



ACT
Government

DRAFT CITY PLAN

Update to the City Plan 2014
November 2022



A scenic view of a city nestled within a landscape. In the foreground, a large, textured tree trunk and dense foliage are visible. The middle ground shows a city with various buildings and structures. In the background, a body of water stretches across the horizon, with distant mountains or hills under a cloudy sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

A CITY WITHIN THE LANDSCAPE

Acknowledgment of Country

Yuma

Dhawura Nguna Dhawura Ngunnawal
Yanggu ngalawiri dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari
Nginggada Dindi yindumaralidjinyin
Dhawura Ngunnawal yindumaralidjinyin

Hello

This is Ngunnawal Country

Today we are meeting on Ngunnawal country

We always respect Elders, male and female

We always respect Ngunnawal Country

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as Canberra's first inhabitants and Traditional Custodians. We recognise the special relationship and connection that Ngunnawal people have with this Country. Prior to the dislocation of Ngunnawal people from their land, they were a thriving people whose life and culture was connected unequivocally to this land in a way that only they understand and know, and is core to their physical and spiritual being. The disconnection of the Ngunnawal people from Culture and Country has had long-lasting, profound and ongoing health and well-being effects on their life, cultural practices, families and continuation of their law/lore. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate acknowledges the historic dispossession of the Ngunnawal people of Canberra and their surrounding regions. We recognise the significant contribution the Ngunnawal people have played in caring for Country as for time immemorial they have maintained a tangible and intangible cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic connection to these lands and waters.

Artwork: Reconciliation through Caring for Country

Artist: Leilani Keen Church 2018

The three green inner circles represent the environment and country. The outer symbols represent people and community standing side by side in reconciliation and taking care of country. The pathways represent the journey.



Contents

Minister's Message	5
--------------------	---

01

Strategic Context	6
-------------------	---

1.1 Introduction - Why Now?	8
1.2 The Role of Canberra's City Centre	12
1.3 Context and Opportunity	14
1.4 First Nations Context	16
1.5 The Griffin Plan Legacy	18
1.6 Planning and Regulatory Context	20
1.7 A Growing and Diverse City Centre	22
1.8 Recent and Planned Development	24
1.9 Climate Change and Living Infrastructure	26

02

City Plan 2040	28
----------------	----

2.1 The Journey to 2040	31
2.2 Draft Spatial Framework	32
2.3 City Plan Themes	34
→ Sustainable Growth	36
→ Diverse City Centre	38
→ Movement and Place	39
→ Community	42
→ Design Excellence	44
→ Character	48

03

Precinct Directions	50
---------------------	----

3.1 City Centre Precincts	53
→ City Hill	54
→ City North-East	57
→ City North-West	60
→ City South-East	63
→ West Basin and Acton Waterfront	66

04

Making it Happen	72
------------------	----

4.1 Implementation Framework	74
4.2 City Shaping Projects	76
4.3 Action Plan	78

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.



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development



© Australian Capital Territory,
Canberra 2022.

This work is copyright. Apart from
any use as permitted under the
Copyright Act 1968, no part may be
reproduced by any process without
written permission from:

Director-General, Environment,
Planning and Sustainable
Development Directorate, ACT
Government, GPO Box 158,
Canberra ACT 2601.

Telephone: 02 6207 1923

Website: www.planning.act.gov.au

Produced by the Environment,
Planning and Sustainable
Development Directorate (EPSDD)

Accessibility

The ACT Government is committed
to making its information, services,
events and venues as accessible as
possible.

If you have difficulty reading
a standard printed document
and would like to receive this
publication in an alternative
format, such as large print, please
phone Access Canberra on 13 22 81
or email the Environment, Planning
and Sustainable Development
Directorate at: EPSDDComms@act.gov.au

If English is not your first language
and you require a translating and
interpreting service, please phone
13 14 50.

If you are deaf, or have a speech
or hearing impairment, and need
the teletypewriter service, please
phone 13 36 77 and ask for Access
Canberra on 13 22 81.

For speak and listen users, please
phone 1300 555 727 and ask for
Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

For more information on these
services visit
<http://www.relayservice.com.au>

COVID-19

City centres globally have been
dramatically impacted by the
COVID-19 pandemic. While
Canberra's City Centre is well on the
road to recovery, much must still be
done to re-energise the city.

Amidst the worst of the pandemic,
conversations about the City
Centre's future took on a
heightened sense of importance.
Key takeaways and lessons learned
during this time include:

- the disproportionate impacts
affecting the most vulnerable
populations
- the significance of outdoor
public spaces for connecting
with family and friends,
especially for people in higher-
density housing types
- the value of having shops,
services, public spaces and
community infrastructure
located close to home
- the ability to adapt and respond
quickly is essential – for
example, repurposing streets,
parking and footpaths for
cycling and creating patios and
parklets for local businesses
to continue to operate and
provide social connection.

The draft City Plan update accounts
for these and other key takeaways
and lessons learned, and through
its renewed structure plan and
supporting priority directions, and
actions, lays the foundation for a
more resilient City Centre where
people of all ages, incomes, abilities
and backgrounds thrive.



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development



A message from **the Minister for Planning and Land Management**

Mick Gentleman

I am pleased to release the updated draft City Plan for consultation and community feedback.

Cities are constantly changing and Canberra is no exception. The updated City Plan provides a comprehensive refresh to the original plan and reflects the significant changes that have occurred in planning policy and development of the City Centre and the Territory since 2014.

Central to the draft City Plan is the vision of making the City Centre a fair place for all. This means a place that is community focussed, walkable, public transport-oriented, sustainable, resilient and connected to its landscape. Across the world,

there are many examples of thriving, productive, attractive and prosperous city centres providing great benefits to their residents and their wider regions. Building on the Griffin Plan legacy through place-focussed urban planning and design, the updated City Plan provides greater guidance on the nature and location of development, land use and infrastructure across the City Centre.

I am especially pleased with the work done to promote design excellence and the development of a draft Urban Design Framework for the City Centre. It is so important that we emphasise the benefits of good design and push for attractive, high-quality and inter-connected

precincts and places. This will attract people to the City Centre to live, work and meet.

The draft City Plan is an important contribution to the future planning and development of our City Centre. It has been prepared to align closely with the recently released district strategies and to provide policy positions to be considered for inclusion in the new Territory Plan.

I look forward to hearing community feedback on the draft City Plan and draft Canberra City Centre Urban Design Framework.

Mick Gentleman
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND LAND
MANAGEMENT



First Name
Surname

1. Name of the artist
2. Title of the work
3. Year of creation
4. Medium
5. Dimensions
6. Location
7. Collection
8. Notes



01 STRATEGIC CONTEXT



01 Strategic Context

1.1 Introduction

The draft City Plan update provides a comprehensive refresh to the 2014 City Plan. It reflects the significant changes that have occurred in the policy and development environment of the City Centre and Territory since 2014. The Plan is the key strategic planning document that provides a single, unified vision and framework for land use and development in the City Centre. Its purpose is to provide clear direction for the future growth of the City Centre to ensure it remains Canberra's cultural and economic hub servicing the needs of the ACT's growing population.

The refreshed vision, themes, actions and priorities of the draft City Plan build on the strengths and attributes that make Canberra one of the most liveable cities in the world. Together they set a clear path forward to help create a more lively, active, inclusive and safe City Centre for residents, businesses, institutions and visitors.

The Plan reinforces the national importance of the City Centre as a place that embodies the Australian spirit. It sets a framework for spatially based decision-making and actions needed to achieve the City Centre's vision to 2040 and beyond.

The Plan also acknowledges that Canberra is a city drawing proudly on the culture, knowledge and heritage of the Ngunnawal people and traditional custodians of the land, and honours those who have shared their land with those who came later. Together, the descendants of Canberra's first people and Canberra's settlers will share traditional and new wisdom to realise the vision of an inclusive City Centre for all; a centre that is dynamic and flourishing now and for future generations.

- Broadly, the draft City Plan sets out a vision for the City Centre and proposes implementation actions that could deliver that vision and create and maintain momentum for change and renewal. Specifically, the draft City Plan Update provides:
- a long-term vision of the desired spatial form, structure and activities of the City Centre
- place-focused urban planning and design
- guidance on the nature and location of development, land use and infrastructure
- suggested future actions that can deliver change, growth and renewal.

STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

The draft City Plan is organised into four complementary parts.

01 Strategic Context

Provides background on the draft City Plan's foundations, the ACT's regulatory environment, recent development and an overview of spatial dimensions of the Plan.

02 City Plan 2040

Outlines the vision, strategic goals, themes and priority outcomes that will guide the City Centre into the future.

03 Precinct Directions

Details the character of each of the City Centre's precincts, including priority directions, to support the evolution of each precinct as a distinct place within the City Centre that can meet the growing needs of residents, workers and visitors.

04 Making it Happen

The implementation framework outlines potential city-shaping projects and the action needed to deliver the Plan's vision, priority outcomes and directions, and areas for collaboration and future work across government.

Canberra City Centre Urban Design Framework (UDF)

