

PROSPECTUS
FOR A
**CANBERRA
REGION**
DEAL

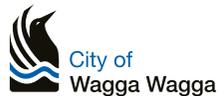


OUR MEMBERS

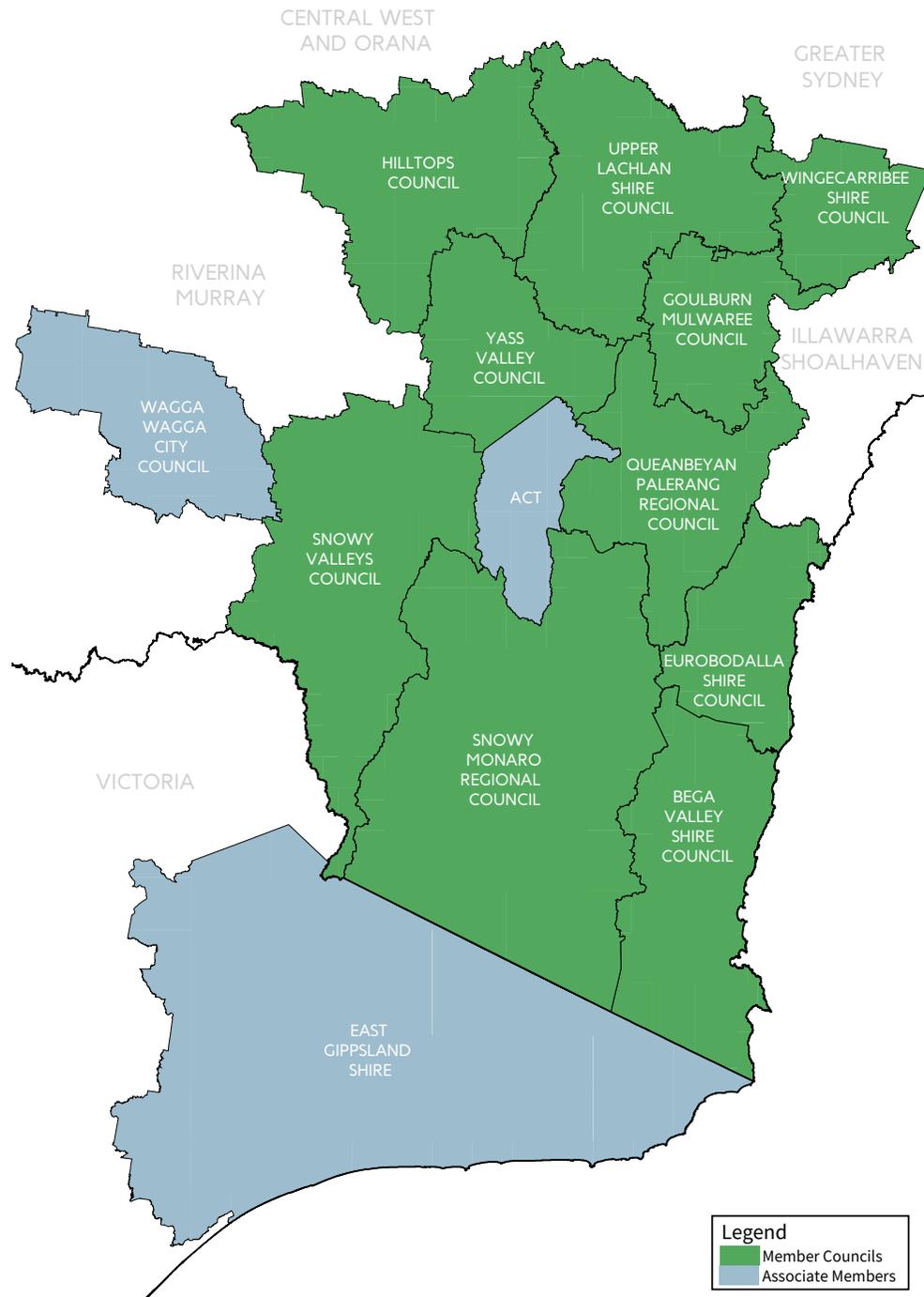
The Canberra Region Joint Organisation Member Councils



Associate Members



Affiliate Member



Legend

- Member Councils
- Associate Members



THE CANBERRA REGION: DIVERSITY CREATING OPPORTUNITY



The Canberra Region is a vision for a borderless South East New South Wales with Canberra at its heart. defined by diversity of community, geography and opportunity.

