

THE CANBERRA PLAN

TOWARDS OUR SECOND CENTURY



at a glance

*... building on our achievements and investing in our future
as we journey towards Canberra's second century ...*

Chief Minister's Foreword

When the inaugural *Canberra Plan* was published in 2004, ours was a city enjoying, at last, the freedom that comes with maturity, and seeking as a society to articulate the kind of place we wanted it to be.

The *Canberra Plan* was that articulation. It set out our goals. It described a vision.

And it put in place strategies for making that vision a reality.

In the four years since the *Canberra Plan* was embarked upon, we have achieved a great deal — as a community, and as a government dedicated to making this most beloved of cities the best of all places to live.

In the pages that follow, you will see some of the fruits of the financial, and social investment made during the implementation of the *Canberra Plan*.

Four years have also brought new challenges, and heightened ones that were only on the periphery of our vision in 2004.

It is time to take stock of the *Canberra Plan*, to reflect on our shared achievements as Canberrans, and to look to the future.

This new document starts that process — but does not finish it. It is a starting point for a community conversation that will allow us to build on our great foundations, but aspire to something more and to meet, with unity, effectiveness, energy and imagination, our shared future.

It is time to set new goals and imagine greater things.

My hope is that this document will be a launching pad for serious and thorough community conversations about issues that go to the heart of who we are as a city — conversations about future urban form and sustainable transport, conversations about reducing our ecological footprint, and conversations about the implications of our shifting demographic.

The next leg of the journey is just beginning. The destination is our second century as a city. I want every Canberran to be a part of it.

Jon Stanhope
Chief Minister



Purpose

The *Canberra Plan* was launched in 2004 to guide the growth and development of Canberra. It set out a strategy that reflected the views and values of Canberrans and responded to the opportunities and challenges facing our city.

The Canberra Plan: Towards Our Second Century builds on the original *Canberra Plan* by identifying what has altered as we approach our second century. While elements of the original *Canberra Plan* remain, the renewed vision takes account of issues that have assumed greater urgency since 2004. These include climate change, water security, housing affordability and skills shortages.

While the ACT Government is committed to tackling these challenges, we recognise that an equally strong focus needs to be kept on health, education and municipal services, and on giving every Canberran the opportunity to reach his or her potential.

The Canberra Plan: Towards Our Second Century puts people at the heart of the ACT Government's planning and priorities for the coming cycle of growth and change.



Vision

Canberra will be recognised as:

- a truly sustainable and creative city
- an inclusive community that supports its vulnerable and enables all to reach their potential
- a centre of economic growth and innovation
- the proud capital of the nation and home of its pre-eminent cultural institutions
- a place of natural beauty.

Strategic themes, key objectives and future directions

The Canberra Plan: Towards Our Second Century identifies areas of priority action as we approach our second century.

Quality Health Care

... to ensure all Canberrans have timely access to primary and acute health care and that priority is given to early intervention and prevention.

The ACT Government's achievements include increasing spending on health care by 45 per cent since 2004, creating 147 new beds in our public hospitals, opening a specialist unit for older patients at Calvary Public, funding two new mental health Step-up Step-down facilities, releasing the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing Plan 2006-11*, supporting medical research and developing the health workforce.

Future priorities include:

- Providing new, world-class health facilities to meet future needs
- Implementing *access health*, which sets targets and identifies strategic investments in aged care, mental health, chronic disease management, early childhood health, vulnerable families and Indigenous health
- Implementing the *Health Workforce Strategy* to improve supply, flexibility, distribution and responsiveness
- Better integration of primary care, early intervention and prevention
- Focussing on early childhood health and vulnerable families
- Improving chronic disease management through the *Chronic Disease Strategy*

- Implementing the *Mental Health Strategy*
- Health services for older Canberrans
- Introducing new anti-smoking reforms
- Implementing the ACT's *Drug and Alcohol Strategy*
- Introducing an Indigenous drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility
- Planning for a possible future pandemic

How will we know we have succeeded?

- Shorter waiting times
- Improved satisfaction
- Lower rates of smoking
- Greater participation in physical activity

A Fair and Safe Community

... to ensure that all Canberrans benefit from living in a community that is safe, inclusive and respectful, that all can participate in community life and that the vulnerable are supported.

The ACT Government's achievements include Australia's first Bill of Rights, the Refugee Transitional Housing Program, and the *Civil Partnership Act 2008*, the funding of extra police; the *ACT Property Crime Reduction Strategy*; concession bus fares for seniors and free bus travel for those over 75, the creation of Victim Support ACT, the construction of the Alexander Maconochie Centre and the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, and a major review of the Children and Young People Act.

Future priorities include:

- Addressing disadvantage
- Early intervention for families at risk
- Greater protection of and support for children and young people
- Supporting children in public housing
- Providing early childhood services
- Implementing the children's services workforce strategy
- Delivering a better future for Indigenous Canberrans
- Supporting the new Indigenous elected body
- Strengthening partnerships with the community sector
- Implementing the new aged care accommodation strategy
- Improving access to justice
- Reducing homelessness
- Supporting Canberrans with a disability
- Improving access to the arts for disadvantaged people and those with special needs
- Requiring those working with vulnerable people to have background and criminal checks
- Implementing a problem-gambling strategy
- Helping households minimise debt
- Developing a community safety and personal protection policy
- Further improving emergency services
- Developing new work safety legislation

How will we know we have succeeded?

- Lower crime rates
- Fewer Canberrans living in poverty
- Fewer homeless Canberrans

Crime rates continue to fall in the areas of assault, break in, unlawful entry with intent, and break and enter.



Excellent Education, Quality Teaching and Skills Development

... to ensure that all Canberrans benefit from a quality education, that lifelong learning opportunities are available to all, and that our skilled workforce is adaptable to the needs of the economy.