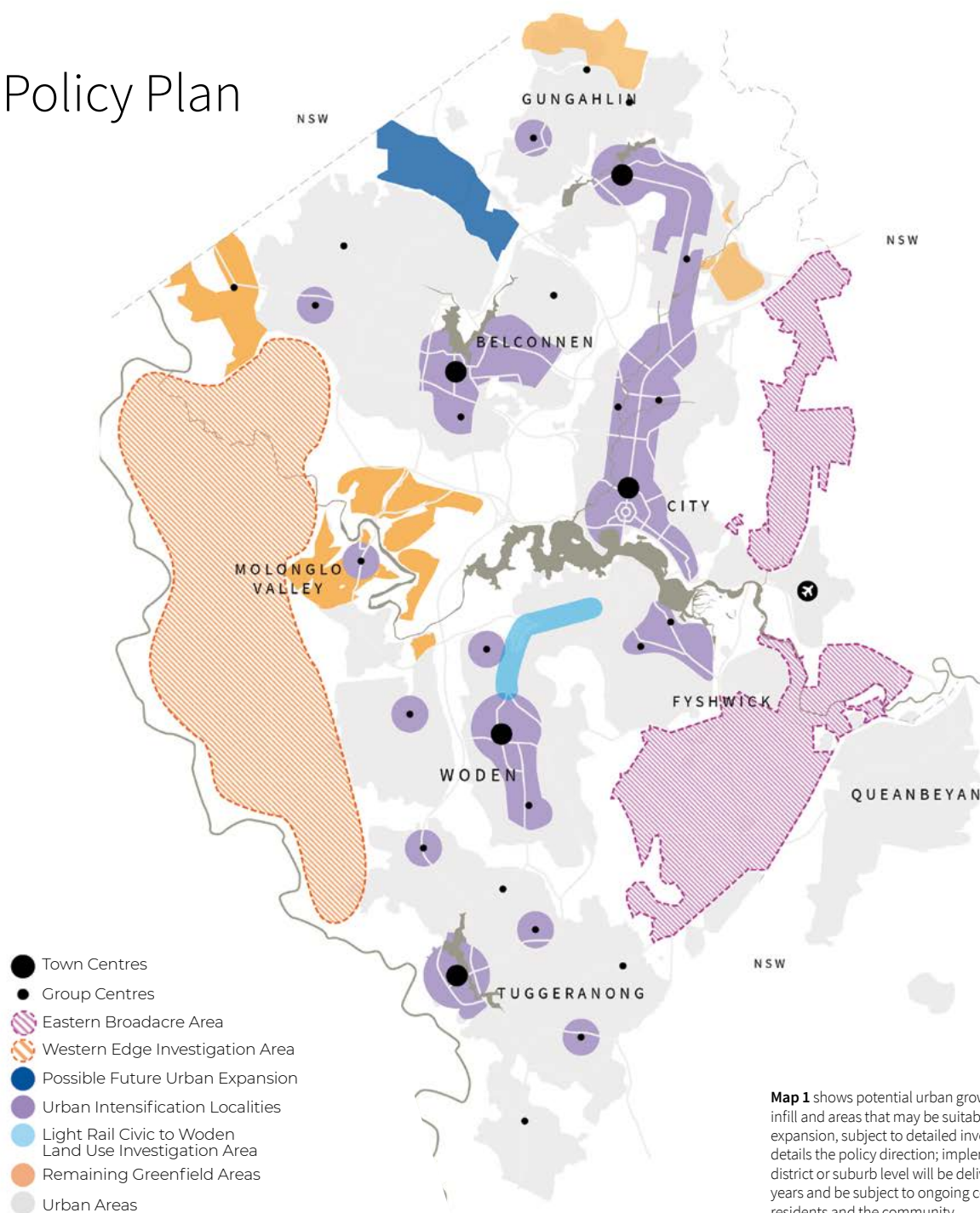
Supporting the implementation of the draft City Plan is the creation of an Urban Design Framework (UDF) intended to help shape the continued development and renewal of the City Centre.

The UDF builds on previous work, plans and strategies undertaken by the ACT Government and emphasises on the creation of attractive, high-quality and interconnected precincts and places that will attract more people to live, work, visit and invest in the City Centre.

How it all comes together



Policy Plan



ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project

The purpose of the Planning System Review and Reform Project is to deliver a planning system that is clear, easy to use and that facilitates the realisation of long-term aspirations for the growth and development of Canberra while maintaining its valued character.

Stepping down from the ACT Planning Strategy, district strategies are a new

level of strategic planning document that are being introducing to the planning system. District strategies will capture and protect the valued character and attributes of each of Canberra's nine main districts.

The district strategies provide a strategic framework to help guide other planning work that is being or will be done at more detailed scales

(such as a precinct, corridor or place). The draft City Plan update sits within and is informed by the Inner North and City District Strategy. Recognising the regional and national role of the City Centre as the heart of Canberra, the draft City Plan update provides clear direction at a more detailed level to guide future development and growth.

Why Now?

Cities are constantly reassessing themselves, searching for new ways to address local challenges and remain competitive in global markets and economies. Global experience demonstrates the importance of thriving, productive, attractive and prosperous city centres for their wider regions.

City centres across Australia and the world are where investment impact can often be maximised and where economic returns and community benefit are the greatest. It's here, in our City Centre, where momentum can be built. For Canberra, a more attractive, dynamic and resilient City Centre can provide the basis for a more prosperous city and region.

To achieve this, the draft City Plan needs to be updated with renewed and emboldened strategic directions and priority actions to ensure the City Centre contributes to Canberra retaining its primacy as one of the world's most liveable cities and a destination of importance for residents, businesses and visitors.

The draft City Plan update provides a clear direction for future development and growth in the City Centre and helps unite decision-makers, community and stakeholders toward a common goal: A City Centre where people are proud to live and work, where people want to visit and where something is always happening.

Plan Update Process

The draft City Plan has been updated collaboratively within the ACT Government, informed by consultation with the National Capital Authority (NCA), community input, underlying critical data, and key legislative and planning frameworks such as the National Capital Plan (NCP) and the Territory Plan. The update has occurred in tandem with key government projects to inform related works, ensure consistency, and improve useability.

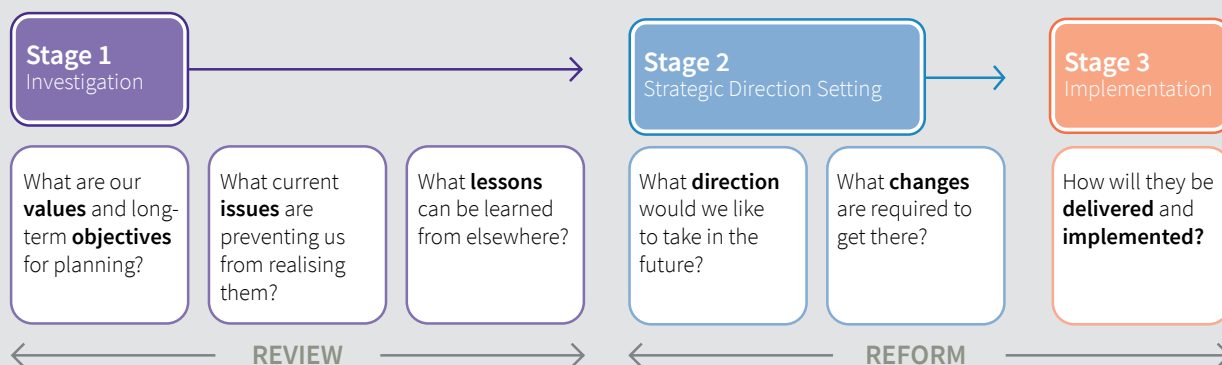
The draft City Plan update provides a comprehensive refresh to the original plan and reflects the significant changes that have occurred in the policy and development environment of the City Centre and Territory since 2014.

Also examined in the context of this update were:

- population growth and demographic trends
- existing development capacity (within current regulatory controls)
- opportunities for growth and land availability
- growth of the knowledge economy and creative sectors
- anticipated future infrastructure, projects, and renewal initiatives
- enabling greater urban resilience and targeted climate action.

In recognition of these and the many planned changes still to be realised in the City Centre, the ACT Government has undertaken an internal review of the 2014 City Plan to promote consistency with current ACT Government strategies and policies and to provide a revised implementation framework and corresponding actions for the City Centre.

Planning System Review and Reform Process



1.2 The Role of Canberra's City Centre

The City Centre is the ACT's primary municipal centre. It forms one apex of the National Triangle and is home to cultural, administrative, educational, residential, retail, entertainment and commercial activities. The City Centre is the economic, cultural and historical centre of Canberra, playing a vital role in connecting the central core, Lake Burley Griffin and the National Triangle.

The 'garden city' outcomes of the Griffin Plan are reflected in its tree-lined streetscapes and low-rise development that provide views of the surrounding landscape. However, its road and urban forms reflect the fundamentally different 1960's Y-Plan that introduced a city structure based on town centres linked by arterial roads. These widely differing approaches have resulted in a City Centre without a recognisable core and limited vitality and legibility.

There are strong community views about the role, form and function of the City Centre. City Plan community

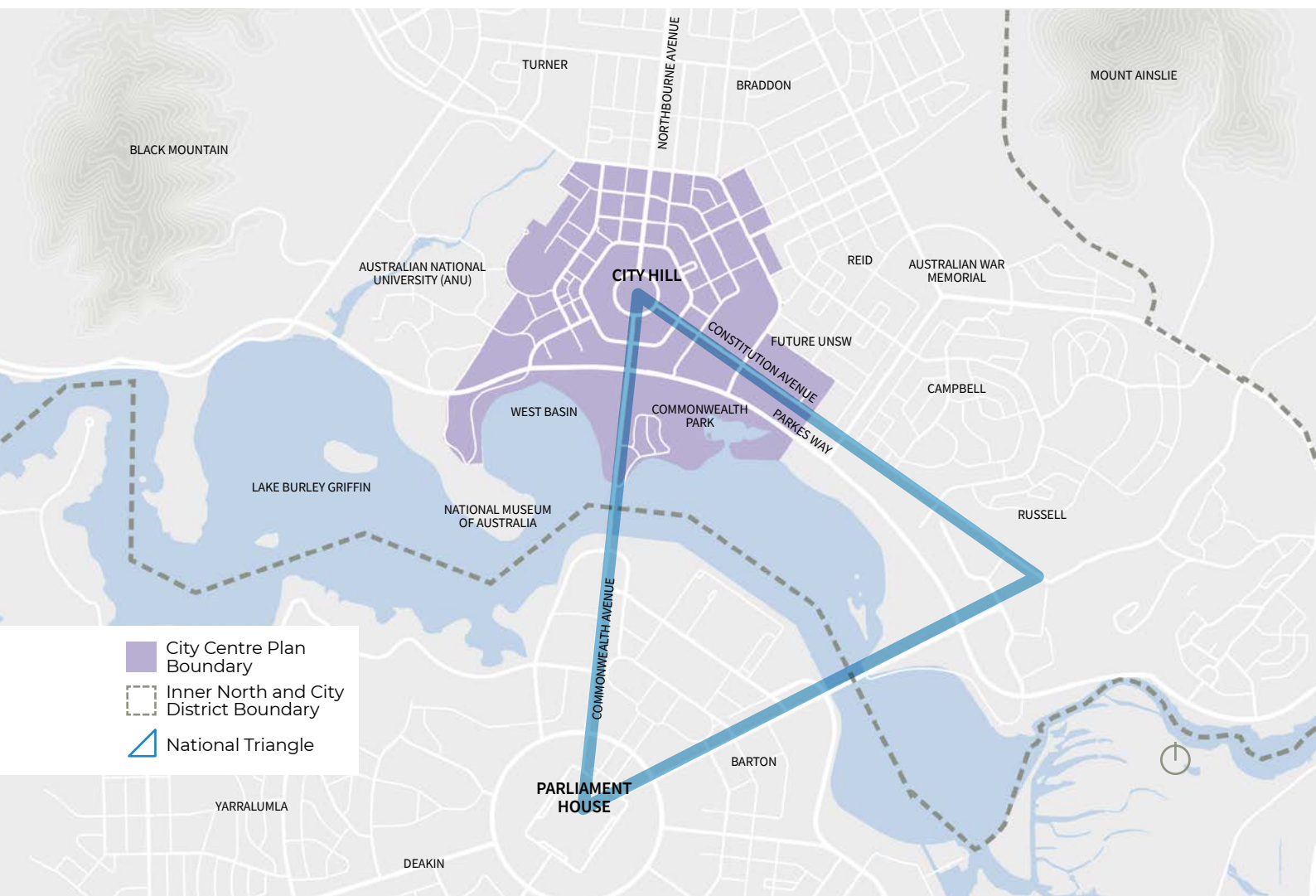
consultations in 2014, and further consultations conducted by other government agencies since, reveal that the Canberran community is clear in their desire for the City Centre to have a stronger identity – a recognisable core, or heart, that people can relate to, to gather and celebrate in.

