



Shane Rattenbury MLA
ACT Greens Member for Kurrajong

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your time and input into negotiations over the past week.

While we have managed to find many areas of common ground, it has become clear that there are some fundamental aspects of our respective policy platforms that are not aligned enough for the Greens to enter a governing arrangement with the Labor party. Therefore, the ACT Greens have elected to use our balance of power to sit on the crossbench in the 11th Assembly.

This letter details the conditions that will guarantee our support for you as Chief Minister and the terms of that arrangement. I propose that this letter and the attached appendix act as a formal and public agreement between the ACT Greens and ACT Labor, upon receipt of a letter of acceptance from you.

Negotiations over the past week have affirmed that there are both policy areas of alignment and willingness to compromise between our Parties, as well as distinct and insurmountable differences.

These differences prevent us from joining the Executive with an agenda that is agreeable to our Party and adequately delivers our promises to Canberrans. In particular, the Greens want a significant Government investment in social housing that is well beyond the current trajectory. We are unable to accept Labor's position that budget constraints prohibit the delivery of an ambitious program of new public housing that will clear the priority and high needs public housing waiting list. Additionally, the Greens want greater investment in environmental measures. Our negotiations have been unable to land a shared position that reflects Canberra's urgent need for a guaranteed and quantified level of environmental and waterways funding, and an acceleration of light rail and a step change in funding for active travel.

We do acknowledge that in other policy areas, there is alignment and a genuine willingness to collaborate, and we intend to support the government to deliver on our policy goals in these key areas. Reflecting this alignment in many policy areas and your commitment to delivering the policies detailed in the attached appendix, the ACT Greens will support you as

Chief Minister of the ACT and grant an ACT Labor minority Government Confidence and Supply measures. This includes support for the passage of Appropriations Bills for ordinary annual services of government.

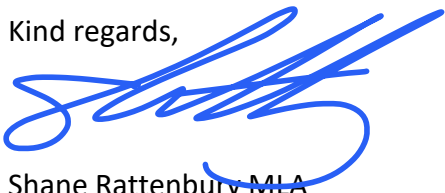
Aligning with the principle of stable and effective government, the Greens will not support any no-confidence motions in the Chief Minister or a Minister except in instances of proven corruption, gross negligence, serious failure of leadership, serious wastage of public funds, serious short fall of accountability, or significant non-delivery of agreed policy positions in this letter.

For clarity, the Greens' opposition to a specific Government bill, budget item, motion or other parliamentary initiative does not equate to a lack of confidence in the Chief Minister or a Minister.

To enable exemplary democratic functioning of our parliament, good governance and effective oversight, we request a restoration of historical staffing allocations. This includes a staffing allocation for each Greens crossbencher of 140% of the Speaker's allocation, restoring the Leader of the Greens' allocation to 68% of the Opposition leader's allocation, and a continuation of the Whip's allowance. This resourcing shall be independent of any offer of supply and confidence. We also request ACT Labor support for ACT Greens member to be deputy speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

We intend to use our position on the crossbench to contribute to a positive public conversation about the bolder change that is needed for the ACT. We are committed to being a constructive and collaborative part of the crossbench, while also pushing for more ambitious change and holding government to account. We pledge to work constructively with ACT Labor, the Independents and the Canberra Liberals to make our vision of a fairer Canberra into reality. The ACT Greens are always ready and willing to negotiate to get good outcomes for the community.

Kind regards,



Shane Rattenbury MLA

ACT Greens Leader

5/11/24



**PROGRESSIVE
PRACTICAL
PROVEN**

Mr Shane Rattenbury
Member for Kurrajong
Leader of the ACT Greens
ACT Legislative Assembly

Dear Mr Rattenbury *Shane*

Thank you for your letter of 5 November, agreeing to provide support for me as Chief Minister and confidence and supply to the ACT Labor Government in the 11th Assembly, and setting out the terms of that arrangement.

I appreciate the great deal of time and effort you and other ACT Greens MLAs put into the negotiations with ACT Labor over the past 10 days. I agree that we have many shared policy goals, as attached in the appendix as a formal and public agreement. I look forward to signing this agreement with you shortly.

I also note the ACT Greens' commitment to not support a no confidence motion in the Chief Minister or Minister except under defined circumstances. I recognise that the Greens' opposition to any specific Government bill, budget item, motion or other parliamentary initiative does not equate to a lack of confidence in the Chief Minister.

As you acknowledge, despite our alignment on many issues, and the demonstrated willingness to compromise from both sides, there are a range of governance and policy issues that make a formal governing agreement between Labor and the Greens unsuitable for this term.

In particular, ACT Labor in Government will uphold the key principles of strong fiscal management, to ensure we maintain sound public finances, continue to provide quality and efficient public services, deliver ongoing economic growth, have the public fiscal capacity to respond to external shocks as the need arises, ensure intergenerational equity, and maintain sustainable taxation and revenue streams.