The Canberra Region is a strong, growing economy within Australia's most geographically diverse natural environment. It encompasses the south-western slopes of NSW, southern tablelands, the nation's capital, south coast, snowy mountains, and NSW high country.

The vibrant regional economy is underpinned by transport connections to Canberra and Sydney, offering diverse agricultural and tourism opportunities as well as collaborations between public and private sectors.

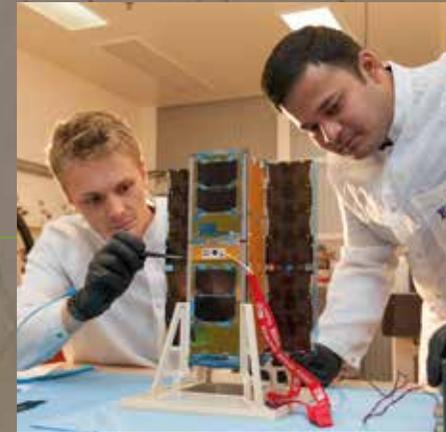
The Gross Regional Product of the Canberra Region was over \$50 billion in the year ending June 2018, driven by the public administration, safety, health care, social assistance, agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors.

The local service economy is significant and growing, fuelled by its government, business, education and research sectors driving innovation and economic development opportunities.

The Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) and the ACT Government call on the incoming Commonwealth and NSW Governments to join us in realising the region's unique advantages with a Canberra Region deal that invests in the region's future to the benefit of the entire nation.



"THE CANBERRA REGION IS RENOWNED FOR ITS RESEARCH & EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, CREATING **THE MOST HIGHLY SKILLED WORKFORCE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**"



REGIONAL
FOCUS,
NATIONAL
IMPACT





Australia's population is growing and our largest cities are already feeling the strain of this growth. Nationally, it is well recognised that infrastructure investment, strategic planning and leadership are required to sustainably manage the population pressures Australia faces.

The Canberra Region is bookended by game-changing nationally significant infrastructure investments – Snowy Hydro 2.0 and the Western Sydney Aerotropolis – bringing growth but also increasing overflow pressure on infrastructure and settlements.

As Snowy Hydro's workforce comes online over the decades ahead and the Aerotropolis reconfigures land use in Western Sydney, infrastructure investment will need to be carefully planned and strategically directed to achieve sustainable growth.

As a geographical, political and economic hub, investing in the Canberra Region is an opportunity to deliver both nationally significant and locally transformative benefits to regional centres, while continuing to develop a National Capital befitting modern Australia.

The Canberra Region is renowned both nationally and internationally for its research and education institutions, attracting talent from across the globe and creating the most highly skilled workforce of any region in the country.

With Australia's larger jurisdictions under increasing strain to deliver the supporting infrastructure and urban services required to meet a growing domestic and international student sector, the Canberra Region is poised to ease the pressure on Sydney and Melbourne and deliver higher education to more students, supporting Australia's growing university sector.

Canberra is encouraging the growth of international student numbers and the higher education sector, to support its aspiration as an Australian higher education hub. The ACT Government's integrated approach to planning - working with higher education institutions to provide an increase in the supply of affordable student housing - demonstrates a commitment to making the Canberra Region an education destination. Support for opportunities such as the development of a major new campus by the UNSW in Canberra, would alleviate the pressure on Australia's larger cities while maximising the urban renewal benefits to the region.

Canberra has one of the fastest growing populations in the country, with this growth expected to continue and overtake the population of Tasmania in the early 2030's. The full potential of the region cannot be realised without a true cross-border approach to planning and investment, and in the Canberra Region, the CRJO and ACT Government have the collaborative frameworks in place to deliver the best outcomes for their regional community.



WORKING IN COLLABORATION FOR THE CANBERRA REGION

The CRJO's truly regional approach to cross-jurisdictional governance is unique in Australia: this multi-lateral forum brings together the ACT Government with ten Councils across South East NSW, in addition to Wagga Wagga and East Gippsland, as well as key industry partners.