An equally clear call is for the City Centre to house a vitality, a liveliness, that will draw people in during the day and night. In effect, to make the City Centre the focus of civic, cultural and recreational life of the ACT and broader region. Canberrans have also made it clear that they want the

City Centre to be less about traffic and cars and more about walkable connections to all parts of the City Centre and Lake Burley Griffin. These values and aspirations expressed by Canberrans in 2014 are still relevant today.

The physical location of the City Centre in the heart of the ACT gives the area local, regional and national prominence. This is reflected in the sharing of strategic land-use planning responsibility for the City Centre between the Australian Government's National Capital Authority (NCA) and the ACT Government.

Map 2: City Centre and Surrounding Context



ACT Planning System Draft Structure

Our City Centre is growing. With more people living and working in Canberra, we need a planning system that can facilitate this growth without compromising the characteristics of the City Centre that we value.

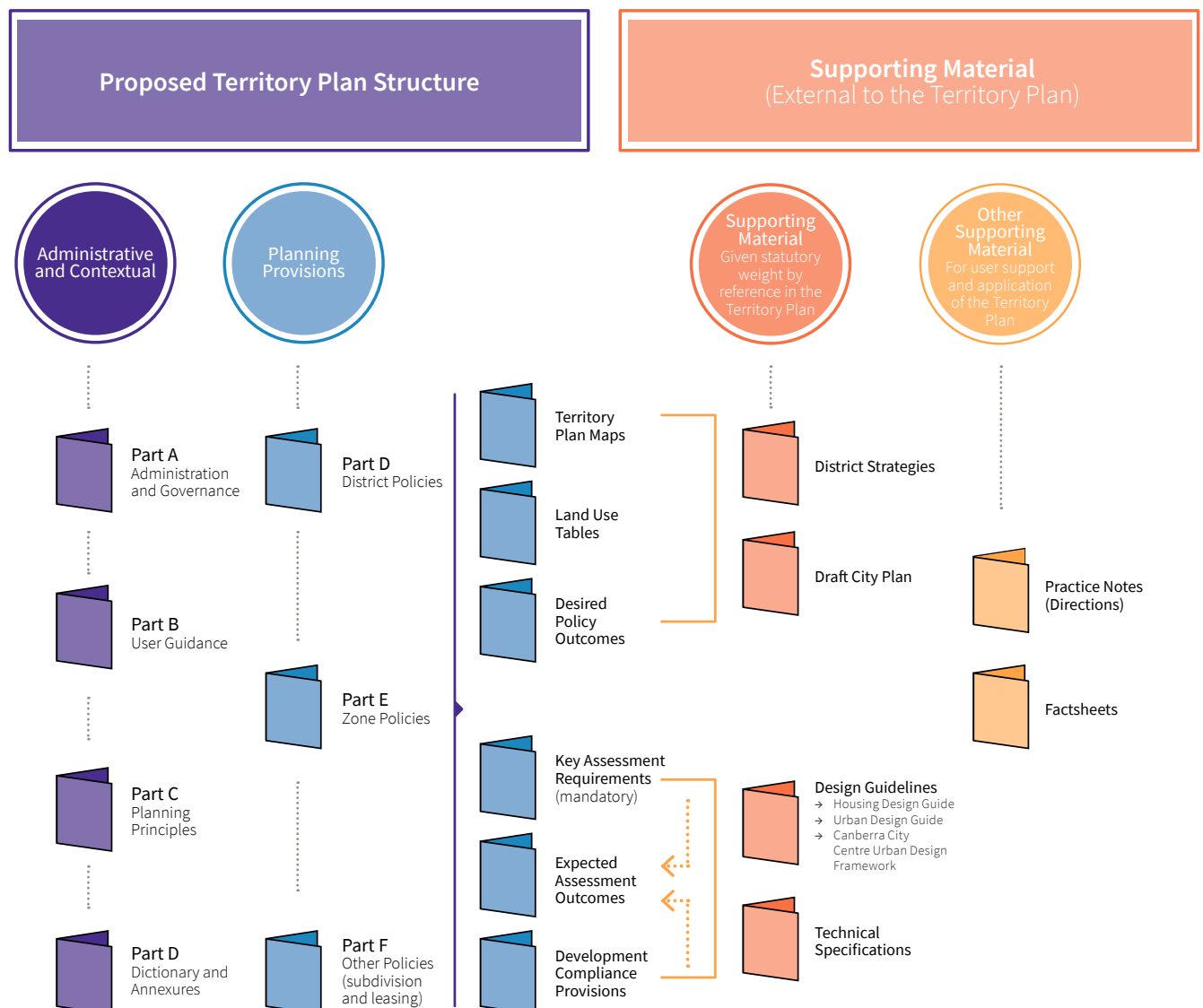
A modern planning system is fundamental to our vision of a liveable and sustainable City Centre. We want a planning system focussing on delivering outcomes for Canberra residents, providing some flexibility to encourage better outcomes and being efficient and easier to use.

In the 15 years since the last major review of the Territory Plan, the long-term aspirations for Canberra have evolved to reflect the importance of adapting to climate change, delivering important infrastructure for our growing population and providing greater housing choice and accessibility. Together with the 2018 ACT Planning Strategy, this has

shaped the context of planning for Canberra.

Through the ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project, we are reviewing and holistically reforming our planning system to deliver better outcomes for communities, development, the environment and people across Canberra.

Draft Proposed ACT Planning System Structure



1.3 Context and Opportunity

OUR STRENGTHS

The City Centre is the ACT's main commercial and employment centre. The area plays an important role in connecting the wider community and serving as the economic, cultural and historical centre of Canberra.

National Significance – The City Centre is distinguished as a strategic core of national significance and plays the symbolic and functional role of the National Capital. Integrated within Griffin's vision, the City Centre retains prominence as the northern apex of the National Triangle. Formal boulevards with a unique hexagonal structure assist the integration of landscape and buildings; this framework should be retained and reinforced.

Iconic Landscape Setting – The Garden City and City Beautiful movements that were influential to Walter Burley Griffin's planning vision are identifying features of the Territory that are highly valued by the community. Their expression in the City Centre is evident today in the extent of open space and gardens, formal structure of streets, street tree plantings, a hierarchy of sites and view corridors. The unique landscape setting in the City Centre underpins a spatial framework to support future growth and enhance the precinct characters.

Economic Growth – The City Centre plays a key role as the business, commercial, retail and administrative hub of the ACT. It offers a diverse employment market, which stimulates job growth and ensures the resilience of the economy. The global economy has changed rapidly and the City Centre is well placed to respond to these changes.

A greater mix of land uses and the ability of spaces to adapt in response to the changing conditions will be essential features in seeing economic resilience into the future.

Distinctive Character – 'City in the landscape' tells Canberra's story and contributes to the City Centre's character, culture and attractiveness. Each of the five character areas within the City Centre has a distinct character associated with the land use, built form and natural features. While each character area has different roles in the future, these features can be drawn upon to strengthen the individual identity of each precinct through new development.

Integrated Transport Network – The commissioning of the light rail has seen a shift in how many Canberrans travel and has spurred urban renewal of adjacent and associated infrastructure. Together with the light rail network, well-integrated transport networks support safe communities and healthy lifestyles and increase the City Centre's appeal as a commercial and employment destination.

Diverse Green Spaces – A significant amount of public open spaces are well-distributed throughout the City Centre. As the City Centre grows and becomes more compact, delivering high-quality green open spaces with integrated active travel is a vital component of sustainable and healthy communities.

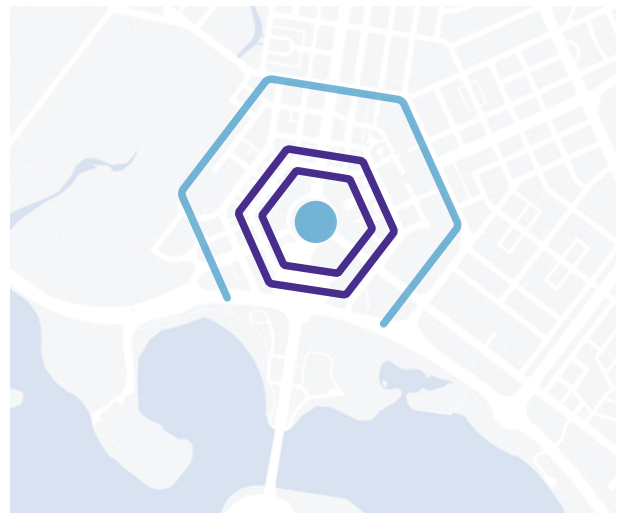
The draft City Plan identifies strengths and opportunities to support a more sustainable, competitive and equitable City Centre.

MAP3 City Precincts



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

MAP 4 Reinforce and realise Griffin's structure



The City Centre's formal avenues converge on London Circuit and form a unique structure that should be celebrated and reinforced.

OUR CHALLENGES

The City Centre is experiencing increased density as growth is prioritised in existing urban areas. With this growth, there is also a need to provide the right mix of community infrastructure and amenities and greater access to housing choice and affordability in appropriate locations at an appropriate scale, coupled with appropriate land uses and suitable levels of access.

Building Community – The City Centre’s population increased by over 60% from 2014 to 2021. The current demographic trends show a diversifying resident population in the City Centre. While there is a strong development pipeline in the coming 10 years, forecasts show that the City Centre’s population will more than triple in the 20 years to 2040. Population growth will increase demand for inclusive communities supporting a diverse range of users.

Movement and Place – Future development along with population growth in the City Centre will bring both opportunities and challenges for the future transport network. While a more compact city will provide opportunities for more walkable neighbourhoods, increasing commuter vehicles to the City Centre will cause traffic congestion and mode conflicts. A balance must be maintained between the demands of movement functions of streets along with their place value.

Walkability – The City Centre is large and typified by wide streets which act

as a barrier to pedestrian movement. Improving walkability can improve people’s experience of the City Centre. However, a lack of clear and direct connectivity is a challenge.

Sense of Place – One of the strongest calls from the community in the 2014 City Plan was having a stronger identity, a recognisable core or heart that people can relate to, gather in and celebrate.

Since the creation of the City Renewal Authority (CRA), many public realm upgrades have been delivered to act upon the desire for a more lively and people focussed City Centre. The challenge is to design liveable and high-quality urban environments, while protecting the best aspects of the natural, the existing heritage and character that represent an important competitive advantage.

