

BETTER SUBURBS

POLICY POSITION

STATEMENT

Making the Canberra we love, even better

Canberra's open and public spaces are the centres of our community – our parks, playgrounds, shopping centres and libraries are where people come together.

The look and feel of our city is one of the best things about living in Canberra. From increasing our tree canopy to reducing waste, to cleaning our drains, sweeping our streets and patching our roads and footpaths and upgrading our shops and playgrounds, ACT Labor is committed to keeping it beautiful.

What we will continue

ACT Labor will continue to improve our public spaces, support our suburbs and look after the infrastructure that keeps our city so liveable.

ACT Labor will:

- Invest \$22m upgrading 12 shopping and business precincts in the next 4 years.
- Construct major playground upgrades in 6 Canberra suburbs in the next 4 years, as well as build a brand-new destination playground in the inner north.
- Roll out a household food waste collection service by 2023 – starting with a pilot program in Belconnen next year.
- Phase out single-use plastics by 2022.
- Provide a free bulky waste collection service to every house in Canberra by 2021.
- Increase our tree canopy cover to 30% by 2045.
- Co-design a new library and community centre in the Molonglo Valley.
- Build new dedicated cycleways across Canberra and invest \$3.7m in path maintenance.
- Fund \$4.75 million to improve the Tuggeranong Foreshore.
- Start work on the first stage of South Memorial Park.

What we will deliver

Improving your local shops and public spaces

The ACT's local shopping precincts are a hive of activity for surrounding communities. One of the great things about living in Canberra is having local shops within a convenient travel distance. Keeping our local shops vibrant and accessible helps to support our economy and encourages the community to come together.

ACT Labor will invest \$22m to upgrade local shopping and business precincts across Canberra over the next four years. We will upgrade the local shops at Kaleen South, Campbell, Narrabundah, Duffy, Evatt, Macquarie, Monash and Calwell. We will also upgrade the paths and roads around the Lanyon Group Centre and invest in the next stage of upgrades to Brierly Street at Cooleman Court.

We will also invest \$5m to improve pedestrian, parking and traffic movements at Pialligo to make this bustling commercial hub safer and more accessible, without losing its rural village feel.

Improvements will see formalised parking, footpath connections, landscaping, traffic calming and the construction of an intersection connecting Beltana and Kallaroo Roads to Pialligo Avenue. This will make it easier and safer for pedestrians, cyclists, cars and freight vehicles to travel through the area, and make visiting the businesses more accessible.

In addition to this, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will also invest \$1.2 million to upgrade public bathrooms at local shops in Lyneham and Colbee Court and construct a new toilet at Florey shops.

The upgrades will consider opportunities for a community hub and central public plaza area with community gathering places, a reconfigured car park layout and improved pedestrian and cyclist connections to and within the centre.

Better playgrounds for Canberra kids

Canberra has over 500 playgrounds, from small parks in suburban streets to our destination playgrounds that families drive across town to visit. Having safe, exciting and varied play spaces helps Canberra kids to grow and develop, but they also improve the look of our public spaces, serve as community hubs, and keep our suburban economies bustling by encouraging trade at local shops and cafes.

ACT Labor will invest \$3m build new playgrounds or significantly upgrade existing play spaces in 6 suburbs across Canberra: Kaleen, Ngunnawal, Chisholm, Gordon, Lyons and Aranda. This may include upgrading the current equipment or installing new features like nature play or bike tracks. These will be in addition to the dozens of playgrounds we refresh each year through our regular audit program that includes things like repainting, new soft fall and better seating and equipment.

As our city grows, our populations are shifting closer to the city and more families are living in Canberra's inner suburbs. ACT Labor will invest \$2m to build a brand-new destination playground in the Inner North and will work with the community to identify the best location. This feature playground will be large and may include a variety of different play elements to engage kids in different kinds of play.

In addition to these playgrounds, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will also invest \$360,000 to build 12 new shade-sails at playgrounds across Canberra, and \$400,000 to build fencing at playgrounds. We will also provide a toilet at the new Farrer Nature Playspace.

Libraries

Libraries are an important hub in our community, providing access to services and providing a place of lifelong community learning.

ACT Labor understands that Canberrans value their libraries – we have the highest library membership per capita in the country. Libraries are important community spaces that foster community learning and provide access to resources for vulnerable people.

ACT Labor will start the work on a new library and community centre in Molonglo so that residents of this growing area can enjoy these benefits too.