The CRJO is a regional leader, advocating for all parts of the Canberra Region to create vibrant community partnerships and a cohesive region.

The strong, forward-thinking relationships within the CRJO provide a unique advantage for the Canberra Region where – by focusing on a shared approach to investing in our economy, community and environment – we have created a ‘borderless region’ that offers endless opportunities for Australians to live, visit and invest.





THE ROLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The Commonwealth Government has a leadership role to play by bringing all parties together through a Canberra Region deal which can:

- > support the development of a National Capital befitting a modern Australia;
- > build on the Canberra Region's strengths as a city and region of choice for people to live, work and play;
- > build a diverse regional economy with strong connections across the region and the world; and
- > deliver the best social, health and economic outcomes for the communities of the Canberra Region and Australia.

THE ROLE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

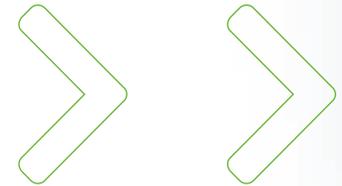
The NSW and ACT Governments share a relationship built on the unique circumstances of delivering economic growth and services to the cross-border region. As one of three global gateway cities identified to support NSW, Canberra is ideally positioned to realise the vision of a growing and prosperous NSW.

To realise this ambition, the NSW Government has a key role to play in supporting initiatives under a Canberra Region deal that can:

- > enhance market access opportunities through investments in key air, freight and rail connections, which will yield productivity gains;
- > deliver targeted services that meet the needs of the region, informed by careful planning and strong cross-border collaboration; and
- > support quality community infrastructure that strengthens the wellbeing of the region while building productive, liveable communities that ease population pressures upon Sydney and its surrounding cities.



THREE POINT PLAN FOR A CANBERRA REGION DEAL



The CRJO and ACT Government's three point plan to invest in the Canberra Region outlines how, following the respective Federal and State elections, incoming or returned Commonwealth and NSW Governments can strengthen the region in the short to medium term.



I. ENHANCE TRANSPORT & CONNECTIVITY

Invest in:

- > faster rail between Canberra and Sydney to improve connectivity, housing choice and employment options in the region. Upgrades to track, infrastructure and rolling stock can make rail a real and effective transport option for the region
- > freight and passenger routes to open up tourism and trade connections to the inland regions
- > the development of Canberra's Light Rail network to support the city's development as an employment, educational and services hub for the region.

2. CREATE BORDERLESS SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Invest in:

- > the ACT health system to respond to an increasing demand for health services in the region
- > local health and wellbeing services to ensure communities have access to appropriate and accessible care
- > a Local Government Place-Based Preventative Health and Activity Program
- > the NRL Initiative of Using Sport to address Social Issues
- > a business case to design closed loop recycling of products and potential export within the region
- > a business case and policy development to facilitate waste to energy opportunities in the region
- > option studies, concept designs and delivery of 56 water and waste water projects worth \$134.6 million across 11 councils of the Canberra Region Local Government Areas.

3. STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Commit to:

- > a shared framework that recognises the Commonwealth's role in working with the ACT Government towards the creation of a National Capital befitting a modern Australia in the form of an overarching Intergovernmental Agreement for the management of the National Capital
- > supporting new national infrastructure, unimpaired development requirements in the ACT (including planning and land for expansion), coordinated Commonwealth real estate management and operational integration of tourism and associated National Institutions to maximise effectiveness.

I: ENHANCE TRANSPORT & CONNECTIVITY

FASTER RAIL BETWEEN CANBERRA & SYDNEY

Canberra's growing role as a city of global, national and regional significance, and its aim of becoming city of choice, talent and ambition, is dependent on high quality transport connections to other major cities and regions.

The Canberra to Sydney rail corridor presents a unique and significant opportunity to improve these connections and strengthen the economic, service and social relationship between Canberra, the surrounding regions, and Sydney.

Significant reductions to the rail travel time, such as those achieved through faster and high-speed rail services, would be transformative to this relationship and the future opportunities afforded to Sydney, Canberra and the region.

With the Canberra Region's population expected to exceed 1 million by 2056, South East NSW is one of the key growth regions outside of Sydney. Improved rail connections along the Canberra – Sydney corridor will allow our region to leverage this growth opportunity and solidify the already important and reciprocal role Canberra plays in the surrounding economies and communities.