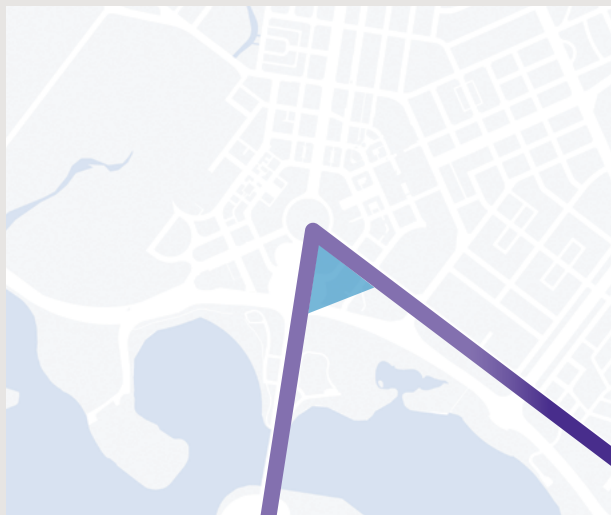
City Centre vs Town Centre – The City Centre services the whole of Canberra to meet the needs for higher-order goods, providing the highest level of employment than any other location in Canberra and a wide range of lifestyle choices. As a

consequence, the City Centre plays different roles in the local, regional and national needs. However, there is a gap in higher-order social infrastructure that serves a diverse regional population. This gap is becoming more prominent as Canberra grows and its role as the City Centre of the ACT strengthens.

Greening the City Centre – The urban heat island effect is created by the built environment absorbing, trapping and then releasing heat. Canberrans are increasingly suffering from the urban heat island effect. The City Centre recognises that urban density needs to be balanced with a natural environment, green spaces and trees to reduce urban heat island effects. The ACT has high sustainability targets which the City Centre needs to meet. This requires a policy framework to address the challenge.

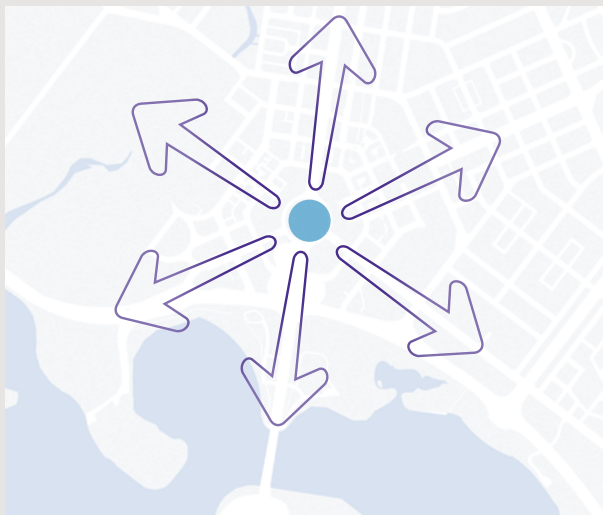
The draft City Plan update will set a framework responding to the challenges and provide future actions needed to achieve the vision.

MAP 5 The apex of the National Triangle



A strong synergy should be fostered between the City Centre and key facilities in the National Triangle.

MAP 6 Key viewsheds



The formal avenues converging on the City Hill park form a unique structure that reinforces the visual dominance to maximise views.



1.4 First Nations Context

Canberra is Ngunnawal country. The Ngunnawal people are the First Nations people of this region and its first inhabitants. The neighbouring people are the Gundungurra to the north, the Ngarigo to the south, the Yuin on the coast, and the Wiradjuri inland. It is a harsh climate and difficult country for hunter-gatherer people. To live here required great knowledge of the environment, skilful custodianship of it and close cooperation.

Planning for future development should begin with understanding of Country and its importance and connection for Ngunnawal people. Country is much more than just a place; it is the interconnections between Ngunnawal people, the landscape and all its values past, present and future. It is the lore, law, language and songlines of Country that guide Ngunnawal people in caring for Country.

Aligning with the district strategies, the draft City Plan commits to supporting the health and wellbeing of Country, about which we have so much more to learn. If we commit to valuing, respecting and being guided

by the Ngunnawal people – who know that if we care for Country it will care for us, then the learning journey gives us the best chance of success in caring for and connecting to Country as Canberra continues to develop.

Respectful collaborations and conversations are needed with the Ngunnawal, and other First Nations people where appropriate about Canberra's continued development. This includes recognition of Ngunnawal peoples' rights under the ACT Human Rights Act 2004 and delivery on the Closing the Gap, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement and Reconciliation Action

Plan targets.

The landform and terrain, waterways, vegetation, natural reserves of the ACT, and the native flora and fauna and humans it supports are the living embodiment of Country. These landscape elements are also fundamental to Canberra's evolving urban structure. They frame and dictate the footprint of urban design and development. The principle of caring for Country and that Country will care for you plays a significant role in the future design of the ACT.

Right: Smoking ceremony to open the City Walk Public Realm upgrades by the City Renewal Authority.



Top: Aerial view of Canberra from Mount Ainslie lookout



1.5 The Griffin Plan Legacy

Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's plan for 'the ideal city' envisaged a place where the city and its landscape setting were in harmony.

Griffin's winning design focussed on a series of artificial lakes along the existing Molonglo River and a triangular framework for a central national area laid out along major vistas from Mount Ainslie and Black Mountain. On the southern side of the central lake, Griffin proposed a terraced group of government offices leading to the 'Capitol', his place of the people (now the site of Parliament House). Lower hills in the valley were reserved for other government and national institutions, a university, military college and municipal buildings, including a city hall.

The Griffin Plan was intended to be enduring and to provide a robust framework to support the city's growth in changing conditions. It is resilient and provides flexibility to changing needs in areas such as technology, demography and economics. Canberra's structure reflects many components of the plan, however a number of its aspirations were never fully realised and are now being retrofitted.

Alterations to the plan, new plans and changing social trends over the past century have continued to influence the refinement of the planning framework, a process that must continue in order to ensure Canberra remains relevant, competitive and liveable.

The Griffin Plan continues to provide the underlying blueprint and soul of the city. Ideas developed in successive planning initiatives continue to be influential in current planning policy, including:

- The Future Canberra (1965)
- Tomorrow's Canberra (1970) introducing 'new towns' and the Y-Plan
- The Griffin Legacy (2004)

The 2004 Griffin Legacy project was undertaken by the NCA to provide a strategic framework for the Central National Area, its setting and the approach routes to accommodate the best of contemporary urban development in keeping with Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's original plan for the city.

The Griffin Legacy established a range of objectives that are relevant to this Plan, including:

- protecting and building on the Griffin Legacy
- linking the City Centre to the Central National Area
- extending the City Centre to the lake
- reinforcing the main avenues.

The Griffin Legacy asks for a transformation of the West Basin into a lively and spacious lakeside promenade, realising the City Hill precinct as the heart of the City Centre and Constitution Avenue becoming a grand boulevard.

Amendments to the National Capital Plan (NCP) provide strategic directions for the transformation of the City Hill precinct, the rejuvenation of Constitution Avenue and the redevelopment of West Basin.

The significant growth and change in the City Centre over time can be seen in the historic aerial images shown to the right. As indicated, the structure of the City Centre started to be realised in 1951 with the establishment of the Sydney and Melbourne buildings, and the London Circuit boulevard. Development across the City Centre rapidly followed with the construction of City East and City West precincts and the formalisation of Lake Burley Griffin. The centre piece of the City Centre surrounding the City Hill precinct has vastly remained undeveloped with more recent development occurring in relation to the ACT courts and theatre precincts and in City West.



1930 Canberra was little more than a country town in the 1930s with a population of around 10,000. This image shows the Melbourne and Sydney buildings framing the gateway to Northbourne Avenue and the City Hill park.

From Plan to Reality



1951 The Griffin Plan's strong geometry starts to shape Canberra's future form. The Melbourne and Sydney buildings are completed (circa 1946) and are the City Centre's premier retail traders block.



1958 Early works on Lake Burley Griffin and the ANU administration buildings and research facilities begins, and the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) is created.



1972 The Griffin Plan's centrepiece is realised with Lake Burley Griffin's opening in 1964. Its development creates north and south Canberra and establishes a distinctive image of the national capital. In 1975, between Alinga Street and Binara Street, City Walk is established as a pedestrian mall.



1998 In the mid-1980s, Canberra is well established as a national capital and a city in its own right. With the advent of self-government in 1989, the NCDC is dismantled, and planning responsibilities is divided between the National Capital Planning Authority (NCPA) and the Territory Planning Authority.



2012 By 2001, the National Museum of Australia is visible on the Acton Peninsula. Increased density in the City Centre and surrounding communities is visible, and the form of the City Centre is dominated by surface parking.



2022 Canberra's Light Rail Stage 1 is opened in 2019, with Stages 2A and 2B to follow. Many of the surface parking lots visible in 2012 have since been redeveloped. Along London Circuit, we see the Supreme Court buildings and the early stages of construction of the ABC flats and along Vernon Circle.

1.6 Planning and Regulatory Context

The City Centre has a multi-faceted role as the most important metropolitan centre, the apex of the National Triangle, a location astride an important entrance route to Canberra and the Parliamentary Zone, and a significant element in the physical structure of central Canberra.

The Australian Government through the National Capital Authority (NCA), and the ACT Government share planning responsibility in the ACT.

The lands under the purview of the NCA are ‘designated areas’ of the National Capital Plan (NCP). The NCP provides planning and design guidelines, both strategic and detailed, for the most historically or culturally significant areas within the Territory. The key matters of national significance include:

- the role of Canberra as the National Capital
- preserving and enhancing the character that comes from the natural landscape that Canberra is planned within
- respecting the key elements of Griffin’s formally adopted plan for Canberra
- creating and enhancing opportunities for national institutions, ceremonies and national capital uses

- respect for environmental values and national concerns with urban sustainability.

The Territory Plan

The Territory Plan is the key statutory planning document that provides the planning framework for the administration of land use and planning in the ACT. The purpose of the Territory Plan is to manage land use change in a manner consistent with strategic directions set by the ACT Government, Legislative Assembly and the community. The provision and administration of the Territory Plan must be “in a manner not inconsistent with the National Capital Plan”.

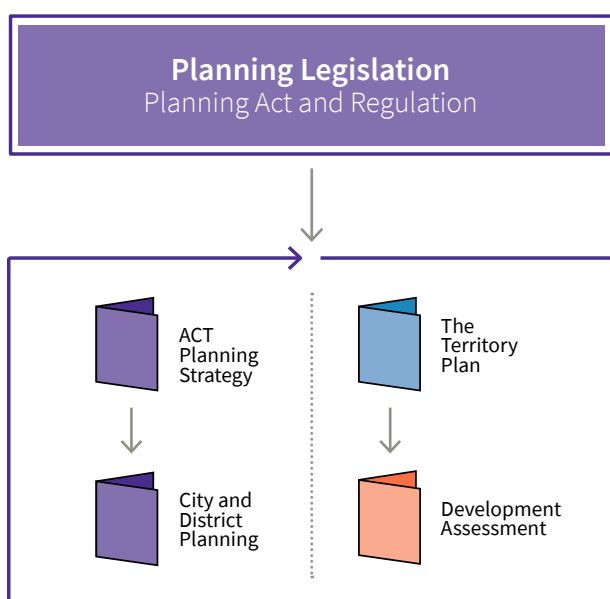
A new draft Territory Plan has been proposed, which will be a key element for achieving an outcome-focussed approach and delivering on strategic and spatial planning directions.

