

# SUMMARY DRAFT CITY PLAN

Update to the City Plan 2014

**The vision for the Draft City Plan is:  
A fair place for all. A vital and energetic place for people to  
enjoy and meet. A place that is community focussed, walkable,  
public transport-oriented, sustainable, resilient and connected  
to its landscape.**

The Draft City Plan is based on people. It provides a vision and framework for how land use and development can make the City Centre a better place for residents, visitors and business people. It provides clear direction for future growth so the City Centre remains Canberra's cultural and economic hub servicing the ACT's current and growing population.

## **How do the City Plan and City Centre Urban Design Framework fit in the planning system?**

The Draft City Plan and urban design framework have been prepared in the context of the current reforms to the planning system. They sit alongside the draft Inner North and City District Strategy. In recognition of the regional and national role of the City Centre, the draft plan has more detailed direction than the district strategies. Where appropriate, the

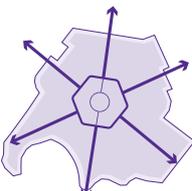
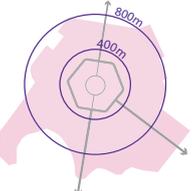
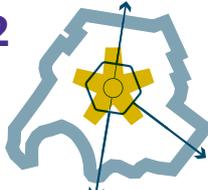
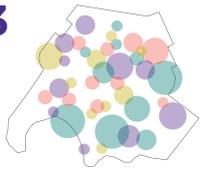
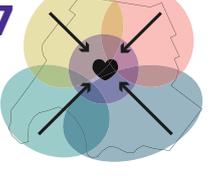
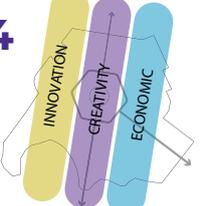
plan's policy positions will be reflected in the desired policy outcomes of the Territory Plan. The urban design framework's design guidance will support the assessment provisions of the Territory Plan for development projects in the City Centre.



Photo credit: ACT Government Community Services Directorate.

## Strategic Goals

The eight strategic goals below shaped the development of the plan and the draft spatial framework (the map on page 4).

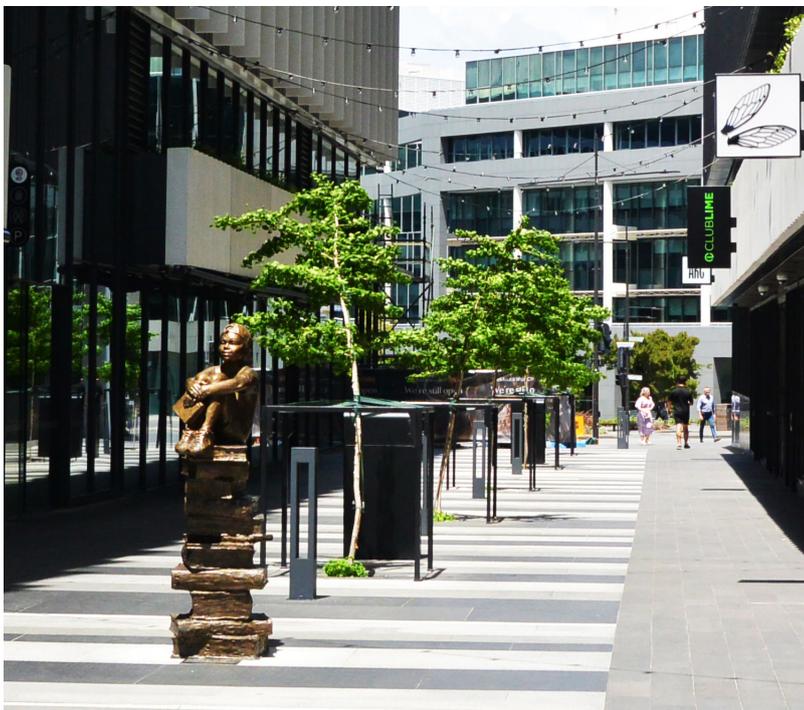
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|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>01</b></p>  | <p>A City Centre that is our gateway to the world and the cosmopolitan heart of Canberra with a clear sense of arrival and more destinations for people to visit, linger and interact.</p> | <p><b>05</b></p>  | <p>A public transport supportive urban environment that balances movement and place with significant provision and priority for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport users.</p> |
| <p><b>02</b></p>  | <p>An identifiable approach route, which increases in formality on approach to the City Centre and which clearly signifies the symbolic and functional roles of the National Capital.</p>  | <p><b>06</b></p>  | <p>A biodiverse urban environment with generous planting on buildings, the public realm, streets and open spaces that create memorable places to support public life.</p>              |
| <p><b>03</b></p>  | <p>An easy-to-access, people-first destination that offers unique business opportunities and a wide range of lifestyle options for diverse communities and a distinct urban culture.</p>   | <p><b>07</b></p>  | <p>A unified City Centre, comprised of five precincts each with their own unique character, united as the heart of Canberra.</p>   |
| <p><b>04</b></p>  | <p>A place-based approach to development and urban renewal with a strong focus on design excellence, providing a diversity of housing choices, sustainability and innovation.</p>          | <p><b>08</b></p>  | <p>A City Centre that is a contemporary expression of the Griffin plan's structure by strengthening the geometry and form of main avenues, vistas and public spaces.</p>               |