Better rail services would not only enhance connections between two major cities, it would unlock opportunities for tourism, freight, urban regeneration and affordable housing along the

corridor, easing population pressure on Sydney and providing more choice in how and where people live.

Upgrades to this corridor would also benefit the broader transport system by increasing the capacity and efficiency of rail freight, enhancing air freight connectivity, relieving pressure on our national road network and leading to improved productivity and road safety outcomes for one of our nation's busiest stretches of highway.

The ACT Government continues to work closely with the NSW Government to explore these opportunities with initial investigations into possible improvements to the Canberra-Sydney service already underway. The ACT Government has also commenced initial corridor preservation activities for a high-speed rail service and will continue to reflect these activities in its planning.

Shorter term investments in faster rail improvements, such as new rolling stock, service amendments, minor track realignments and prioritisation, would help realise immediate benefits to the region and begin the journey toward a transformative high-speed future.

Action required:

- > Invest in a faster rail connection between Canberra and Sydney that sets a pathway toward a future high-speed connection
- > Invest in corridor preservation activities for future high speed rail.





PASSENGER MOVEMENTS – REGIONAL ROADS & PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS

A well-planned integrated transport network is key to responding to future growth in the Territory and surrounding region. The ACT, NSW, Commonwealth and local governments have been working closely to identify the future strategic transport needs.

Recent strategic corridor investigations have identified a series of future priority projects to facilitate safer and more efficient freight and passenger movements through the Canberra Region. Priorities include the Monaro Highway capacity upgrades and intersection treatments, Pialligo Avenue duplication, strategic road network links in the orbital freight network at Majura and Gungahlin and future capacity improvements along the city's main east-west corridor of Parkes Way.

As a growing city and region, the ACT Government also recognises the importance of an efficient and integrated public transport network in managing future congestion and supporting Canberra's future as an employment, educational and services hub for the region.

The ACT Government is delivering a new public transport network in April 2019 focused on a core rapid network to provide sustainable, efficient and inclusive transport options for Canberrans and we continue to explore how cross border public transport coordination can be improved to enhance movements across the border and reduce congestion on our roads.

Stage 1 of the Light Rail network from Gungahlin to the Canberra CBD is due to commence operations in April 2019 and planning is well underway for the next stage of the network from the City to Woden via the Parliamentary Triangle.

These projects present a significant opportunity to facilitate urban renewal and shape the future of Canberra and while contributing to regional and national policy priorities relating to employment, productivity, housing affordability and economic diversification.

Action required

- > Support ongoing investigations, planning and investment in the ACT Light Rail network to enhance and support Canberra's role as an economic and social hub for the region, including investment in delivering Stage 2 of the network from the City to Woden and support investigations into future stages including from Belconnen to the Airport
- > Invest in Canberra's rapid bus network to facilitate more efficient, competitive and attractive public transport services for local and cross-border passenger movements, including investment in enabling and supporting infrastructure
- > Invest in network capacity improvements to the Monaro Highway to accommodate regional growth and better cross-border road connections
- > Duplicate the Barton Highway to improve efficiency and safety of freight and passenger movements to and through the ACT
- > Duplicate Pialligo Avenue to facilitate improved cross-border freight and passenger movements and complement NSW road network investments including the Ellerton Drive Extension.

INTER-REGIONAL FREIGHT – ROAD, AIR, RAIL, & SEA

A future focus on east-west connections between the inland and coastal towns will support the growth of population on the coast whilst also opening up tourism and trade connections to the inland regions.

Partnership and investment is needed to realise the productive potential of Australia's freight routes. The Canberra Region's prosperity relies on an efficient transport network to support a diverse economy and respond to a growing population.

The challenge for South East NSW is how to best move commuters, tourists and freight through the region, and creating accessible and effective east-west links.

The freight task in NSW is set to grow by 28 per cent from 2016-2036, and the challenge of east-west freight will be central in the future as congestion at Port Botany grows and physical constraints and network restrictions become more pronounced.

Expansion of the Canberra Region's export capabilities stands to create a potential boost to the combined ACT-NSW gross regional product of nearly \$1.2 billion over 15 years, and create more than 540 jobs.

