

Parliamentary and Governing Agreement 2023

Report Number
Three



ACT
Government



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 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023.

Progress this year

Significant progress has been made to deliver projects outlined in the Agreement, with over 60 initiatives delivered. Key milestones have included delivering increased housing choice, access, and affordability through the new Territory Plan and other affordable housing initiatives, supporting our transition to a low emissions future, improving equitable access to early childhood education, extending homelessness services, protecting jobs and progressing key legislative reform.



Expanding access to free early childhood education

From the beginning of 2024, Canberra three-year olds will have access to up to 300 hours of free preschool. This amounts to about one day per week across the year and means an average saving of \$1,329 per child for eligible families. The program will be delivered through partner Early Childhood Education and Care Services.

✓ Underway



Increasing housing choice, access, and affordability

Canberrans will have access to more housing choices through the new Territory planning system. The reforms focused on providing the community with a clearer and easier to use system and will commence in November 2023. The Territory Plan, along with updated district strategies and new design guides will support more housing options, whilst retaining planning and design elements that have made Canberra one of the world's most liveable cities.

✓ Delivered







More integrated youth social housing services















The ACT Government is developing more youth specific social housing services and work has commenced on delivering a youth foyer within the new CIT Woden Campus. The foyer will support vulnerable young Canberrans and provide accommodation, support services, and opportunities to pursue education and training all in the one location.

✓ Underway




Legend

 Delivered	the initiative has been completed.	 Delayed	work on this initiative has not yet commenced.
 Underway	work on this initiative has begun.	 No longer progressing	this initiative is no longer progressing.







Next steps on climate change action

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
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 and efficient electric appliances. The program will include an education and communications component about energy efficiency and the shift from gas to electric.	 Delivered
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.	 No longer progressing
A.1.iii	Enact minimum energy efficiency standards regulations for rental properties in 2021 with progressive implementation over the coming years.	 Delivered
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.	 Underway
A.1.v	Deliver at least 250MW of new 'large-scale' battery storage distributed across the ACT.	 Delivered
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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
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.	 Delivered
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
A.2.i	Engage with the ZEV industry and adopt an ambitious target for new ACT vehicle sales to be zero emission by 2030.	 Delivered
A.2.ii	Provide financial incentives for the purchase of zero emission vehicles. This includes free vehicle registration for new zero emission vehicles for two years, introduced as soon as practical.	 Delivered
A.2.iii	Develop additional financial incentives to support greater ZEV uptake by businesses and the community sector.	 Delivered
A.2.iv	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.	 Underway






Next steps on climate change action (continued)

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
A.2.v	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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
A.2.vii	Conduct market sounding to attract zero emission vehicle industries and other economic and training opportunities to the ACT.	 Delivered
A.2.viii	Research and pilot further Vehicle2Grid and Vehicle2Home projects to improve energy efficiency and grid reliability.	 Delivered
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 electric vehicle charge points).	 Delivered
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.	 Underway
A.3.iii	Increase new dwelling site supply to meet increased demand across the housing spectrum.	 Delivered
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.	 Delivered











More and better housing options for all Canberrans

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
B.1.i	Work with the land owners and community organisations to deliver the MyHome proposal in Curtin.	 Underway
B.1.ii	Expand the Early Morning Centre to a seven day per week service.	 Delivered
B.1.iii	Increase emergency accommodation funding through OneLink.	 Delivered
B.1.iv	Expand specialist homelessness service capacity (\$18 million over four years).	 Underway
B.1.v	Construct a build-to rent affordable rental co-located with Common Ground Gungahlin and complete Common Ground Dickson.	 Underway
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.	 Delivered









More and better housing options for all Canberrans (continued)

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway




Action to improve Canberra's planning system

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
C.1.i	Planning Review: Simplify the planning system.	 Delivered
C.1.ii	Planning Review: Facilitate residential development and housing supply while ensuring Canberra remains sustainable, liveable and attractive.	 Delivered
C.1.iii	Planning Review: Improve community confidence through system clarity.	 Delivered
C.1.iv	Planning Review: Incorporate character, context and design as key elements of the system.	 Delivered
C.1.v	Planning Review: Enable greater flexibility in the assessment of varying development type.	 Delivered
C.1.vi	Planning Review: Provide a pathway to achieve net zero emissions.	 Delivered
C.2.i	Substantially lift the quality and sustainability of the design and construction of new developments.	 Delivered
C.2.ii	Improve community consultation and involvement in the development of Canberra.	 Delivered
C.2.iii	Help households and business become climate-change ready.	 Delivered
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.	 Delivered