Active travel

A re-elected ACT Labor government will invest in building and maintaining new shared paths, cycleways and upgraded footpaths across Canberra. We will ensure Canberra has the right infrastructure and investment to support our community and promote active travel across the ACT.

We will fund:

- Design and construction of an off-road shared path along Sulwood Drive between Drakeford Drive and Athlon drive at a cost of \$4.7 million.
- A feasibility study and construction to complete the Garden city cycle route, likely to start in Watson and continue Dickson, Ainslie and Braddon (\$5 million).
- The extension of the Belconnen bikeway from Haydon Drive to CIT Bruce to create over 5km of protected cycle paths through the Belconnen town centre.
- A feasibility study to widen the paths around Lake Ginninderra.
- A feasibility study to investigate improvements to cycling connectivity in the Gungahlin Town Centre.
- A feasibility study to construct an off-road cyclepath along Adelaide Avenue – an important component of Stage 2 of Light rail to Woden .

Labor also recognises that building a sustainable and robust network of paths and cycleways requires significant investment in the maintenance of our active travel network. We understand the importance of maintaining our network, from patching cracks, addressing erosion and cleaning after weather events.

To ensure that all Canberrans can continue to enjoy our active travel network, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will invest more than \$3.7 million in cycle path maintenance.

In addition to the construction and maintenance of new cycleways, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will also enhance our policy framework to encourage active travel. These measures will include:

- Adopting a Movement and Place Framework for Canberra.
- Considering new, best practice design for intersections that prioritise walking and cycling.
- Developing the CBR cycle routes network.
- Updating the Active Travel Framework.

We will also invest \$2m to expand the very successful age friendly suburbs program of path and accessibility improvements to four new suburbs: Reid, O'Conner, Scullin and Chifley.

Waste reduction

Canberrans are some of the nation's best recyclers, and we are committed to working to deliver new services so that it is even easier for us all to reduce the amount of waste Canberra produces.

ACT Labor will expand the Green Waste collection service to all households in the ACT and include a food waste collection service by 2023. This will create over 200 jobs and reduce emissions from the waste sector by 30%.

ACT Labor is also committed to phasing out single use plastics and will introduce a Plastics Reduction Bill to give legislative power to these bans. If re-elected, we will bring forward legislation to the Assembly to ban polystyrene food containers, plastic cutlery and drink stirrers from 1 July 2021, and from 1 July 2022 we will ban oxo-degradable plastics, plastic straws and plastic barrier bags. We'll also mandate a reduction in the use of plastic at major festivals and events.

Following on from the rollout of bulky waste collection for Gungahlin and Tuggeranong in July this year, we'll bring forward the rollout of the scheme across Canberra so every household will have access to the free service by July 2021.

Growing our tree canopy

ACT Labor knows that Canberra's urban forest made up of trees and other vegetation is one of the best things about our city. We know the enormous benefit trees provide to improving the look and feel of our suburbs and giving the capital the look and feel of the bush. We also know trees play an invaluable role in combatting the effects of climate change through reducing the urban heat island effect, creating shady corridors to encourage walking and cycling and improving air quality.

ACT Labor is committed to increasing our city's canopy cover to 30% by 2045, as outlined in the draft Urban Forest Strategy. We will do this through the planting of over 450,000 new trees over the next two decades, protecting and increasing the resilience of the urban forest, supporting biodiversity, investing in infrastructure that protects the urban forest and partnering with the community.

Revitalising Tuggeranong Foreshore

Over the last 2 years the ACT Labor Government has improved Anketell Street in the Tuggeranong Town Centre through improving pedestrian accessibility, landscaping and removing the buses to make it a more enjoyable place to eat, drink and gather.

We've revitalised the Town Square and laneways to Lake Tuggeranong, creating space for outdoor dining, installing new seating and shade structures, planting more trees and constructing rain gardens, as well as creating a grassed area by the lake for locals to enjoy.

In late 2020 we'll be starting construction on active travel improvements in the Town Centre too, to make safer connections for walkers and cyclists.

ACT Labor will extend our investment in the Southside by improving the Tuggeranong Foreshore. We will begin by consulting with the community to see what they'd like in areas like Tuggeranong Town Park and the Skatepark but plan to include a new playground, in addition to the new toilet facilities currently being delivered.

Animals

We know that many Canberrans own a pet and these animals are integral parts of our lives. ACT Labor is committed to encouraging responsible pet ownership and fostering good animal welfare outcomes while keeping the community safe.