Canberra-Queanbeyan is a global gateway city ideally positioned to meet the east-west challenge. With international air connections and Commonwealth service functions, Canberra-Queanbeyan provides a broader range of services and amenities than adjacent regional cities, as well as providing global connections to the regional cities of Wagga Wagga and Albury Wodonga.

As the region grows, investment in road and rail freight routes is immediately required to boost safety, access to markets and enable private sector investment in supply chain and logistics infrastructure.

The advent of international flights through the Canberra Airport is the catalyst for diverse growth opportunities for farmers and agricultural producers in the Canberra Region who supply high quality, time-sensitive, boutique, clean and green produce to markets across Asia.

THE CANBERRA REGION'S PROSPERITY RELIES ON AN EFFICIENT TRANSPORT NETWORK TO SUPPORT A DIVERSE ECONOMY & RESPOND TO A GROWING POPULATION





Cross-border investment in the reconfigured development of Canberra Airport's international air freight services could be worth between \$175 million and \$717 million to the catchment and could support between 101 and 428 full time employees.

The Port of Eden is a global gateway and a hub for cruise ships and marine activity, drawing visitors to indulge in the world renowned cultural, wildlife and food-based experiences.

The Port of Eden is the one of the fastest growing cruise destinations in NSW, with the \$44 million Breakwater Wharf Extension to allow cruise ships over 300 metres in length to dock and increasing potential to expand tourism offerings in the Coast Region, which will then create flow-on economic benefits to the wider Canberra Region by attracting return visitors.

Feasibility work is already underway on the potential of a Canberra to Eden rail line. New and improved rail connections between Canberra and the Port of Eden would link Australia's National Capital and the Canberra Region's international gateway with its closest deep water port and a thriving cruise ship terminal. This would create significant new tourism and economic development opportunities.

Canberra is ideally situated to become the air freight hub for southern NSW – strategically positioned in a region encompassing major agricultural activities and with good transport connections.

With road and rail pressure growing in Sydney and a pressing need to ensure diversity and redundancy in the transport networks for NSW, there is an opportunity to take advantage of the air, rail and road connections in the Canberra Region. This includes investment in upgrading key freight, commuter tourism corridors to better connect Inland Rail at Wagga to Canberra Airport and the coastal corridor from Nowra to Eden.

Action required:

- > Invest in upgrading key freight routes to better connect Inland Rail at Wagga to Canberra Airport
- > Upgrade MR92 (Nerriga Road, Oallenbridge, Nerriga main street) to higher mass limits
- > Rectify safety impediments for B-Doubles on the Kings Highway
- > Invest in key missing links identified within the ACT corridor priority study to complete a strategic orbital freight network through the ACT for inter-regional freight movements.
- > Upgrade Princes Highway bridge (Narooma) to enable B-Double access
- > Invest \$300,000 funding for a Freight and Supply Chain Options and supporting Infrastructure Analysis for South East NSW.
- > Invest in upgrading key freight route along the coastal corridor from Nowra to Eden to open up tourism and trade connections to the inland regions
- > Invest in Port of Eden upgrades to expand tourism and freight opportunities
- > Upgrade Imlay Road (Eden-Bombala)
- > In recognition of the job creation and economic development opportunities, designate Eden and Canberra-Queanbeyan as Special Activation Precincts.



2. CREATE BORDERLESS SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

As a regional centre, the ACT Government provides employment and a range of crucial services to Canberrans and communities in the surrounding region. A strong demand for the provision of services such as health and education is driven by population growth in the Canberra Region and the ACT Government's investment in infrastructure.

Significant infrastructure projects such as the expansion of the Snowy Hydro will have flow-on effects for the ACT Government's provision of critical community services. Major engineering projects in the ACT and Canberra Region may also be impacted by population growth as the Snowy Hydro 2.0 attracts both a skilled and unskilled work force to the region.

Strong population growth and the interdependent economic relationship between Canberra and Southern NSW requires careful planning and a coordinated approach to promote targeted service delivery.

The ACT-NSW Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Regional Collaboration articulates the ACT and NSW Governments' commitment to:

- > Develop and implement shared proposals for policy change, planning and service delivery initiatives
- > Consult with communities, business and industry groups, relevant parliamentarians, local government, government agencies and regional organisations
- > Identify key regional issues that impede efficient and consistent service delivery to communities, where attempts to resolve such issues at a local level have been unsuccessful or where a strategic government-to-government approach is required.