The ACT Government's achievements include maintaining the best school system in the country, measured against national benchmarks, a school renewal program involving a historic injection of funding into buildings and equipment, a new curriculum framework, the establishment of the ANU Secondary College, a greater focus on early childhood education, more apprentices and trainees, the launch of the CIT Vocational College and help for women returning to work.

Future priorities include:

- Providing pastoral care for all students
- Integrating early childhood services
- Supporting Indigenous students
- Improving transitions through the education system
- Supporting vulnerable students
- Implementing the Australian Early Development Index
- Encouraging lifelong learning
- Addressing skills shortages through vocational education and training

How will we know we have succeeded?

- A higher proportion of students finishing Year 12
- Improved educational outcomes for Indigenous students
- Increased use of public libraries

71% of people aged 25–64 with post-school qualifications compared with the national average of 59.4%.

84% of Canberrans use a computer at home, up 6 percentage points from 2004.



A Strong, Dynamic Economy

... to ensure that a strong, resilient and diverse economy meets the needs of the community, to maintain economic growth and to promote the ACT as an economic region.

The ACT Government's achievements include the internationalisation of the business community, the launch of the *Canberra Business Point*, the award winning *Live in Canberra* campaign, the ACT Skills Commission, support for National ICT Australia, accelerated apprenticeships and the streamlining of business regulation.

Future priorities include:

- Tackling skills shortages
- Encouraging regional engagement
- Enhancing demographic analysis to guide decision-making
- Encouraging innovation
- Reducing red tape
- Rolling out the billion-dollar *Building for the Future* infrastructure program
- Improving broadband connectivity
- Planning for the Canberra International Airport
- Supporting major industrial opportunities
- Providing sustainable residential, commercial and industrial land releases
- Identifying more diverse and sustainable energy capacity
- Preparing a Business and Industry Action Plan

How will we know we have succeeded?

- Our AAA credit rating is retained
- The budget remains in surplus
- Unemployment remains below the national average
- More diverse employment opportunities
- Higher rates of broadband connection and use

The number of businesses in the ACT grew from 23,884 in June 2003 to 24,343 in June 2007 — an overall increase of 2.8%.

Unemployment rates in the ACT are the lowest in Australia, with the trend rate in May 2008 at a near record low of 2.7% compared with 4.2% nationally.

Over four years from 2004 to May 2008, 16,200 new jobs have been created.

A Vibrant City and Great Neighbourhoods

... to ensure that Canberra offers the best in sustainable city living, that facilities are of a high quality and meet community needs and that all Canberrans can participate in the city's cultural and social life.

The ACT Government's achievements include accelerated land releases, infrastructure improvements, enhancements to the public domain, new Canberra Glassworks, transport improvements, quality public events, an overhaul of planning laws and the refurbishment of the National Convention Centre.

Future priorities include:

- Promoting Canberra as a centre of excellence in creativity
- Developing arts precincts and facilities
- Implementing planning reforms
- Revitalising town centres and local shops
- The Gungahlin Town Centre
- Releasing land in new developments for local shops
- Planning for sporting and recreation facilities
- A new Belconen Arts centre
- Planning a memorable Centenary of Canberra in 2013

How will we know we have succeeded?

- Greater participation in the arts
- More investment in public art and festivals
- Planning and building codes meet or exceed national standards

Room occupancy rates are up 5.6 percentage points from 2004 — with the 2007 average of 72.7% occupancy.

79.5% of Canberrans undertake regular physical exercise — up 3.4 percentage points from 2004.



A Sustainable Future

... to ensure that Canberra is a fully sustainable city in which developments are environmentally sensitive, to protect natural assets and to respond to climate change.

The ACT Government's achievements include a massive investment in water security measures, including enlarging the Cotter Dam from 4 to 78 gegalitres, implementing *Weathering the Change*, the Government's climate change strategy, improving the energy efficiency of public housing, creating new Community Fire Units, planting stage one of the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens, constructing the Sanctuary at Tidbinbilla, partnering with the ANU in a Climate Change Adaptation Research Centre, opening Stromlo Forest Park, rebuilding sustainable villages at Uriarra and Stromlo, committing more land to reserves, purchasing fuel-efficient and accessible buses and implementing aspects of the *Sustainable Transport Plan*.

Future priorities include:

- Further securing our water supply
- Tackling and adapting to climate change, including mitigating social impacts
- Exploring the feasibility of a solar power station
- Implementing the *Integrated Transport Strategy*
- Encouraging environmentally sensitive residential and commercial developments
- Improving housing affordability and expanding the range of housing choices
- Embarking on the Molonglo residential development
- Implementing the *NoWaste Strategy*
- Feasibility planning for a 'green' government office building
- Installing energy-efficient street lights
- Protecting endangered ecological communities
- Replacing the ACT's ageing urban forest

How will we know we have succeeded?

- Reduced per capita water use
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions
- Greater use of public transport
- Less waste in landfill

High-Quality Services

... to ensure that services are of high quality, are efficient and meet the needs of the community, to maintain the city and its assets and to ensure that the community can participate in decisions that affect it.

The ACT Government's achievements include the new Civic Library, the Gungahlin Drive Extension, child and family centres in Gungahlin and Tuggeranong, community mini-buses to transport seniors and people isolated in their homes, and an online development application lodgment and tracking system.

Future priorities include:

- Redoubling our focus on municipal functions
- Implementing asset management plans
- Improving community engagement, including seeking feedback on services
- Making government information more accessible
- Building the capacity of the public service
- Exploring freedom of information reforms

How will we know we have succeeded?

- Greater satisfaction with government services
- Lower costs for service delivery

Be part of the journey
towards our second
century and visit
www.canberraplan.act.gov.au
to have your say