The aim of a new outcome-focussed Territory Plan is to encourage innovation and high-quality design

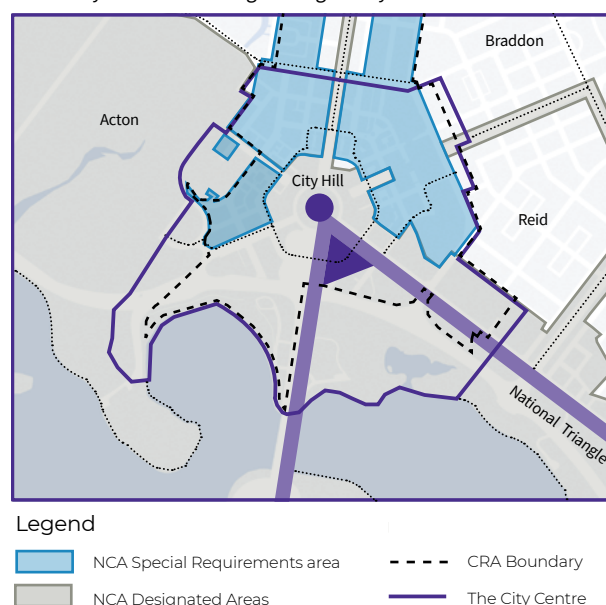
rather than focus on prescriptive rules and criteria as currently exist. The new planning system will outline expected outcomes and identify ways of achieving those outcomes. There will still be measures, however the connection between those measures and an outcome will be clearer and will aim to allow for innovation in providing a solution.

District planning is a new strategic element in the revised planning system to provide greater spatial and policy direction at a district scale. It provides the opportunity to develop policy and indicate future directions at a district scale, allowing for managing growth and change strategically within and between districts.

District planning also provides the opportunity to reflect the distinctive character of each district in the planning system. This will be evident for the City Centre as an integral part of the draft Inner North and City District Strategy.



MAP 7 City Centre - Planning and regulatory context



The draft district strategy for the Inner North and City provides a strategic framework to help guide planning work that is being or will be done at more detailed scales (such as a precinct, corridor or place). This includes the draft City Plan. The engagement on the Inner North and City should be referred to the draft City Plan and there will be further opportunities for the community to provide more place-specific feedback at this stage of development.

The National Capital Plan

The NCP is the strategic plan and statutory for the ACT managed by the NCA on behalf of the Australian Government. The NCP ensures Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance.

The areas that are considered to be of national importance and are highlighted as 'designated areas' within the NCP include the Central National Area, national institutions, diplomatic areas, Lake Burley Griffin, approach routes to the City Centre and hills, ridges and buffers. The designated areas are indicated on Map 7 in the City Centre surrounding the City Hill precinct, in City South-East, and West Basin and Acton Waterfront.

The City Renewal Authority

The City Renewal Authority (CRA) was established in 2017 as an implementation agency to guide the city's urban renewal. The CRA helps to shape the growth and renewal of the central parts of Canberra through their City Renewal Precinct, which covers the Northbourne Corridor in Lyneham through to the City Centre. Five areas covered by

the CRA's precinct scope fall within the draft City Plan's footprint as shown on Map 7.

City Centre Entertainment Precinct

The ACT Government is establishing designated entertainment precincts in key centres through new provisions in the Territory Plan, starting with an entertainment precinct for the City Centre. As an action of the Entertainment Action Plan 2019, the establishment of City Centre Entertainment Precinct will require changes to planning and noise controls, as well as to building, trading and licensing requirements.

Technical studies are currently underway to identify the required changes to policy, planning, legislation and regulation to support the introduction of the precinct into the Territory Plan.

History

The ACT is rich in natural, architectural and cultural heritage and there are a number of sites with heritage significance within the City Centre.



Left: In 1983 Glebe Park was given a heritage listing by the National Trust of Australia and the Australian Heritage Commission. The 160 year old park is a remnant of a 40 hectare block of land allocated by Robert Campbell to the Anglican Church in the early 1840s for use as a glebe, an area of land whose revenues contribute towards parish expenses.



Above and right: The Sydney and Melbourne buildings are City Centre's key landmark buildings, framing the gateway to Northbourne Avenue and the City Hill park. Constructed between 1926 and 1946, the buildings were designed as the City Centre's premier 'retail trader's block'.



1.7 A Growing and Diverse City Centre

CITY CENTRE SNAPSHOT (2011 TO 2021)

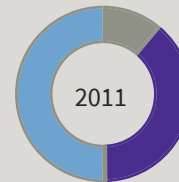
ABS census data 2011 and 2021



+50%
Increase in
TOTAL POPULATION
from 2011 to 2021

● 2011
● 2021

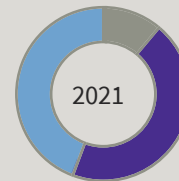
50%
of respondents were
born elsewhere



39%
of respondents were
born in Australia

● not stated

44%
of respondents were
born elsewhere



45%
of respondents were
born in Australia



MEDIAN AGE
increased from
24 to 27
years of age



TENURE TYPE
Rented dwellings have
decreased from
75% to 61%
and owner occupiers
increased from
24% to 37%



MEDIAN INCOME
has risen by
125%



**HOUSEHOLD
COMPOSITION**
The number of family
households has exceeded
the single person household

CITY CENTRE (2022)

(2021) - This information is collected from ABS census data 2021

Household size

1.7 persons
(average)



Car ownership

22% Not owned
59% One
18% Two or more



Median weekly rent

\$550 per week

Bedrooms

2% Studio
36% One bedroom
50% Two bedrooms
12% Three bedrooms
or more



Gender Men and Women

50/50



Age Group

2% 0-4 years
2% 5-14 years
11% 15-19 years
24% 20-24 years
32% 25-34 years
11% 35-44 years
7% 45-54 years
6% 55-64 years
4% 65-74 years
2% 75-84 years
<1% 85 years +

Tenure type

15% Owned outright
22% Mortgage
61% Rented
1% Other tenure type

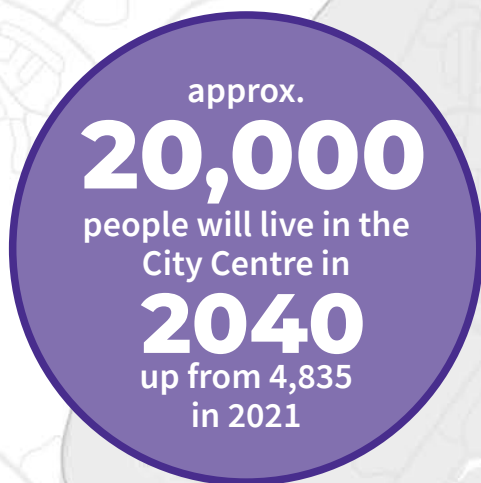


Household composition

45% Family
43% Single (or lone)
person
11% Group



TOWARDS 2040



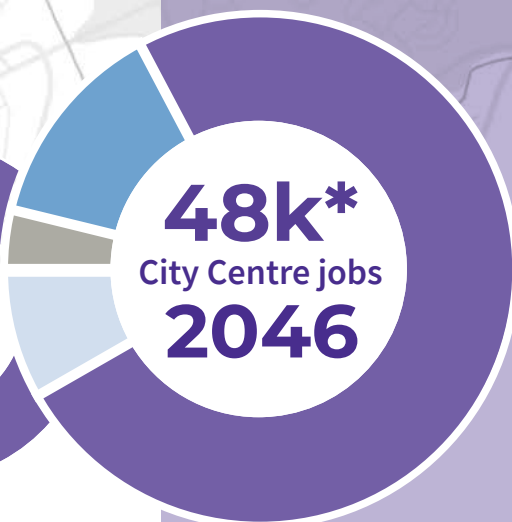
By 2040
8,000
additional
dwellings
will be
needed

Achieve
30%
tree canopy cover
(or equivalent) and
30% permeable
surfaces in Canberra's
urban footprint by
2045



Employment

- Knowledge intensive
- Health and education
- Population serving
- Industrial



*Employment Data are based on the Civic boundary which is the reduced City Centre boundary. Future job forecasts were calibrated to the 2016 baseline suggested by the CSTM transport model and information for the District Strategy.

1.8 Recent and Planned Development

Over the past decade, the City Centre has experienced significant development and redevelopment in response to the needs of a growing population. Since 2014, improvements to key infrastructure and the public realm have transformed the City Centre into a dynamic place to live, work and play.

With the completion of Light Rail Stage 1 in 2019, sights were set on the next phase of light rail that would extend the network south to the Woden Town Centre. The design of the next phase is well underway, and Light Rail Stage 2A includes the extension from Northbourne Avenue to Commonwealth Park, including

the raising of London Circuit to accommodate the transition from London Circuit to Commonwealth Avenue and beyond. The public realm has also received significant attention with major civil works to extend Constitution and Edinburgh Avenues to the City Hill park, realising Griffins' original

intention for the City Centre, and the regeneration of key pedestrian areas, including City Walk. The city skyline has also experienced a transition with significant development and redevelopment occurring in the City Centre, as depicted in the image on this page.



UNSW Campus stage 1 to open in 2025

ABC Flats redevelopment completed in 2022

Constitution Avenue public realm upgrade completed in 2017

City Walk public realm upgrade completed in 2020

Canberra Civic and Culture District including new Canberra Theatre

Light Rail Stage 2A will extend the Canberra Light Rail network from Canberra City to Commonwealth Park

Light Rail Stage 1 service commenced on the 20th April 2019

Great cities do not happen by accident – they are designed and curated so that individual private and public developments work together to create cohesive blocks, character areas and precincts.

Acton Waterfront will be a new mixed-use urban neighbourhood on the lakefront with high quality places that will attract people

Raising London Circuit is a major city-shaping project which will better connect the City Centre with the lake

Supreme Court Expansion completed in 2020

ANU Acton Campus Master Plan 2019

1.9 Climate Change and Living Infrastructure

Globally, climate change is one of the biggest challenges humanity faces. Research shows that if we continue to release greenhouse gases at current rates, our climate will reach a dangerous tipping point in the coming decades, resulting in irreversible changes to the Earth's systems.