ACT Labor will continue the roll out of cat containment in a measured, deliberative and consultative way, to protect our pets as well as the natural environment.

We'll also undertake further upgrades to the facilities at Domestic Animal Services to make sure the animals there receive the best care, while also keeping our workers safe. We'll also work with the RSPCA on significant building, treatment and capacity upgrades to its facility.

Cemeteries

ACT Labor is committed to ensuring that all Canberrans can access cemetery and crematorium services as the city grows. No matter where you live or whatever your religious or cultural background, we want all families to have the same rights and access when it comes to farewelling their loved ones.

We will continue to provide a range of services including burials, cremations and natural burials, including through our new publicly run crematorium in Gungahlin.

ACT Labor will also provide a new cemetery for Canberra's southside by progressively building in stages the Southern Memorial Park.

What we've achieved this term

City Presentation (maintenance, mowing, cleaning)

Over the last four years, the ACT Labor Government has prioritised having a clean and well-maintained city by:

- Amending the *Litter Act 2004* in 2017 to reduce the amount of shopping trolleys being abandoned.
- Passing the *Litter Legislation Amendment Act 2019* to set larger fines for littering and making it easier to remove abandoned vehicles.
- Engaging in the Better Suburbs participatory budgeting exercise.
- Additional \$16m for mowing, graffiti prevention, maintenance work and lake cleaning.
- Increasing the amount of street-sweeping that is undertaken by 15%.
- Continuing to invest in growth funding for TCCS to do more maintenance work on our playgrounds, parks, and paths.

Playgrounds and Parks

As our city has grown, the ACT Labor Government has improved local parks and playgrounds throughout our suburbs over the last four years by:

- Actively managing and maintaining over 500 playgrounds across the ACT
- Installing 36 new shade sails at playgrounds
- Building 5 new nature play spaces at Farrer, Eddison District Park, Glebe Park, Yerrabi Pond and Kambah District Park
- Building 5 new feature playspaces at Torrens, Richardson, Waramanga, Higgins, Narrabundah
- Refreshing dozens of playgrounds, including over 50 in 2020 alone
- Funding 32 local projects funded through the 'Adopt a Park' program to help care for local parks in the city.

Local Shops

Over the last four years, the ACT Labor Government has invested significantly in local shopping and business precincts by:

- Investing \$8m to upgrade the Tuggeranong Town Centre's laneways, Town Square, and Anketell Street
- Significantly upgrading Kambah Village, Fraser and Dunlop shops
- Minor upgrades to Charnwood, Kambah Village and Spence shops
- Turning Hibberson Street in Gungahlin into a one-way shared zone
- Funding the 'Woden Experiment' to activate Woden Town Square
- Improving car parking at Mount Taylor, Palmerston Shops and Cooleman Court

Urban Forest

Canberra's urban forest is made up of over 766,000 trees. Over the last four years the ACT Labor Government has:

- Committed to achieving a 30% canopy cover by 2045 (from the current level of 21%) by planting over 450,000 trees.
- Released a draft Urban Forest Strategy to set out a plan for achieving our canopy cover target and ensuring our urban forest remains resilient to climate change.
- Commenced a review of the Tree Protection Act to improve how trees on private land are managed.
- Planted 7,000 trees in the last four years in existing urban spaces and almost 10,000 in new development areas.
- Funded the planting of 25,000 trees from 2019-2023 (4,000 of which have already been planted).

Streetlights

Over the last four years, the ACT Labor Government has:

- Maintained a network of 80,000 streetlights across the city
- Signed an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) for the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the streetlight network from 2018-2025

- Under the EPC, upgraded 37,000 streetlights to LED (as of August 2020) to improve community safety and so far reduce streetlight electricity consumption by 32%, with a further 8,000 streetlights to be upgraded
- Improved repair times for streetlight outages, with 96% of all outages now repaired within 2 working days under the EPC

Waste

In the last four years, the ACT Labor Government has progressed towards our target of diverting 90% of waste from landfill by 2025 in line with the goals of the *Waste Feasibility Study* by:

- Providing green bins to every region in Canberra with 82,000 registrations (48% of households), and 25,000 tonnes having been collected.
- Providing free bulky waste collections to all households in Tuggeranong and Gungahlin
- Introducing a container deposit scheme with 21 return points across the ACT, seeing over 84 million containers returned as of September 2020.
- \$21m in upgrades to the Materials Recovery Facility, which will lead to a lower rate of contamination in recycled material and allow for more processing of recyclables.
- Educating the community on changes to how we manage waste including the 'Love Food, Hate Waste' and 'Recycle Right' campaigns.
- Providing certainty to the community and industry by releasing a Waste to Energy policy for the ACT.
- Installing 100 new recycling bins, 40 waste bins, and 10 smart solar bins across the city
- Investing \$7.55m over four years in the 2018 budget for ongoing funding of concession card bulky waste and funding for GIVIT.
- Signing new waste management service contract renewals including RDOCS, hazardous waste management, and landfill operations.

