

Parliamentary and Governing Agreement Status Report

Report Number One – 2021
Taking action and delivering
for the ACT community



ACT
Government



Taking action and delivering for the ACT community



Following the 2020 ACT Election, ACT Labor and the ACT Greens signed the Parliamentary and Government Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory.

This agreement represents the parties' shared commitment to serve the people of the ACT. The parties agreed to key priorities and outcomes, working respectfully, constructively and collaboratively as a two-party Government to govern with, for and in the best interests of Canberrans. Both parties have committed to stable government and to report progress against our shared agreed priorities in Appendices 1 and 2 annually. This report has been prepared for the period of 3 November 2020 to 30 September 2021.

Our progress this year

Since forming Government, in conjunction with supporting Canberrans through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, progress has been made to deliver projects outlined in the Agreement.

This has included protecting and creating secure local jobs, maintaining Canberra's natural environment, supporting the transition to a net-zero emissions future, reducing inequality and poverty, providing dignified housing and enhancing integrity and transparency in Government.



Design and construction of Light Rail Stage 2

Design and construction on Light Rail to Woden continues, with progress on early works to raise London Circuit. Light Rail to Woden will provide more convenient and reliable transport options for people on the southside, help prevent future traffic congestion and will create and support thousands of local jobs during the construction phase.



Work progressing



Zero-interest loans for sustainable household projects

The Sustainable Household Scheme is now available for eligible households. These loans will help with the costs of energy-efficient upgrades such as rooftop solar panels, household battery storage systems, hot water heat pumps, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.



Work progressing



More and better Housing Options for all Canberrans

Funding has been announced to support affordable and public housing across the Territory, providing essential housing for low income Canberrans at risk of homelessness. It also includes funding for public housing maintenance, ensuring public housing tenants live in safe and secure houses that suit their needs.



Work progressing



Increased emergency accommodation

Additional funding has been provided to Onelink to continue client and accommodation support during the COVID-19 pandemic, and expanded opening hours for the Early Morning Centre to continue their work supporting Canberrans experiencing, or at risk of experiencing homelessness.



Work progressing



Legend

 Delivered	— the initiative has been completed.
 Work progressing	— work on this initiative has begun.
 Not yet commenced	— work on this initiative has not yet commenced.














Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
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Next steps on climate change action









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




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A.1.xi	Engage with the ZEV industry and adopt an ambitious target for new ACT vehicle sales to be zero emission by 2030.	 Work progressing
A.1.xii	Provide financial incentives for the purchase of ZEV. This includes free vehicle registration for new ZEV for two years, introduced as soon as practical.	 Work progressing
A.1.xiii	Develop additional financial incentives to support greater ZEV uptake by businesses and the community sector.	 Work progressing
A.1.xiv	Implement a pathway for the ACT to use only zero emissions public transport, garbage trucks, taxi and rideshare vehicles by the mid 2030s - with no further purchase of non-zero emissions buses. Short-term leasing of buses to meet peak operational requirements is permitted.	 Work progressing
A.1.xv	Build at least 50 electric vehicle recharging stations across Canberra and the region, holding a reverse auction for their construction in 2021-22. This will include working with service station providers to explore broader public charging infrastructure.	 Work progressing
A.2.vi	Enact regulation in conjunction with the Territory Plan Review to require charging infrastructure for new multi-unit residential and commercial buildings, and investigate measures to support retrofitting of charging infrastructure in existing buildings.	 Work progressing
A.2.vii	Conduct market sounding to attract ZEV industries and other economic and training opportunities to the ACT.	 Work progressing
A.2.viii	Research and pilot further Vehicle2Grid and Vehicle2Home projects to improve energy efficiency and grid reliability.	 Work progressing
A.3.i	Adopt an ACT Appendix to the Building Code of Australia in conjunction with the Territory Plan Review, which will set out improved sustainability standards that all new buildings must meet (addressing issues such as insulation, glazing, passive design, phasing out gas, and the requirement for ZEV charge points).	 Work progressing
A.3.ii	Drive sustainable building innovation by piloting land release to include at least one 'showcase' sustainable development each year, such as a 150% living infrastructure plot ratio or a 'Scope 3' zero-emissions development that produces no net greenhouse emissions during construction and operation, and reduced car parking.	 Work progressing
A.3.iii	Increase new dwelling site supply to meet increased demand across the housing spectrum.	 Work progressing
A.3.iv	Require at least 70% of new housing development to be within Canberra's existing urban footprint, with an ambition to increase this share, in the context of an overall increase to the number of dwelling sites released over the coming decade.	 Work progressing
 More and better Housing Options for all Canberrans		
B.1.i	Work with the land owners and community organisations to deliver the MyHome proposal in Curtin.	 Work progressing
B.1.ii	Expand the Early Morning Centre to a seven day per week service.	 Delivered

