differently, pretty soon we'll all be stuck in traffic, all the time.

Better paths will help everyone, every day. They will also help us create the future we want to see in twenty, thirty and forty years.

A city of the future with a full menu of affordable, healthy, and convenient ways to get around? That starts with better public investment straight away.

WHAT'S THE INVESTMENT?

- \$10M per year additional for path maintenance
- \$20M per year additional for new paths
- \$2M per year additional for school crossing supervisors
- \$2M per year additional for sweeping, cleaning and auditing paths plus \$1M capital investment in equipment