The ACT Labor Government is committed to meeting an operating balance over the medium term – investing in the wellbeing of our growing community while maintaining long-term, affordable access to debt markets to build the infrastructure our growing city needs.

Alongside our ongoing commitment to strong financial management, through the election campaign ACT Labor released a comprehensive set of commitments, across Health, Education, Housing, Transport, Cost-of-Living, Climate Action, Community Services Environment, , and Planning.

Labor intends to deliver these commitments to meet our compact with the Canberra community.

I note in particular that the ACT Labor Government will strive to deliver its ambitious but achievable targets in housing supply, particularly community and affordable housing, as part of its commitment to facilitate 30,000 new Canberra homes by 2030. This includes delivery of an interim target of at least 375 additional public homes by mid-2027 and supporting the delivery of more than 700 community housing dwellings under the first round of the Housing Australia Future Fund.

I also highlight Labor's commitment to hire 800 more health workers across our healthcare system, and commence construction of a new, \$1 billion-dollar plus Northside Hospital for Canberra's northside residents.

To enable the effective functioning of the Assembly, and as I have agreed with Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, the Government will make a determination, before the end of 2024, to establish new staff salary caps for 'Crossbench Members' and 'Crossbench Party Leader' to ensure independent MLAs are able to conduct their extensive duties in a timely manner that meets community expectations.

I am confident that our negotiations and resulting agreement will form the basis of a stable, productive and progressive term of the Assembly. The ACT Labor Government will work collaboratively with all Members to deliver positive community outcomes while protecting the ACT's long-term fiscal position.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr
ACT Labor Leader

Appendix A

Policy priorities that the Greens expect to be delivered in the 11th Assembly based on collaborative agreement-making discussions the post-election period.

1. Housing and Planning

- a. Setting an urban growth boundary following consideration of the Territory's future land needs including the need to preserve areas of environmental value.
- b. Enhancing repairs and maintenance for public housing properties through increased insourcing.
- c. Exploring delivery of new public housing via declaration as a Territory Priority Project or through the Planning Act, with Infrastructure Canberra as the delivery agency.
- d. Supporting more housing density around well-located areas including public transport corridors, shopping centres and other commercial areas.
- e. Making planning and zoning changes to support low-rise missing middle housing in existing residential areas including RZ1 zones.
- f. Consulting on the design guidance and technical specifications for the delivery of more housing including missing middle homes.
- g. Establishing a Strata Commissioner and Rental Ombudsman.
- h. Investigating improvements to existing rental caps.
- i. Developing options to improve minimum standards for rental properties.
- j. Support an Assembly inquiry into banning all rent bidding and establishing a portable bond scheme

2. Health

- a. Working with the Commonwealth Government to improve access to bulk billing, with the aim of increasing bulk billed GP appointments by at least 160,000 a year.
- b. Enhancing palliative care, including by establishing a paediatric palliative care service and raising community awareness of palliative care supports.
- c. Expanding access to midwifery continuity of care for pregnant people, and completing work to determine a model for a freestanding birth center as part of, or complementary to, the new Northside hospital
- d. Co-designing a neurodivergence model of care, with a particular focus on the integration and coordination of services while ensuring accessibility across the ACT.
- e. Establishing a mechanism for people without private health insurance to not incur an ambulance service emergency call-out fee.

- f. Delivering a co-designed consumer-centred mental health services plan, which will aim to improve care pathways across the service system, identify gaps and consider requirements for additional services (including peer-led services) in the community and including consideration of expanding access to Safe Havens.

3. Education and Early Childhood Education

- a. Strengthening evidence-informed literacy and numeracy teaching across all ACT public schools, by delivering on the recommendations of the 2023-24 ACT Literacy and Numeracy review. Students identified as needing additional support will receive appropriate multi-tiered support.
- b. Building a new public schools in growth areas, including working with the University of Canberra to undertake a feasibility study on future public primary school on campus, and improving existing schools.
- c. Providing more support to young people by increasing the number of mental health and allied health practitioners in our public schools and expanding access to nurse-led care.
- d. Doubling free three-year-old preschool to at least 15 hours per week, 600 hours per year, by 2028, with an agreed ambition to increase availability to 30 hours per week for three- and four-year-olds in the long term.

4. Employment and Business

- a. Maintaining and modernising the public sector, to continue to deliver essential services our community needs.
- b. Implementing a night-time economy support package that revitalises Canberra's dining, bar, events and arts scene – including exploration of complementary, co-designed measures to ensure overall success and this will have direct Ministerial responsibility under the administrative arrangements.
- c. Doubling funding for the Canberra Small Business Advice and Support Service (CBASS) and expanding its remit to ensure alternative business models including cooperatives are promoted.