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
B.1.iii	Increase emergency accommodation funding through OneLink.	 Delivered
B.1.iv	Expand specialist homelessness service capacity (\$18 million over four years).	 Delivered
B.1.v	Construct a build-to rent affordable rental co-located with Common Ground Gungahlin and complete Common Ground Dickson.	 Work progressing
B.1.vi	Provide additional funding for systemic advocacy in the housing sector, including restoring funding cuts created by the Federal Government for Shelter ACT.	 Work progressing
B.1.vii	In close partnership with the community and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, support the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled community housing provider.	 Work progressing
B.1.viii	Expand further the existing land tax exemption program for affordable housing by increasing the cap to 250 and removing the time limit for this exemption.	 Delivered
B.1.ix	Develop youth specific social housing services, such as the Government's previously announced commitment to a youth foyer at CIT Woden.	 Not yet commenced
B.2.i	Aim to deliver a total of 400 additional public housing dwellings by 2025, inclusive of the 260 additional dwellings already committed by the Government for the period 2019-2025.	 Work progressing
B.2.ii	Commit to working towards an ambitious affordable rental housing target for dwellings focused on affordability for the second income quintile, and acknowledge there are significant challenges in land availability, industry and sector capacity to deliver additional housing, and capital demand on the Territory Budget. The Government will strive to deliver additional affordable housing dwellings despite these constraints, with a goal of 600 additional dwellings by 2025-26.	 Work progressing
 Action to improve Canberra's planning system		
C.1.i	Planning Review Objectives:	 Work progressing
C.1.ii	• Simplify the planning system.	
C.1.iii	• Facilitate residential development and housing supply while ensuring Canberra remains sustainable, liveable and attractive.	
C.1.iv	• Improve community confidence through system clarity.	
C.1.v	• Incorporate character, context and design as key elements of the system.	
C.1.vi	• Enable greater flexibility in the assessment of varying development type.	
C.1.vi	• Provide a pathway to achieve net zero emissions.	 Work progressing
C.2.i	Outcomes that will be delivered through the Planning Review process include:	
C.2.ii	• Substantially lift the quality and sustainability of the design and construction of new developments.	
C.2.iii	• Improve community consultation and involvement in the development of Canberra.	
C.2.iii	• Help households and business become climate-change ready.	
C.2.iv	• Deliver a "community compact" process to find ways to encourage affordable housing while protecting our trees, green space and heritage. The compact will bring together a wide range of different groups in the community, including residents' groups, younger people, government and developers.	
C.2.v	• Ensure the planning and housing system continues to deliver affordable housing.	 Work progressing
C.3.i	Implement the previously agreed recommendations of the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal's inquiry on development applications.	