The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019–25 states that by 2045 Canberra will be a smart, modern and highly liveable net zero emissions city that is leading by example to address the global challenge of climate change. The draft City Plan builds on the ACT's sustainability efforts and responds in an intelligent, localised and community-focussed way by implementing strategic directions and actions that address City Centre residents' and businesses' social, economic and cultural wellbeing. As a prosperous, educated and progressive community, the City Centre is ideally placed to showcase to the world how to meet this global challenge.

The ACT has made good progress on climate change action in recent years and is internationally recognised for achieving 100% renewable electricity in 2019, including a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Achieving these targets continues to drive innovation in energy and transport industries, helping businesses and households save energy costs, improving government productivity and introducing new technologies and practices to the community.

Living Infrastructure

Canberra's living infrastructure – trees, plants, soils and water systems – help make Canberra a special place to live. Canberrans and visitors highly appreciate this natural environment.

Canberra is growing at one of the fastest rates of any capital city in Australia. Population projections indicate that our city will need to cater for more than 600,000 people by 2050. Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City provides strategic direction to help our expanding and densifying metropolitan areas to become better prepared for and more resilient to climate change. It identifies options and opportunities provided by living

infrastructure measures to enable us to continue to enjoy the benefits of:

- climate resilience
- the amenities of nature
- economic prosperity
- health and wellbeing.

Through the ACT Planning Strategy 2018, the ACT Government has set a development target of 70% within the existing urban footprint. Particularly in the City Centre, this increase in urban density needs to be balanced with the natural environment by increasing green spaces and trees.

The actions identified in Part 04 will advocate for how the City Centre is planned, designed, constructed and managed in a way that values, incorporates and protects natural assets.

A key goal of the draft City Plan is to adopt and progress towards targets by 2040 that provide the City Centre's urban footprint with the equivalent benefits of 30% tree canopy cover and 30% permeable surfaces. Achieving this will require action on public and private land and rests heavily on a strong collaborative and collective effort.

Implementing draft City Plan to 2040 and beyond will help Canberra's growing City Centre adapt to the challenges presented by climate change and retain and enhance its attractiveness as a liveable, prosperous and sustainable 'city in the landscape'. It will encourage and promote equity of access to the benefits of living infrastructure through a planned, cooperative and locally responsive approach. It will also help safeguard the functioning of our landscape and the water, soil, biodiversity and wildlife systems that it supports and which we as a community depend on.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Climate-wise City Centre

- To reduce the risks from the key climate change impacts of heatwaves, droughts, storms and bushfires, through resilient living infrastructure.

Nature in the City Centre

- To conserve and enhance the City Centre's biodiversity and landscape function, quality of life and sustainability, which are reliant on our urban forest, open spaces, wildlife and water systems.

Prosperous City Centre

- To recognise that our landscapes, with living infrastructure asset components, are essential to our economic prosperity, creating revenue and jobs.

Healthy City Centre

- Promote community-wide health and wellbeing through access to nature, providing recreational, fitness and relaxation opportunities and improving mental health.

Right: The adjacent infographic illustrates how the ACT is affected by climate change (AdaptNSW Copyright © 2022). The climate change projections are drawn from the NSW and ACT Regional Climate Modelling (NARCLIM) projects. NARCLIM is a multi-agency research partnership between the NSW and ACT governments and the Climate Change Research Centre at the University of NSW.

PROJECTED CHANGES: AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



Hot days are increasing



Cold nights are decreasing

NEAR FUTURE 2020-2039



Maximum temperatures increase

↑ 0.6 – 0.9°C

Minimum temperatures increase

↑ 0.4 – 0.7°C



↑ Rainfall to increase in summer & autumn



↓ Rainfall to decrease in spring



↑ Average fire weather is projected to increase in spring, summer and winter

FAR FUTURE 2060-2079



Maximum temperatures increase

↑ 1.4 – 2.3°C

Minimum temperatures increase

↑ 1.4 – 2.3°C



↑ Severe fire weather is projected to increase in summer & spring

AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY



REGIONAL IMPACTS

URBAN CENTRE

EXTREME HEAT,
STORM
Cooling demand,
health and wellbeing

BUSHLAND

BUSHFIRE
Ecosystems,
health and wellbeing



EXTREME HEAT
Cooling demand,
tourism

BUSHFIRE,
EXTREME HEAT
Cooling demand,
health and wellbeing

TOURISM

SUBURBAN FRINGE



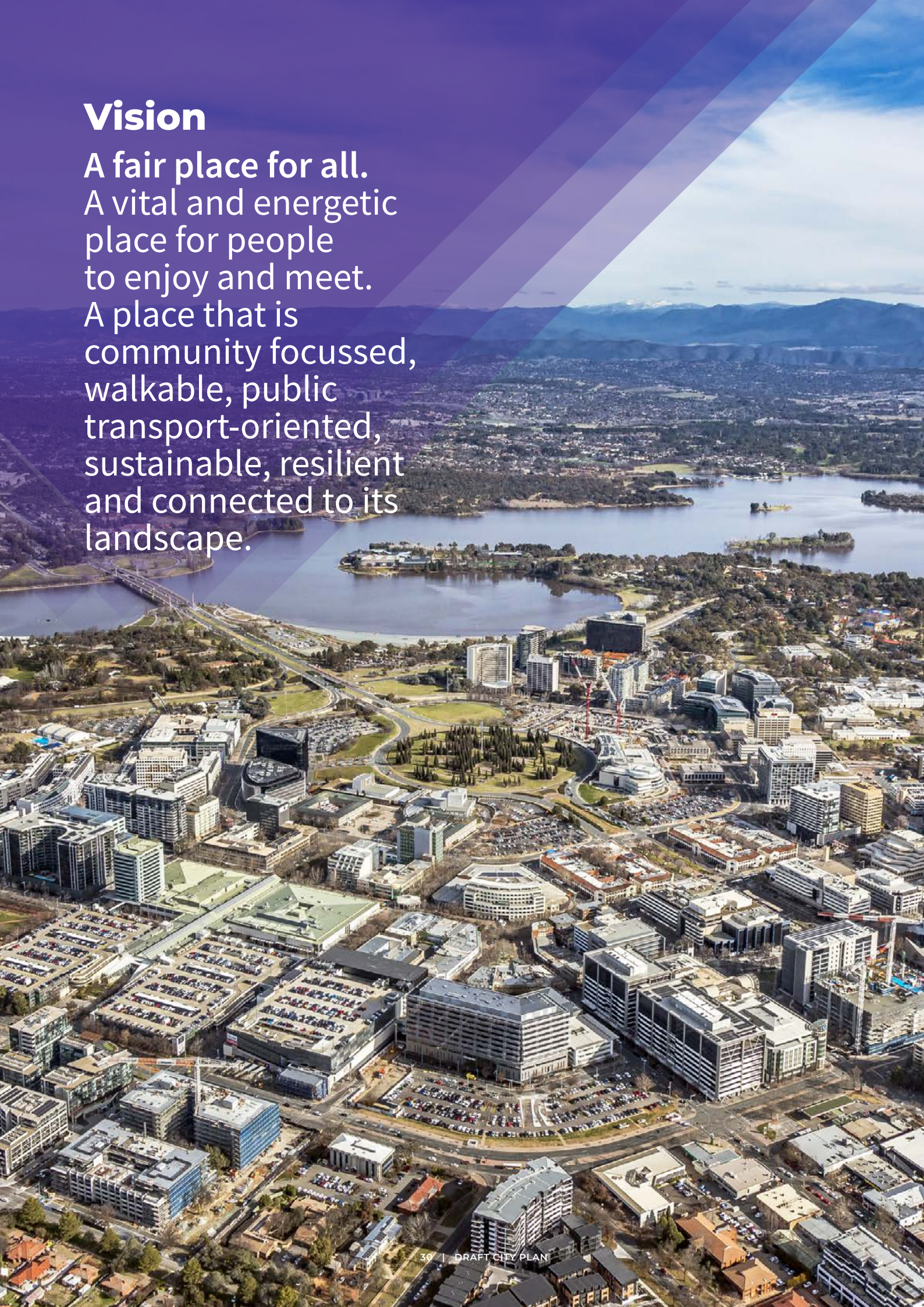
NO

02 CITY PLAN 2040



Vision

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.



02 City Plan 2040

2.1 The Journey to 2040

The City Centre is Canberra's beating heart and the focal point of its commerce and culture. It plays an integral role in helping Canberra reach its full potential as the capital of the Territory, region and nation. The draft City Plan seeks to bring about further improvements and changes to the way the City Centre operates both now and in the future. The Plan provides a single unifying framework that outlines the Government's vision for the City Centre and identifies priority directions and actions needed to achieve its full potential. This update to the 2014 City Plan is the start of the conversation, a living document that will continue to evolve as the Government takes on the community's hopes and vision for the City Centre.

To make sure the City Centre can accommodate its expected future growth and meet its ambitions, the updated draft City Plan looks to 2040 and beyond, setting out an ambitious long-term vision framed around six refreshed strategic themes and an increased focus on achieving better urban design and place outcomes. The themes represented are supported by several priority directions and actions intended to strengthen the core functions of the City Centre, making it easier to live, work, study, grow and invest. The six themes constitute the goals of the Plan and are referenced throughout.

This update to the draft City Plan was initiated by the ACT Government in 2021 to respond to the many changes that have occurred in the planning and development environment of the City Centre since 2014 and those planned changes that are yet to be realised. This draft City Plan update includes an extensive internal review of the 2014 City Plan to promote consistency with current ACT Government strategies and policies to provide a revised implementation framework and corresponding actions for this important part of Canberra.

A critical part of the update is the analysis of the current and future state of the City Centre.

Below: Held in the City Centre over three days, Canberra's National Multicultural Festival is Australia's largest and attracts up to 200,000 visitors. Photo credit: ACT Government Community Services Directorate.



2.2 Draft Spatial Framework

The draft spatial framework has been developed so that the themes, priority directions and actions of the draft City Plan are balanced with the overarching elements of the built and natural environment and social and economic development. The balancing of these considerations aims to achieve a City Centre that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable beyond 2040. The draft spatial framework should be considered a 'live' document that will evolve and expand as further studies, investigations, strategic plans and policy positions are developed.

Notably, the draft spatial framework lays the foundation for the Canberra City Centre Urban Design Framework, which combines strategic directions and place-based responses with an understanding of spatial implications and delivery. The Urban Design Framework (UDF) serves a critical role in bridging the gap between the high-level vision and priority directions and actions of the draft City Plan and the future development

of the City Centre. The UDF considers each of the City Centre's precincts and character areas in more detail and includes an overview of the requirements and considerations for attaining design excellence.

The draft City Plan update directly responds to a number of drivers for change in the City Centre, including:

→ employment growth in new and emerging sectors

→ key government and institutional investments in transport, education and health

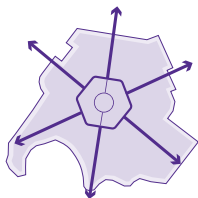
→ a growing population with diverse needs in terms of housing types and access to infrastructure and services

→ creating more people-focussed streets and places that capitalise on investments in transport.