# Themes and priority objectives

The draft Plan has six themes, all based around improving the City Centre for the people who live, work and visit the City Centre to shop, do business or be entertained.

Priority objectives sit under the themes. They set out what is needed to achieve the themes.

Themes	Sustainable Growth	Diverse City Centre	Movement and Place	Community	Design Excellence	Character
Priority Objectives	<p>Attract global talent and visitors by creating dynamic and liveable places to live, work and play</p> <p>Support the development, growth and retention of business, employment centres, and industry</p> <p>Identify areas for potential densification and indicative land release proximate to public transport</p> <p>Foster public and private investment to deliver city-shaping infrastructure and services</p> <p>Improve the environmental performance and resilience of the City Centre</p>	<p>Right infrastructure in the right place to support population growth and employment</p> <p>Prioritise an inclusive, safe and inviting City Centre built at a human scale</p> <p>Leverage culture to shape the evolving identity of the City Centre</p> <p>Create a network of mixed-use activity centres and community facilities that create a sense of place</p> <p>Support the continued economic diversification, growth of the visitor economy and a thriving City Centre</p>	<p>Dramatically increase public transport ridership and active modes of travel to, from and within the City Centre</p> <p>Improve universal accessibility everywhere so it is easy and safe to move around for all Canberrans</p> <p>Deliver well-designed streets and places that prioritise walking, cycling and public transport ridership</p> <p>Improve interconnectivity and the experience of walking between City Centre destinations in the day and night</p> <p>Connect the City Centre to adjacent active and public transport movement and open space networks</p>	<p>Encourage and celebrate community connections, culture and social inclusion through initiatives, events and facilities</p> <p>Recognise and elevate the voices and aspirations of the Ngunnawal people and traditional custodians of the ACT</p> <p>Facilitate the equitable provision of quality public spaces, community infrastructure and services</p> <p>Provide opportunities for everyone to share their perspectives, be heard, and influence decision making processes</p> <p>Prioritise quality housing options, including affordable housing, that support the a diversity of needs through all life stages</p>	<p>Prioritise design excellence throughout the lifecycle of development approvals and construction</p> <p>Create a culture of design excellence by communicating and demonstrating its value broadly</p> <p>Encourage diverse design approaches to inspire innovation and design excellence</p> <p>Encourage all new development in protecting and enhancing the desired future character of its location and is designed sustainably</p> <p>Champion resilient design that is flexible, adaptable, inclusive and durable</p>	<p>Champion tourism, arts and culture to create a City Centre where people come day and night and year round</p> <p>Support the continued economic diversification, growth of the visitor economy and a thriving City Centre</p> <p>Develop high-quality creative placemaking projects as an integral part of the fabric, animation, and community life of the City Centre</p> <p>Facilitate growth that delivers connected precincts, destinations and experiences in locations adjoining key activation areas</p> <p>Create gateways that celebrate arrival in the City Centre with direct links to surrounding destinations</p>