5. Transport

- a. Progressively increasing bus service frequency to every 20 minutes on weekdays throughout the term starting in 2025.
- b. Increasing bus frequency on weekends starting in 2025 (hourly) and making further improvements subject to future engagement with the workforce.
- c. Increasing frequency on key existing Rapid bus services and introducing new Rapid bus services before the end of the term.
- d. Futureproofing the Belconnen Transitway for light rail.
- e. Continuing the transition to a fully electric bus fleet, including the procurement of at least 110 new electric buses over the parliamentary term.

6. Climate Change and the Environment

- a. Continuing the electrification of Canberra by supporting households and lessors of rental homes through the sustainable household scheme, including gas-to-electric upgrades for lower-income households, and piloting an all-electric precinct in a lower-income suburb.
- b. Exploring an increase on the loan cap for EVs under the sustainable household scheme.
- c. Delivering more large-scale battery storage and expanding Canberra's network of EV fast chargers across the territory.
- d. Conducting a Legislative Assembly and regulatory impact process on the timeline for prohibition of installation of new gas appliances, with exceptions in essential circumstances.
- e. Expanding the role of the Chief Health Officer to oversee heat wave preparedness and recovery.
- f. Setting a reporting standard to reliably measure and combat Scope 3 emissions.
- g. Cooling Canberra's urban footprint through new shaded bus shelters, appropriately placed tree plantings, and cooling interventions.
- h. Appointing a Chief Landscape to develop a Landscape Plan for the ACT. Architect
- i. Protecting key areas of environmental value including Bluett's Block in Stromlo, Coombs Peninsula and the Ainslie Volcanics.
- j. Delivering more solar panels on public homes where feasible without diverting capital investment from the construction of new homes.

7. Community Services

- a. Reviewing funding for the community sector prior to the 2025-26 Budget and progressing outcomes through future budgets to account for growth in salaries, population and complexity of client need.
- b. Working with the community sector towards bringing community sector employee pay and conditions, including superannuation and leave arrangements more in line with similar work in the public service.
- c. Establishing a unit in the ACT Public Service to be the point of contact for the community services sector and continue work to improve sector sustainability.
- d. Increasing support for carers through exploring the feasibility of a carer recognition card, a mentoring program for young carers, and working to identify a site for a purpose-built respite centre.

8. City Services

- a. Enhancing the circular economy by delivering new recycling, green waste and FOGO facilities by 2028.
- b. Reviewing the Public Unleased Land Act, including to identify, support and promote different community uses for public unleased land.

9. First Nations

- a. Continuing to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, including strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, commencing a process of truth telling, and working towards a Treaty in the ACT.
- b. Investing in Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations, including supporting the growth of Aboriginal Community Controlled Housing and transitioning Boomanulla Oval and the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm to community control.
- c. Supporting the continued delivery of culturally safe holistic health and mental health care services that are governed and operated by First Nations people.

10. Justice Reform and Gambling Harm

- a. Continuing commitment to reducing recidivism and further additional investment in programs designed to break the cycle of offending and support rehabilitation, including implementation of a youth justice throughcare program.
- a) Supporting an expansion of the current Restorative Justice Scheme.
- b) Continuing support for the legal assistance sector in the ACT, including working with the Commonwealth Government regarding funding models and increasing funding, and the development of the next ACT Legal Assistance Sector Strategy and Action Plan.
- b. Continuing support for the drug and alcohol court, including exploration of expansion to the Magistrates Court.
- c. Working to restrict gambling advertising in the ACT.
- d. Expanding the eligibility of the Gaming and Racing Commission harm reduction fund to support a broader range of initiatives, such as lived experience programs, peak body support, and expert advisory groups.
- e. Exploring further law reform regarding governance of the Gaming and Racing Commission, the Code of Practice, investigations and inducements.

11. Family and Domestic Violence

- a. Exploring banning non-disclosure agreements in sexual harassment claims.
- b. Exploring ways to give domestic and family violence organisations the same privileged communications with victim survivors as other frontline services.
- c. Agreeing to explore establishing a pilot program to support young people at-risk of harmful sexual behaviours.
- d. Continuing funding for men's behaviour change programs.
- e. Committing to working with the Commonwealth to explore how to regulate online harm.

12. Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy

- a. Increasing Arts Activities funding by at least 50% and financial investment in arts organisations and centres by 25% during the term plus indexation.
- b. Progressing work on entertainment precincts in Canberra after evaluation of the City Centre Entertainment Precinct has been completed in 2025.
- c. Continuing to embed and promote local art and artists throughout ACT Government responsibilities and functions, as well as capturing and sharing arts-related data.
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Andrew Barr MLA
ACT Labor Leader



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