Action required:

- > **Restore the quantum of Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth Taxation revenue to ensure a sustainable funding platform for local governments in the Canberra Region.**

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The ACT is the main provider of tertiary health services in south-eastern NSW. Almost 20 per cent of ACT Hospital admissions are NSW residents, who are often attending for more serious and complex procedures that are not available in their local health facilities.

In 2016-17 an estimated 19,573 NSW residents were admitted to ACT hospitals and approximately 3,555 ACT residents were admitted to a NSW hospital over the same period.

With the population of the Canberra Region continuing to grow, the ACT health system will require additional infrastructure investment. The ACT Government has already identified more than \$800 million of health infrastructure investment that will be required to meet this service demand in the medium term, with a significant share of the demand growth coming from cross-border patients.

While an investment in the ACT health system is critical, local services require ongoing investment to ensure the delivery of accessible and culturally appropriate care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and regional communities.



INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

Sport has often played an important role in providing an alternative avenue to address social youth issues in rural and regional communities.

The Australian Government's support for programs such as the NRL's 'State of Mind' highlight the importance of providing alternative avenues for addressing social issues in the Region.

Canberra is home to world-class research and education institutions, recently ranking 22nd on the QS World University Rankings for student cities. The city is also home to over 100 registered training organisations (RTOs) delivering over 11 million hours of vocational education and training services in 2017.

However, Australians living in rural and regional areas have less opportunity to participate in tertiary education due to the difficulty of accessing vocational training and education opportunities when compared to Australians living in non-regional areas.

Introducing further Country University Centres across the Region and encouraging opportunities for ACT-based tertiary education providers to deliver courses to the region will address skills shortages, create employment opportunities, and enhance this already central pillar of the regional economy, while reducing the pressure on Australia's largest cities to deliver education and employment opportunities.



Action required:

- > Invest \$100 million in a Local Government Place-Based Preventative Health and Activity Program
- > Invest \$460,000 (over 4 years) in the NRL Initiative of Using Sport to address Social Issues
- > Continued support to a Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF), specifically for projects and programs aimed at supporting young people in the Canberra Region
- > Support the continued roll out of the Country Universities Centre across regional NSW to support retention and education of youth in regional towns
- > Invest in the development of a major new campus by the UNSW in Canberra, supporting Canberra's aspiration as a major education hub welcoming international students and alleviating the pressure of student numbers on Australia's larger cities.



WASTE & RESOURCE RECOVERY

Improvements to Australia's recycling systems have long relied on export trading markets such as China for processing of waste commodities.

With China's new waste and recycling policy banning the importation of contaminated mixed recycling for processing, the focus on locally-owned and managed waste transformation is more important than ever.

The Canberra Region is well placed to play a significant role in waste management and resource recovery. There is a strong political commitment to innovative and sustainable industry, a highly skilled workforce, growing population and ability to quickly trial and scale new initiatives.

Modelling has projected that local waste stream processing could provide up to \$88 million in regional economic value. Waste stream quantities in the Region are set to grow rapidly in the next 25 years as the population expands, and the ACT is committed to achieving a carbon neutral waste sector by 2020 with 90 per cent resource recovery by 2025.

Action required:

- > Invest in a business case to design closed loop recycling of products and potential export within the region
- > Invest in a business case and policy development to facilitate waste to energy opportunities in the region.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES

Quality community infrastructure is key to strengthening the wellbeing of local communities and fostering development opportunities and economic growth.

The CRJO has identified 56 projects concerning water quality and waste water that have a direct and critical impact on community health and safety now and into the future. These include:

- > Treatment Plant Upgrades to Queanbeyan, Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong;
- > Bungendore Water Supply Augmentation;
- > Yass Water Treatment Plant Water Quality Improvement; and
- > Snowy Monaro Villages Water Safety Program.

Action required:

- > Invest \$134.6 million to enable option studies, concept designs and delivery of 56 water and waste water projects across 11 councils of the Canberra Region Local Government Areas.