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C.3.ii	Commence a 10 year pathway to shift to world's best practice on climate-ready and environmentally-sustainable buildings, including expanding the ACT Appendix to the Building Code of Australia.	 Work progressing
C.3.iii	Further refine land sale processes, and examine if any amendment to land sales legislation is necessary (including clear valuation assessment processes for nonmonetary design benefits), to allow major sites to be released for high-quality proposals, not just to the highest financial bidder.	 Work progressing
C.3.iv	Continue work towards reaching a 30% urban tree canopy across Canberra by changing the Tree Protection Act and planning system to protect our safe mature trees and make room for trees during development.	 Work progressing
C3.v	Provide ongoing and secure funding for the National Trust ACT, and funding for the Heritage Council to upgrade the Heritage database and website.	 Work progressing
C.3.vi	Fund an independent planning advisory service for residents impacted by planning decisions or development applications, so they can seek advice on lodging complaints or seeking review of decisions.	 Not yet commenced
C.4	Seek advice on the best way to facilitate the outcomes contained in the Government's Waste Strategy to locate waste processing facilities in Hume.	 Work progressing
 Building Light Rail Stage 2		
D.1	Proceed to procure the design and construction of Light Rail Stage 2 as soon as possible following assessment of infrastructure procurement options.	 Work progressing
D.2	Assess the viability and benefits of extending light rail to Mawson as part of the Stage 2B business case.	 Work progressing
D.3	Without setting back planning, design and construction of the Stage 2 project, conduct an examination of the feasibility and cost of introducing express light rail services in peak periods.	 Work progressing
 Reducing harm from gaming while supporting sustainable clubs		
E.1	Establish a Community Clubs Ministerial Advisory Council with government, industry and unions to build a long-term, sustainable clubs sector in the ACT.	 Delivered
E.2	Target a further reduction in the number of electronic gaming machine licences in the ACT to 3500 by 1 July 2025, and support this through the introduction of incentives for Clubs to consider, including additional incentives to move to zero machines within a venue location.	 Not yet commenced
E.3	Establish a rigorous, across-venue self-exclusion regime across the ACT for people experiencing harm from gaming, with significant penalties for breaches. This exclusion regime will align with or exceed reforms currently progressing in NSW to allow exclusion by family members.	 Work progressing
E.4	Match or exceed any further harm reduction gaming reforms commenced in NSW, such as cashless gaming	 Work progressing
E.5	Introduce the harm reduction measures of \$5 bet limits and \$100 load-up limits following a thorough review and transitional plan to manage impacts on clubs, particularly smaller clubs that upgrade machines less regularly. A staged rollout of this reform should commence by the end of 2022 at the latest.	 Work progressing

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E.6	Facilitate planning and other processes to allow clubs to diversify to other revenue generating streams, particularly development of available land for social housing and land supply purposes, that are supported by the community.	 Work progressing
E.7	Provide a just transition for workers in the community clubs and gambling industry by: ensuring that new or transferred employment is on permanent and secure terms; providing support and retraining for employment in new jobs of their choosing; and ensuring worker entitlements are secure in business transfer or winding up. The parties agree to vigorously enforce existing regulatory requirements and support existing workers in the industry with uninhibited access to their union, training, and work health and safety enforcement.	 Work progressing
E.8	Conduct a review into water costs for high-intensity club users of non-potable water in 2021, with the goal to allow clubs to maintain operations while not requiring cross subsidisation by other ACT water users.	 Work progressing
E.9	Establish a five year \$5 million Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund, to be accessed by community clubs.	 Delivered
E.10	Support clubs to become heat and smoke refuges for local communities. This will include ensuring appropriate air filtration systems, and financial payments for venues designated as official extreme weather refuge sites.	 Work progressing
 Early Childhood education		
F.	Improve equitable access to early childhood education and care over the next four years as part of the roadmap outlined in Set Up for Success: An Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT which includes staged delivery of universal access to early learning for three year old children in the ACT. All three-year-olds will be able to access one day per week of early childhood education, 48 weeks a year, by 2024.	 Work progressing
 Fostering Neighbourhood Democracy		
G.	Commence a pilot of Neighbourhood Democracy projects in five suburbs across all regions of Canberra, using participatory budgeting to determine local expenditure, improving local community connections and resilience, and will include a published evaluation of the program.	 Work progressing
 Legislative Reform		
1.	Establish industrial manslaughter as an offence in the Work Health and Safety Act.	 Delivered
2.	Amend the Portable Long Service Scheme to ensure more workers receive fair entitlements as they move jobs in their profession.	 Work progressing
3.	Legislate to ban any political donations from foreign sources.	 Work progressing
4.	Introduce 'real time' political donation reporting within seven days of receipt of a large donation.	 Work progressing
5.	Ensure ACT legislation can identify and effectively respond to modern day slavery.	 Not yet commenced
6.	Legislate to prevent the outsourcing or privatisation of public sector jobs.	 Work progressing