Action to improve Canberra's planning system (continued)

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
C.2.v	Ensure the planning and housing system continues to deliver affordable housing.	 Delivered
C.3.i	Implement the previously agreed recommendations of the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal's inquiry on development applications.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
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.	 Delivered
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.	 Delivered
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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
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.	 Delivered







Building Light Rail Stage 2

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
D.1	Proceed to procure the design and construction of Light Rail Stage 2 as soon as possible following assessment of infrastructure procurement options.	 Underway
D.2	Assess the viability and benefits of extending light rail to Mawson as part of the Stage 2B business case.	 Underway
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.	 Underway


Reducing harm from gaming while supporting sustainable clubs

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
E.4	Match or exceed any further harm reduction gaming reforms commenced in NSW, such as cashless gaming.	 Underway


Reducing harm from gaming while supporting sustainable clubs (continued)

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
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.	 Underway
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.	 Delivered
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.	 Underway





Early childhood education

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
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-old's will be able to access one day per week of early childhood education, 48 weeks a year, by 2024	 Underway


















Fostering Neighbourhood Democracy

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
G.	Commence a pilot of Neighbourhood Democracy projects in two 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.	 Underway








Legislative Reform

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
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.	 Delivered
3.	Legislate to ban any political donations from foreign sources.	 Delivered
4.	Introduce 'real time' political donation reporting within seven days of receipt of a large donation.	 Delivered








Legislative Reform (continued)

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
5.	Ensure ACT legislation can identify and effectively respond to modern day slavery.	 Delivered
6.	Legislate to prevent the outsourcing or privatisation of public sector jobs.	 Delivered
7.	Review and amend Work Health and Safety laws to keep Canberra workers safe on worksites.	 Delivered
8.	Introduce regulations to protect tradespeople from silica dust.	 Delivered
9.	Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.	 Delivered
10.	Review the Discrimination Act as part of the implementation of the Capital of Equality Strategy.	 Delivered
11.	Enact the Multiculturalism Bill, to establish a multicultural charter, enshrine in legislation the existing Multicultural Advisory Council, and establish reporting obligations against the Multicultural Framework.	 Underway
12.	Amend Residential Tenancies Act to end no cause evictions.	 Delivered
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.	 Delivered
14.	Amend the Territory Plan to create Entertainment Precincts, starting with a city entertainment precinct.	 Delivered
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.	 Underway
16.	Consider amendments to the Supreme Court Act to introduce best practice right to appeal laws.	 Delivered
17.	Consider introducing the “right to a healthy environment” into the Human Rights Act, and look at rights of nature.	 Delivered
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.	 Delivered
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.	 Underway
20.	Improve the extended care system for 18-21 year olds in the out of home care system.	 Underway
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.	 Delivered

Executive Reforms

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
1.	Implement a whole of government policy that government services will not be contracted out where they could be performed by public servants.	 Underway
2.	Require larger public service entities to have gender action plans, undertake gender impact assessment and publish their results.	 Delivered
3.	Require employee and consumer representation on the board of major ACT territory owned corporations or Government businesses.	 Delivered
4.	Explore options to recognise a Sport and Recreation Industry Peak Body to support the sector to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 and beyond	 Underway
5.	Explore establishment of a dedicated full time Coroners Court.	 Delivered
6.	Consider the best administrative arrangements to provide a holistic and coordinated approach to justice reinvestment, and to social inclusion and equality.	 Underway
7.	Consider the best administrative arrangements to manage new water programs and provide a holistic and coordinated approach to water programs and policy.	 Delivered

Administrative Reforms

Ref. no.	Initiative	Status
1.	Ensure a holistic approach to government budgets, decision-making and reporting, including consistent, meaningful and measurable strategic and accountability indicators based on wellbeing.	 Underway
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.	 Delivered
4.	Ensure all MLAs have access to climate impact analyses of proposed legislation, where relevant.	 Delivered
5.	Conduct a review of statutory office holder independence including whether any other statutory office holders should be made Officers of the Parliament.	 Delivered
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.	 Underway
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



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



ACT
Government



Accessibility
Ph 13 22 81



Interpreter
Ph 131 450