

2. SHAPING CANBERRA'S FUTURE

Our vision

The ACT Government has a vision of Canberra as a strong, confident and prosperous community asserting its place in the country's affairs as the national capital.

The Government's vision is of a community as a whole that:

- is inclusive of all Canberrans;
- is prosperous, progressive, skilled and creative;
- is cohesive, fair, tolerant and optimistic;
- is committed to protecting the vulnerable and supporting those in need; and
- gives its children every chance to realise their potential.

What we stand for

The Government has committed itself to an agenda that:

- is open, honest, measured and responsible;
- addresses participation and engagement for all, including the most disadvantaged;
- establishes equal access;
- provides effective, efficient and committed services;
- is financially responsible;
- frames sustainable economic growth; and
- plans and builds a sustainable future.

How we will achieve good government

The Government wants the highest possible degree of community participation in decision making in order to achieve equitable outcomes for all members of the ACT community. The Government will focus on the community needs and delivering better services by:

- listening;
- leading;
- getting agreement;
- respecting and cooperating; and
- honouring its commitments.

Priorities

Education and Training

Education is of strategic importance to Canberra and a key investment in our future. A well-educated community is the basis of what makes Canberra socially and economically healthy. The outcomes of the Government will be:

- an innovative education and training system that is participative, inclusive, and supports life long learning;
- a quality government school system with skilled teachers and high standards of student achievement;
- improved participation, retention and outcomes for Indigenous students and those at risk; and
- resilient and optimistic children and young people who receive family, community and Government assistance and support.

Health

Quality public health and disability services delivery is essential. The Government will focus on prevention, fostering a proactive and integrated approach to services. We will address the care of those with greatest need, providing support to those who may lack the confidence to seek help.

Access to safe affordable housing is a right of everyone in the community. Provision of affordable housing is a significant way in which we can address social disadvantage.

The outcomes of the Government will be:

- accessible health services through hospitals and the community;
- responsive programs and services for people within the community particularly the Indigenous community, older people, those with mental illness, substance abuse, disabilities and respite care needs;
- efficient and effective delivery of health, disability, housing and community services;
- collaborative medical research;
- accessible, safe and affordable housing; and
- community involvement in health, disability and housing issues and planning.

Planning

A strategic, integrated vision for the city is needed for a sustainable Canberra. The Government will consult and collaborate with Canberrans to develop this shared vision which involves a strategic planning framework for an attractive city. The outcomes of the Government will be:

- sustainable redevelopment within inner Canberra, particularly in the centre and on transport corridors;
- balanced land supply and use;
- sustainable transport systems;
- quality municipal services;
- an independent planning authority that works to protect the garden city/bush capital image of Canberra and has the confidence of the building industry and the community; and
- quality redevelopment design.

Sustainability

The Government is committed to achieving a balanced approach to meeting economic, social and environmental goals. We will preserve those things Canberrans love about the Territory and enhance our legacy to future generations. The outcomes of the Government will be:

- a sustainable community with a belief in fairness and equity, support for those in need and a respect for cultural heritage and the natural environment;
- social, economic and environmental initiatives that recognise the needs of all;
- a commitment to equity within and between generations;
- preserved biodiversity and a protected and managed natural environment;
- prudent use of resources; and
- greater use of efficient, sustainable and low polluting energy sources.

Economic Growth

Canberra is a place where business can flourish. The Government will continue to actively foster a diversity of economic activity and development, maintaining a leadership role. The outcomes of the Government will be:

- an economic climate where creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship flourish;
- growth in the diversity of economic enterprises;
- greater opportunities for meaningful employment and for individuals to achieve a good standard of living;
- support for maintaining wages, working conditions and benefits and increasing productivity;
- support for centres of excellence, emerging enterprises and infrastructure projects to foster economic activity;
- reduced dependence on government activity; and
- facilitation of regional and overseas economic opportunities.

Community Engagement and Safety

Community engagement and safety are major concerns of the Government and all Canberrans. The Government will promote Canberra as a safe place to live and work. The outcomes of the Government will be:

- a vibrant, diverse, safe and just community with high rates of community participation;
- the engagement of young people, women, older people and those from Indigenous and multicultural backgrounds in decision making;
- increased police capacity and responsiveness;
- a criminal justice system based on human rights principles which protects the community, supports victims, treats accused persons justly and provides offenders with the opportunity for rehabilitation and reintegration; and
- a strategic approach to addressing the impacts of drugs on the community.

Public Service Capacity

Traditional public service values need to underpin the ACT Public Service. The Government will revitalise the Public Service, giving it the respect and confidence to undertake its vital role. The outcomes of the Government will be:

- a skilled, innovative and experienced Public Service;
- governance and accountability frameworks;
- improved accountability in budgeting and reporting;
- evidence based policy development; and
- recognition and reward for high achieving staff.