# What do we want our City Centre to be in the future?



## Sustainable Growth

- Attract global talent and visitors by creating dynamic and liveable places to live, work and play
- Support the development, growth and retention of business, employment centres and industry
- Identify areas for potential densification and indicative land release close to public transport
- Foster public and private investment to deliver city-shaping infrastructure and services
- Improve the environmental performance and resilience of the City Centre



## Diverse City Centre

- Right infrastructure in the right place to support population growth and employment
- Prioritise an inclusive, safe and inviting City Centre built with a people focus
- Leverage culture to shape the evolving identity of the City Centre
- Create a network of mixed-use activity centres and community facilities that create a sense of place
- Support continued economic diversification, growth of the visitor economy and a thriving City Centre



## Movement and Place

- Dramatically increase public transport ridership and active modes of travel to, from and within the City Centre
- Improve universal accessibility everywhere so it is easy and safe to move around for all Canberrans
- Deliver well-designed streets and places that prioritise walking, cycling and public transport ridership
- Improve interconnectivity and the experience of walking between City Centre destinations in the day and night
- Connect the City Centre to adjacent active and public transport movement and open space networks



## Community

- Encourage and celebrate community connections, culture and social inclusion through initiatives, events and facilities
- Recognise and elevate the voices and aspirations of the Ngunnawal people and traditional custodians of the ACT
- Facilitate the equitable provision of quality public spaces, community infrastructure and services
- Provide opportunities for everyone to share their perspectives and be heard
- Prioritise quality housing options, including affordable housing, that support a diversity of needs through all life stages



## Design Excellence

- Prioritise design excellence throughout the lifecycle of development approvals and construction
- Create a culture of design excellence by communicating and demonstrating its value broadly
- Encourage diverse design approaches to inspire innovation and design excellence
- Encourage all new development to protect and enhance the desired future character of its location and is designed sustainably
- Champion resilient design that is flexible, adaptable, inclusive and durable



## Character

- Champion tourism, arts and culture to create a City Centre where people come day and night and year round
- Support the continued economic diversification, growth of the visitor economy and a thriving City Centre
- Develop high-quality creative placemaking projects as an integral part of the fabric, animation and community life of the City Centre
- Facilitate growth that delivers connected precincts, destinations and experiences in locations adjoining key activation areas
- Create gateways that celebrate arrival in the City Centre with direct links to surrounding destinations

## Implementation

Numerous city-shaping projects have been delivered. Others, including those listed below, are currently underway or are being planned. These projects are essential catalysts for change within the City Centre that will breathe new life into our city's heart:

- Raising of London Circuit and Light Rail Stage 2A
- Redevelopment of Acton Waterfront
- Revitalisation of Civic Square and Canberra Theatre Centre into an arts and cultural district

- Establishment of a city entertainment precinct
- Establishment of University of NSW campus

The plan outlines another 21 actions needed to realise the vision and strategic goals of the Draft City Plan. These actions are draft only and subject to government agreement and community consultation.

# What the City Centre could look like

The draft spatial framework (the map) shows what the City Centre could look like, with the five precincts each having their own character but working together to become one unified City Centre. Does this spatial framework meet your aspirations? What else could we look at?



## Draft Spatial Framework

### Legend

--- Site boundary	Active frontage	Orange square: Pedestrian focused road treatment	Green square: Open space	Green circle: High quality streetscape	Purple line: Draft city entertainment precinct boundary
Existing buildings	Blue line: Visual/temporary activation frontage	Orange circle: Activation opportunities	Grey line: Road layout	Pink line: City cycle loop	Blue line: Blue-green corridor
Potential new development site	Purple line: Adaptable frontage	Green asterisk: Publicly accessible open space	Blue line: Proposed road alignment in ANU masterplan	Green line: Green link bridge	Blue arrow: Proposed high speed rail alignment
Heritage overlay	Purple line: Future theatre development site	Black asterisk: Gateway site	Blue line: Vehicle laneway	Blue circle: Light rail network	
Orange line: Precinct heart	Red line: UNSW project area	Blue asterisk: Landmark building	Dotted line: Pedestrian laneway	Blue arrow: Key pedestrian links	
Green square: Park and civic spaces	Yellow line: CRA development site	Yellow square: ANU development site			
		Red square: Pedestrian plaza			

# DRAFT CANBERRA CITY URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK



The Draft Canberra City Urban Design Framework shows in detail how we can bring the high-level City Plan to life in a co-ordinated, holistic way with excellent design outcomes.