SOUTHERN LIGHTS PROJECT

Southern Lights proposes to deliver over 80,000 smart, connected LED street lights and a low to medium bandwidth Internet-of-Things communications network to communities encompassing over 1.1 million people living in country NSW.

This enabling infrastructure will provide better, safer, cheaper lighting and connectivity that will act as a catalyst for participating councils and others to invest in smart community technologies; technologies that will increase efficiencies and improve service delivery.

Action required:

- > Provide \$61.4 million (over 3 years) for the Southern Lights project to upgrade 75,500 street lights to smart LED street lighting across 41 Local Government Areas of regional NSW
- > Increase funding for blackspot reception areas in the Canberra Region to improve digital connectivity.



3. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Canberra is a unique city in the Australian federation and one of only two mature cities worldwide which was planned for the purpose of being a National Capital.

As a thriving city-state with one of the highest rates of population growth in the country, Canberra hosts the Seat of Government and is home to the Australian Public Service. It has now grown into a service and employment hub for the broader Canberra Region, encompassing nearly 650,000 people.

The ACT Government has invested in and planned for this growth. However, Canberra has begun to reach the limits of its inherited infrastructure, facing challenges relating to land, planning and the role of federal and national institutions in shaping the city.

As the National Capital, Canberra requires the Commonwealth's continuing commitment to a functional and welcoming city. Additional funding support to infrastructure – such as investment in a National Convention and Exhibition Centre of Excellence – will enhance Canberra's role as home to the nation's most important cultural and judicial institutions. Combined with strong arrangements to support sustainable estate requirements for the Head of Government, such infrastructure will ensure a National Capital befitting a vibrant, modern nation.



“PEOPLE FROM ACROSS AUSTRALIA & AROUND THE WORLD ARE MOVING TO CANBERRA BECAUSE **WE ARE A CITY OF BRILLIANT POSSIBILITIES.** A PLACE FULL OF GOOD JOBS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

A HUB FOR WORLD-LEADING STUDY & RESEARCH INSTITUTES. A COMMUNITY THAT EMBRACES CREATIVITY & CHAMPIONS NEW BUSINESSES.”

- Chief Minister Andrew Barr



The ACT Government is investing in transport connectivity through key north-south corridors to drive urban renewal and reduce congestion. Light Rail Stage 2, extending the connection to Woden, will facilitate the sustainable growth of the city, reduce congestion, encourage transit-oriented development and limit urban sprawl.

The ACT Government's city renewal agenda is a vision of a sustainable, vibrant and connected city.



The Commonwealth is seeking to both acquire and develop land in Canberra, highlighting the need for a comprehensive framework to reflect the special relationship between the Federal Government and the Territory. A more coordinated approach to real estate and associated accommodation is needed.

The presence of diplomatic estates in the ACT reflects the city's role as the National Capital. However, the National Capital Authority has exhausted all viable diplomatic sites in Canberra and has had to defer requests from countries seeking to establish or increase their diplomatic presence in Australia.

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) site and facilities are nearing their end of economic life. The changes slated for the AIS site presents an opportunity for the ACT and Commonwealth to work together on a future for the site and facilities that benefit the Canberra Region, and the nation.

Canberra's national institutions are central to the National Capital's function as the home of the Australian story, as well as vitally important pillars of the regional tourism economy.

Action required:

› Commonwealth Government commitment to a shared framework that recognises the Commonwealth's role working with the ACT Government towards the creation of a National Capital befitting a modern Australia, in the form of an overarching Intergovernmental Agreement for the management of the National Capital. This agreement would provide for:

- › Consolidation and appropriate annual indexation of existing Commonwealth financial contributions totalling approximately \$62 million in 2018-19 to supporting the ACT Government's role in administering the National Capital, Seat of Government, and headquarters to the Australian Public Service on behalf of the Commonwealth. (\$62 million consolidating \$22 million from the National Capital allowances recommended by the Commonwealth Grants Commission in the context of the Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation (HFE) framework for State-like disabilities, and \$40 million provided as General Revenue Assistance for Municipal Services disabilities)
- › Commonwealth Government support for new national infrastructure, unimpaird developmental requirements (including planning and land for expansion), coordinated Commonwealth real estate management and operational integration of tourism and associated National Institutions to maximise effectiveness.