Animals

Many Canberrans own a pet and over the past four years the ACT Labor Government has had a strong focus on delivering programs to support responsible pet ownership, improve animal welfare outcomes, and to improve community safety by:

- Passing the *Animal Welfare Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* making the ACT a national leader in animal welfare outcomes with stronger approaches to animal cruelty, and the recognition of animals as sentient beings.
- Amending the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* giving the ACT some of the strongest laws in the country to tackle dangerous dogs.
- Doubling the number of rangers in TCCS.
- Rolling out the new Canberra Model for Dog Management promoting responsible pet ownership.
- Building 123 hectares of additional dog parks and other off-lead dog areas.
- Implementing an accreditation scheme for assistance animals which clarifies public access rights.

- Expanding cat containment to Stathnairn, MacNamara, Gungahlin Town Centre (East) and Whitlam.
- Progressing the draft ACT Cat Plan.
- Investing \$1.5m over the past four years for upgrades to Domestic Animals Service.

Active Travel

ACT Labor believes walking and cycling around our city is one of the best things about living in Canberra and how we can make our city even more liveable. In the last four years we have prioritised active travel by:

- Managing over 3,000km of community paths.
- Committed \$30m of additional investment in footpath maintenance, cycling, and walking route upgrades.
- Constructing 56km of new community paths constructed since 2017, with over 20km constructed in 2020 alone.
- Investing \$4.45m to design and construct the Belconnen Bikeway.
- Funding design and construction of a 2.1km shared path along Flemington Road.
- Investing \$2m for the 'Active Streets for Schools' program with 52 schools involved.
- Signing up 25 schools to get a School Crossing Supervisor, helping kids and the school community walk and ride to school safely.
- Expanded general footpath upgrades around the city through the 2019 Active Travel package, and the 'screwdriver ready' economic package delivered as part of the Government's COVID-19 Response.
- Building the Heysen Street link connecting Woden and Weston Creek.
- Investing \$4m in the Woden Protected Cycleway.
- Facilitating the Airbike dockless bike trial and introducing an e-scooter share scheme.
- Upgrading footpaths in Ainslie, Weston, Monash, Kaleen, Page, Hughes, Holt, Aranda, Campbell, Narrabundah, Stirling, Isabella Plains through the Age Friendly Suburbs Program.
- Delivering a range of active travel programs including 'It's Your Move – Safe Cycle' with the Physical Activity Foundation, 'Walk and Ride to Work Week,' 'Ride and Walk to School' and 'Spoke Up! For Women's Health Week'.
- Introducing the 'Slower Streets' Campaign to encourage cars to slow down on our suburban streets to families feel safer walking or cycling on the road.
- Investing in 'learn to ride centres' for young cyclists to practice their skills.

Cemeteries

In the last four years, the ACT Labor Government has improved Canberra's cemetery services by:

- Investing \$2.67m for the construction of a new crematorium at Gungahlin Cemetery
- Listening to community feedback about the future of Woden Cemetery and not progressing with an expansion.
- Commencing planning for a future site for a cemetery on Canberra's southside at Southern Memorial Park, a project to be delivered in stages and expand as needed.

- Passing the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act* which addresses the needs of Canberra's diverse community, providing for a variety of burial and cremation services.

Libraries

The ACT Labor Government has proudly provided Canberrans with the most popular and effective library system in the country by:

- Abolishing fines for library items.
- Investing \$2.1 million to upgrade the second floor of Woden Library including providing after-hours access for community spaces.
- Providing a new location for the ACT Heritage Library and ArchivesACT.
- Providing \$3.2 million in additional funding for libraries in the 2018 budget to boost service delivery.

Stormwater

Over the last four years the ACT Labor Government has:

- Maintained 6,000km of stormwater pipes.
- Invested \$19 million to upgrade the stormwater network in Fyshwick, Waramanga, Page and Weetangera.