The urban design framework is about making a better City Centre that meets the aspirations and needs of all Canberrans. It provides key directions and recommendations for achieving high quality urban design outcomes to reinvigorate and rejuvenate the City Centre for the city's residents and reinforce its position as the heart of Canberra.

## What is the urban design framework?

The urban design framework sets out how we can achieve density, design excellence, high quality buildings and great streets, public open spaces, placemaking and arts and culture. It translates the City Plan's strategic vision and key themes into a suite of supporting strategies and initiatives that will help to guide investment and change in the future.

The urban design framework looks at the City Centre as a whole then drills down to look at each precinct in detail (including its vision, character, opportunities and challenges).

It identifies priority directions to guide the future development of each precinct, and design objectives to guide how the priority directions may be considered. It identifies key streets, sites and projects that are key to success.

It builds on previous work, plans and strategies undertaken for the City Centre to encourage investment to create a place where more people want to live, work, visit and invest.



Canberra's City Centre is made up of five distinct precincts:

1. City Hill
2. City North-East
3. City North-West
4. City South-East
5. West Basin and Acton Waterfront

# What is good urban design

Good urban design is about much more than just what a place looks like; it is about how a place functions, and how it makes people feel. Good urban design supports economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits.

## A place-based approach

The City Centre and its precincts each have a unique combination of people, heritage, arts and culture, built form and natural features that create places with distinctive identities and functions.

By taking a place-based approach, urban design will build on these characteristics to create a sense of place that attracts new residents, workers, visitors, innovation and investment.

The urban design framework is guided by two overarching place-based strategies:

→ Building Canberra City Centre

→ Activating Canberra City Centre

These strategies set out, in detail, how to achieve great outcomes that will see our City Centre continue to grow and develop and retain its essential and important place in the city.

## Making great precincts

Each of the five precincts has its own unique character and key active public spaces. The urban design framework refines each precinct's vision and character, as well as key opportunities and challenges for future development. It identifies priority directions to guide the future development of each precinct; these directions align with the Draft City Plan.

Furthermore, the framework has design objectives to guide how the priority directions may be considered and how more specific key moves and catalyst projects will be identified.

The framework then identifies key streets and places for each precinct to show better guidance on activation, supporting the movement and place strategy.

### → City Hill Precinct

continue to be an area of civic and cultural importance, highly active with a mix of residential, retail, commercial, and community uses.

### → City North-East

dominated by finer grain retail and commercial uses, is the primary entertainment area of Canberra with high levels of activity. City Walk, Garema Place and Petrie Plaza form an extensive area of pedestrianised streets that characterise the areas as the focus of City Centre retail and entertainment uses.

### → City South-East

tourism, business and education quarter defined by tourism and recreational uses, access to high quality parks and open spaces. Constitution Avenue is one of the most prominent connections between City Hill and the National Triangle, with high quality streetscape outcomes.

### → City North-West

mix of education, research and commercial uses, with a diverse character underpinned by students, arts and theatre communities.

### → West Basin and Acton Waterfront

a lively waterfront community with mixed activities and services that will truly make the most of Lake Burley Griffin.



# YOUR SAY

## Have your say

### We are seeking community feedback on the Draft City Plan. Tell us:

- how you see the City Centre in the future
- what you think of our proposals
- what are the most important things to focus on—and what else we should explore.

### We are also seeking feedback on the Draft Canberra City Centre Urban Design Framework. Tell us:

- what you think about each precinct's vision and character
- what you think of the design objectives
- are there any other opportunities you see

To find out more and have your say, visit  
<https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/cityplan>  
or scan the QR code