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7.	Review and amend Work Health and Safety laws to keep Canberra workers safe on worksites.	 Work progressing
8.	Introduce regulations to protect tradespeople from silica dust.	 Work progressing
9.	Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.	 Work progressing
10.	Review the Discrimination Act as part of the implementation of the Capital of Equality Strategy.	 Work progressing
11.	Enact the Multicultural Recognition Act, to establish a multicultural charter, enshrine in legislation the existing Multicultural Advisory Council, and establish reporting obligations against the Multicultural Framework.	 Work progressing
12.	Amend Residential Tenancies Act to end no cause evictions.	 Work progressing
13.	Amend building legislation to set a proportion of new residential properties in the ACT built to meet Universal Design standards to make them able to be adapted and accessible to all people regardless of age, disability or other factors.	 Work progressing
14.	Amend the Territory Plan to create Entertainment Precincts, starting with a city entertainment precinct.	 Work progressing
15.	Amend the Crimes Act and associated legislation to include reforms identified by the Sexual Assault Reform Program (SARP) group in their review, including consideration of a positive definition of consent.	 Work progressing
16.	Consider amendments to the Supreme Court Act to introduce best practice right to appeal laws.	 Work progressing
17.	Consider introducing the “right to a healthy environment” into the Human Rights Act, and look at rights	 Not yet commenced
18.	Further restrict roadside electoral advertising including further regulation of roadside corflutes and introduce specific offences for roadside advertising using illegally parked or idling vehicles for commercial or political purposes.	 Not yet commenced
19.	Develop a Charter of Rights for parents and families involved with the care and protection system and embed this in the Children and Young People Act.	 Work progressing
20.	Improve the extended care system for 18-21 year olds in the out of home care system.	 Work progressing
21.	Create circular economy legislation to, amongst other things, phase out single use plastics and require businesses to have a separate collection for co-mingled recycling and organic waste collection and a food waste reduction plan from 2023.	 Work progressing

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
 Executive Reforms		
1.	Implement a whole of government policy that government services will not be contracted out where they could be performed by public servants.	 Work progressing
2.	Require larger public service entities to have gender action plans, undertake gender impact assessment and publish their results.	 Work progressing
3.	Require employee and consumer representation on the board of major ACT territory owned corporations or Government businesses.	 Work progressing
4.	Explore options to recognise a Sport and Recreation Industry Peak Body to support the sector respond to the challenges of COVID-19 and beyond.	 Work progressingn
5.	Explore establishment of a dedicated full time Coroners Court.	 Work progressing
6.	Consider the best administrative arrangements to provide a holistic and coordinated approach to justice reinvestment, and to social inclusion and equality.	 Work progressing
7.	Consider the best administrative arrangements to manage new water programs and provide a holistic and coordinated approach to water programs and policy.	 Work progressing
 Administrative Reforms		
1.	Ensure a holistic approach to government budgets, decision-making and reporting, including consistent, meaningful and measurable strategic and accountability indicators based on wellbeing.	 Work progressing
2.	Strengthen the Cabinet circulation process to ensure all agencies and statutory offices have adequate chance to review and make comments on papers and to properly engage with those views.	 Delivered
3.	Increase open and transparent access to government information, thereby reducing the need for Freedom of Information Act applications.	 Work progressing
4.	Ensure all MLAs have access to climate impact analyses of proposed legislation, where relevant.	 Work progressing
5.	Conduct a review of statutory office holder independence including whether any other statutory office holders should be made Officers of the Parliament.	 Work progressing
6.	Better support for democratic participation through reducing traffic control costs for protests, and extend public liability insurance for small community activities on certain public land.	 Not yet commenced
7.	Review secretariat support for Assembly committees to ensure that each committee has the support necessary to conduct its work, especially for complex inquiries.	 Delivered
8.	Establish seven Standing Committees, aligned with the wellbeing indicators.	 Delivered