Strategic Goals

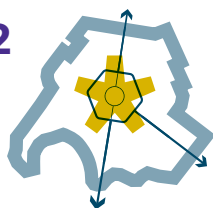
Responding to these drivers are the strategic goals below that have shaped the development of the draft spatial framework.

01



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.

02



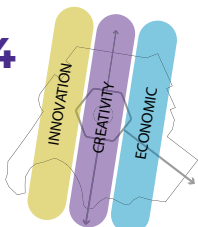
An identifiable approach route, which increases in formality on approach to the City Centre and which clearly signifies the symbolic and functional roles of the National Capital.

03



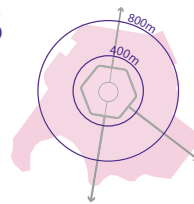
An easy-to-access, people-first destination that offers unique business opportunities and a wide range of lifestyle options for diverse communities and a distinct urban culture.

04



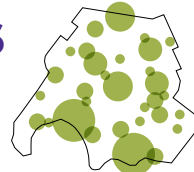
A place-based approach to development and urban renewal with a strong focus on design excellence, providing a diversity of housing choices, sustainability and innovation.

05



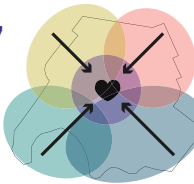
A public transport supportive urban environment that balances movement and place with significant provision and priority for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.

06



A biodiverse urban environment with generous planting on buildings, the public realm, streets and open spaces, which create memorable places to support public life.

07



A unified City Centre, comprised of five precincts each with their own unique character, united as the heart of Canberra.

08



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.



Draft Spatial Framework

Legend

--- City Centre boundary	Active frontage	Pedestrian focused road treatment
Existing buildings	Visual/temporary activation frontage	Activation opportunities
Potential new development site	Adaptable frontage	* Publicly accessible open space
Heritage overlay	Future theatre development site	* Gateway site
Precinct heart	UNSW project area	* Landmark building
Park and civic spaces	CRA development site	ANU Master plan site
Open space	High quality streetscape	Pedestrian plaza
Road layout	City cycle loop	Draft City Centre Entertainment Precinct boundary
Proposed road alignment in ANU Master plan	Green link bridge	Blue-green corridor
Vehicle laneway	Light rail network	Proposed high speed rail alignment
Pedestrian laneway	Key pedestrian links	Indicative Garden City Cycle Route

2.3 City Plan Themes

The draft City Plan is underpinned by six key themes that provide the framework for decision making and identifying priority directions and actions. These themes carry over from the City Plan 2014 and have been updated to reflect current policy directions and priorities. Each theme is supported by five priority objectives devised to position the City Centre as a hub of knowledge, innovation and creativity, a global talent attractor and an excellent location for local and international events and celebrations with an enviable quality of life.

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
- Initiate creative projects with City Centre stakeholders to bring imagination and creativity into the everyday experience of the 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



Christmas in the City, structure by CPS, graphics by Julia Slawsoki, Source: City Renewal Authority



Theme 1 Sustainable Growth

Planning for sustainable growth is an important theme that will help make sure that the City Centre can continue to grow and support demand for urban living while building long-term resilience across its economy and environment by creating opportunities for innovation and the knowledge economy within existing and emerging industries, research and education.

A Focal Point for Canberra's Commerce and Culture

Growth will see the City Centre's role as the ACT's prime commercial centre reinforced to attract people and investment. The predominance of government-related activity in the City Centre will remain reflected in workforce characteristics, focussing on professional occupations and service industries.

Supporting the growth of existing uses that differentiate the City Centre from other centres will be a priority. Building upon the education, innovation, culture and entertainment industries will see these sectors continue to bring people and investment to the City Centre and support its economic resilience.

Targeted Infill Development

The City Centre holds latent development capacity through undeveloped and underdeveloped sites and untenanted commercial premises. There is significant capacity to support commercial and residential growth over the life of the plan further supporting the needs of the City Centre's growing population.

Future residential development in the City Centre will offer a greater diversity of housing choices. Population growth will help increase activity generally and catalyse new opportunities across commercial sectors.

Adaptive Reuse

Sustainable growth requires development that is adaptable and responsive to economic change, changing lifestyles and a changing natural environment. Adaptability will ensure that future spaces maintain relevance and serviceability.

Policy settings that support the adaptive reuse of existing building stock and creative leasing options that avoid long-term untenanted buildings will support business diversity, innovation and resilience.

Leading with Land Use Planning

Leading with land use planning, growth will be delivered in a strategic and coordinated manner. This will see government investment maximised to deliver initiatives, such as infrastructure and public realm improvements, where they will have the most significant benefit. Land release will be staged in response to market conditions and broader structural changes in the City Centre.

Land use planning will reinforce existing and establish new key activity nodes throughout the City Centre to ensure a greater vibrancy in the City Centre while also ensuring services are appropriately available and located for residents, workers and visitors.

Fostering Innovation in Sustainability

Sustainable growth requires working towards greater climate resiliency and exploring new opportunities for: greater energy, water and natural resource conservation; public and private sector investment in green infrastructure so ecological systems and habitats can thrive and further enrich the City Centre; creating an environment where people value and actively contribute towards the ongoing improvement of the City Centre. Together this can encourage innovation and enhance the community's and stakeholders' capacity to reduce the City Centre's ecological footprint and create a resilient, diverse and attractive environment that evokes pride, passion and a greater sense of place attachment.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

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



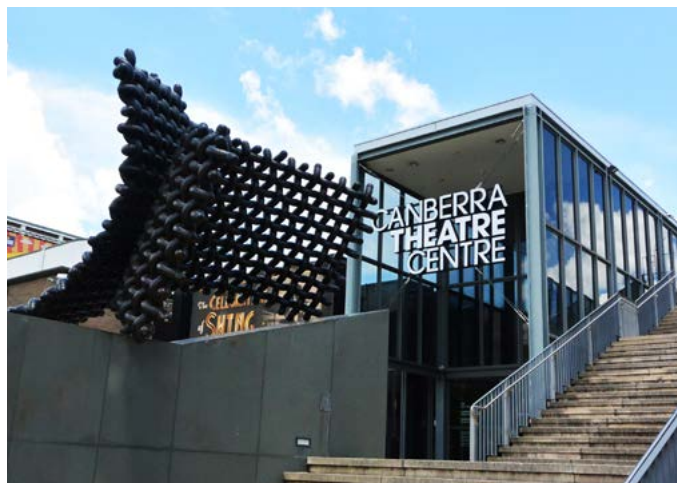
Left: People enjoying walkable green spaces in the City Centre

Below: Public art helps to add colour and life to our City



Left: Redevelopment of the Canberra Theatre precinct is proposed in coming years

Right: City renewal activation at the Acton Waterfront



Below: Aerial view of New Acton





Theme 2 Diverse City Centre

Encourage a City Centre that strengthens its role as Canberra's primary business, education, retail, cultural and entertainment destination with memorable experiences that can't be found elsewhere.

Planning for a Diverse City Centre

Concentrating investment and development in strategic City Centre locations, starting with key nodes and corridors, will maximise current and planned infrastructure investment and attract more investment over time. New residential development coupled with a concentration of jobs, cultural amenities, hotels, actively programmed plazas and parks and other public amenities centred around public transport will create internal momentum from the proximity of activity.

Activity Centres

As the City Centre continues to grow and evolve, a more balanced distribution and diversity of land use, dwelling types, population and employment types will become increasingly important. Concentrating employment, commercial, community and residential uses together will help ensure a more active, sustainable and diverse City Centre with a reduced need to travel between different land uses. The co-location of complementary activities has been shown to yield positive economic,

environmental and social benefits, particularly in the face of external market forces and major urban changes.

The City Centre's optimum location for increasing development intensity is underpinned by proximity to public transport and open space, protecting important cultural destinations and heritage, and suitable built form transitions to surrounding areas.

Community Facilities

As the population of the City Centre grows, there will be a further need to review the demand and provision of community facilities generally. Future demand for community facilities will be identified and planned for, focussing on delivering adaptable multi-use buildings and well-connected clusters of facilities.

Culture is Key

Canberra has the ambition to be recognised as Australia's arts capital. The City Centre has a number of significant cultural destinations and forms the apex of the National Triangle. Together with the City Centre's diverse calendar of events, investment in placemaking and built heritage exemplifies the best

of what's on offer in Canberra.

Celebrating and amplifying this, coupled with providing a higher degree of interconnectivity between destinations, is key to activating and promoting the City Centre.

Leading with culture has the potential to become the driving force of the City Centre's vibrancy, a contributor to its prosperity and an agent for showcasing the amazing culture and creativity of our city. It also makes sure that the distinctive history of the City Centre is celebrated while it experiences growth and change.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

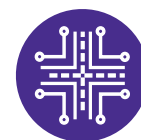
- 1 Right infrastructure in the right place to support population growth and employment.
- 2 Prioritise an inclusive, safe and inviting City Centre built with a people focus.
- 3 Leverage culture to shape the evolving identity of the City Centre.
- 4 Create a network of mixed-use activity centres and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



Above: Ephemeral in Civic Square by Alter Sisu for Englighten Festival
Source: City Revival Authority



Above: City Walk
Source: City Revival Authority



Theme 3 Movement and Place

A well-connected and accessible City Centre that maximises the nexus between residential, commercial and community uses and public transport with pedestrian-friendly highly active streets and public spaces that are inclusive, fair and safe.

A Prosperous and Connected City Centre

The most successful city centres are ones where people do not rely on cars as their primary mode of travel, and daily needs and essentials are accessible by active transport options. Access to active transport has numerous well-documented benefits, including supporting ageing in place, accessibility, health and wellbeing, mobility and active lifestyles. By design, all modes of transport should support wheelchairs, mobility aids and walking and cycling for local trips.

A Connected City and Region

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) are implementing a Movement and Place Framework as identified in the 2020 ACT Transport Strategy. The framework provides a base for balancing the dual function of streets: moving people and goods; and enhancing the places they connect and pass through. It acknowledges that the needs and expectations of placemaking and land use differ for different spaces and places. Realising successful spaces and places means better integrating land use and transport planning to support the community and freight to move safely, efficiently and reliably while enhancing the liveability and amenity of spaces and places.

The Movement and Place Framework ensures the management of the road network in a way that enables people to travel to, from and within the City Centre easily. Balanced, high-quality roads, cycling paths and pedestrian paths support the creation of attractive places for people and strong local economies to develop and thrive.

Successful Places and Walkability

Successful places include attractive spaces where people can meet and enjoy their leisure time, such as parks and open spaces, community facilities, recreation areas and waterways. Providing easy access to these spaces encourages people to be more physically active and increases place attachment through social interaction.

The strategic advantage of the City Centre is its walkability and numerous destinations. Suburban environments can only offer separate activities connected by car. Because pedestrians judge every detail of every step, intentional human-scaled design is critical for new and retrofit buildings that frame the City Centre's public realm and streets.

Critical to the City Centre's success is connecting places and destinations that work to keep people walking one more block – filling vacant spaces and empty lots, repairing and widening footpaths, improving accessibility, wayfinding and lighting, and adding elements that provide climate relief throughout the year.

Importantly, traffic in the City Centre also needs to move at the speed of the pedestrian to give a level of safety and comfort whether walking, cycling or crossing streets. Every trip begins and ends as a pedestrian, so it's an experience shared by everyone who lives, works and plays in the City Centre.

Change is Happening

Stage 1 of Canberra's light rail network has been delivered, and with Stages 2A and 2B now underway, urban development and renewal are rapidly transforming the City Centre.

As Canberra's urban population grows, we must proactively plan for the future to ensure an inclusive, connected and accessible City Centre.

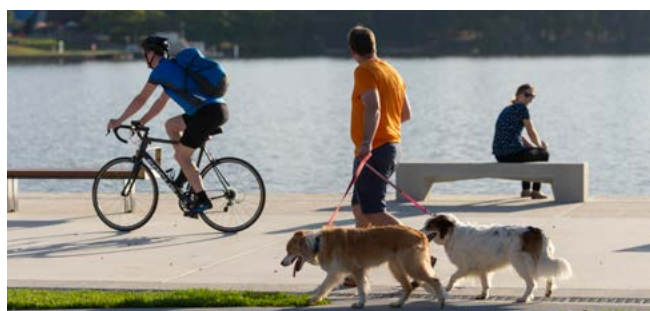
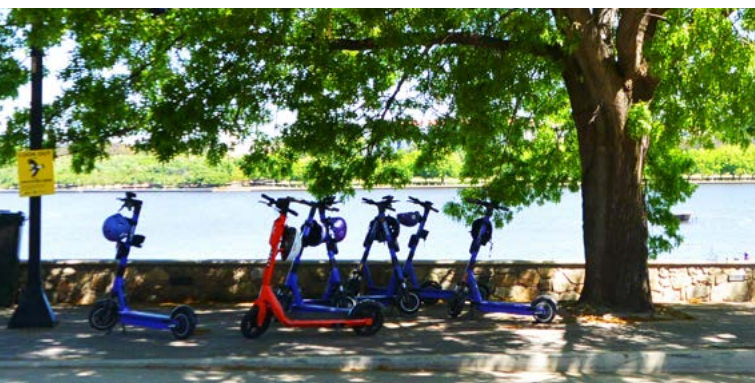
This requires concentrating investment and development at key nodes, corridors and strategic centres. This will ensure the value of current and planned infrastructure investment is maximised over time.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

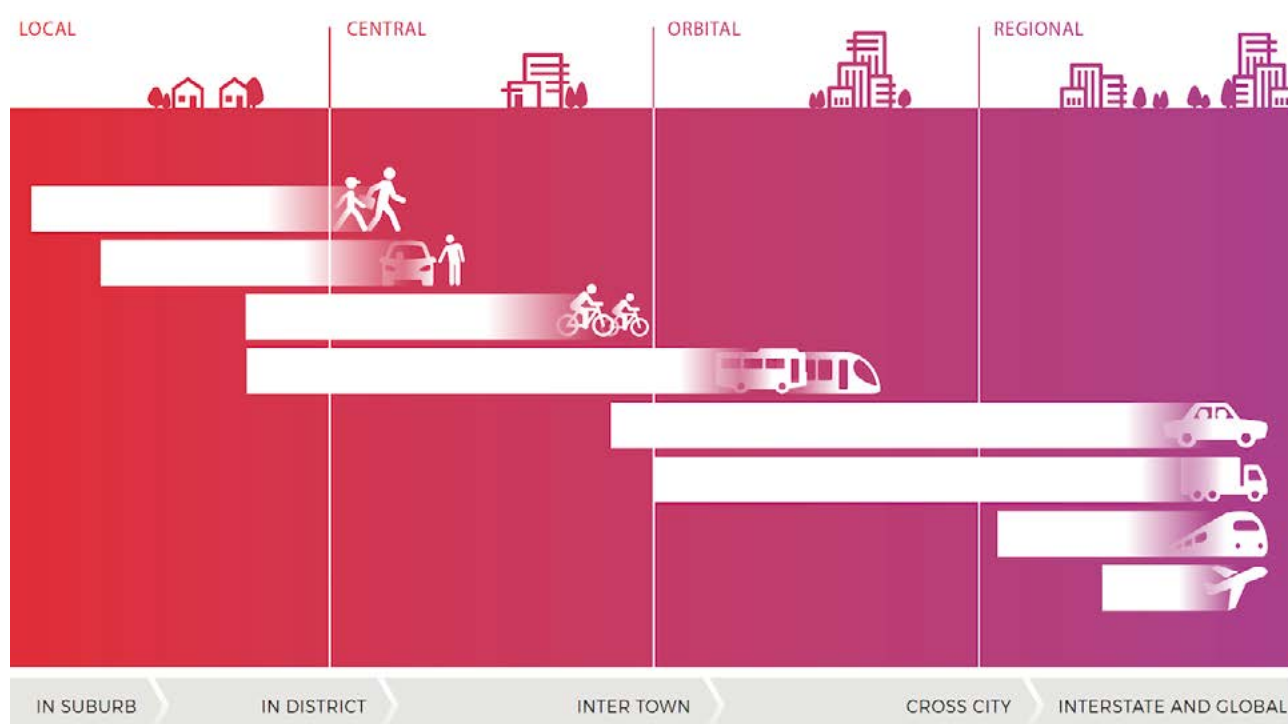
- 1 Dramatically increase public transport ridership and active modes of travel to, from and within the City Centre.
- 2 Improve universal accessibility everywhere so it is easy and safe to move around for all Canberrans.
- 3 Deliver well-designed streets and places that prioritise walking, cycling and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

Below: A range of transport options to move in and around the City Centre

Right: Bicycle parking infrastructure



The ACT Movement and Place concept provides the backbone of Canberra's future transport network and actively encourages people to make appropriate transport choices depending on their destination, purpose and time of day.



Today's Choices

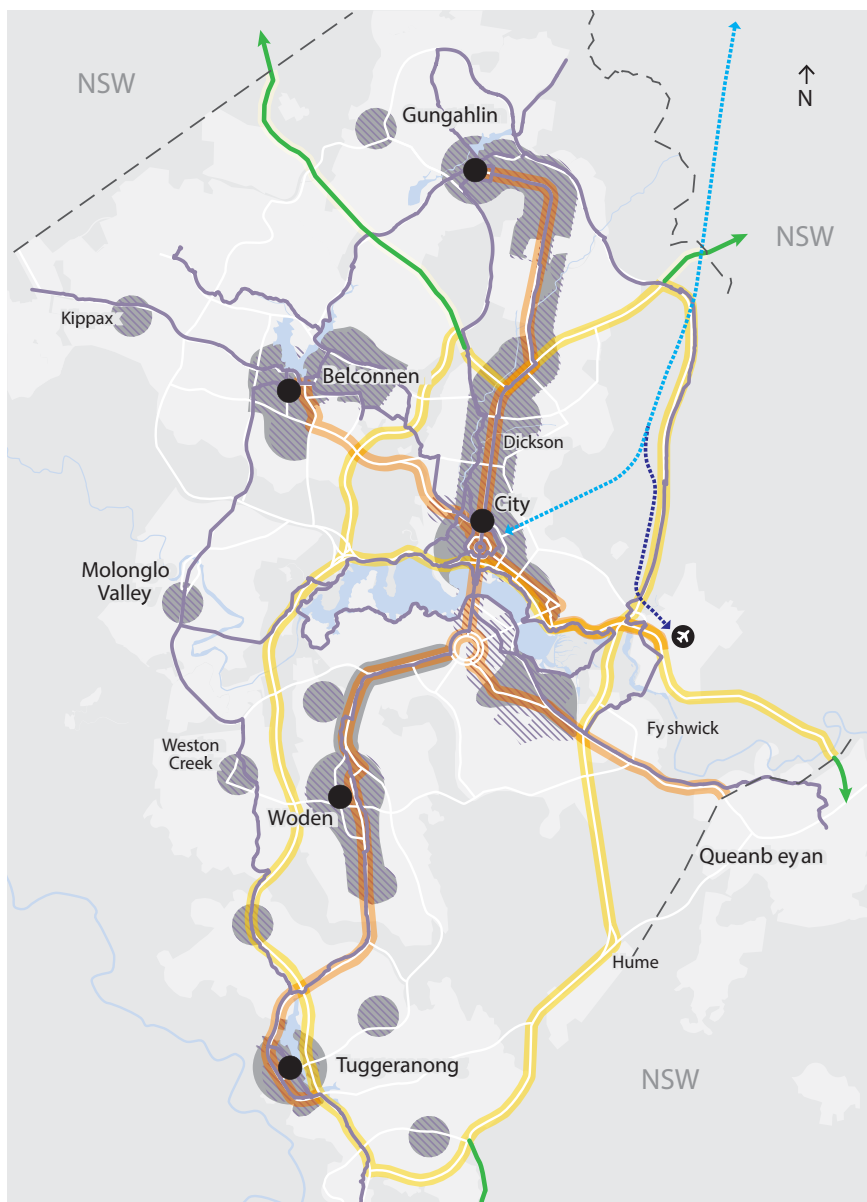
Change is occurring rapidly, which presents challenges when predicting future technologies and customer trends. While it is impossible to predict the future, the options and plans we put in place today will continue to benefit the City Centre and ACT well into the future. This includes providing necessary infrastructure to support zero-emission vehicles.

Change brings with it the opportunity to influence future travel patterns and behaviours, identify areas for development, renewal and potential land release, improve safety and reduce the cost of providing infrastructure. Achieving this requires long-term, agile transport planning that supports a productive economy, liveable communities and smart and sustainable multimodal transport solutions.

Canberra's Future Public Transport System

Canberra's future public transport system will have a high-capacity light rail network at its core. The first stage of the north-south spine between City and Gungahlin is already operating. Together with the delivery of the second stage from City to Woden, the north-south spine will represent a major and lasting investment in the shape and wellbeing of the city for future generations. This spine will later be completed by an east-west corridor to service the large demand for travel across our city.

While COVID-19 has brought forward emerging trends such as working from home and associated reduction in travel demand, the long-term ambition of high-quality light rail to lead a compact and efficient land use pattern will remain relevant to shape the sustainability, liveability and vibrancy of our city.



ACT Transport Policy Map - Conceptual transport network 2045

Source: ACT Transport Strategy 2020

- Regional Links
- ... High Speed Rail Alignment
- ... Alternative
- Key Central Links
- Key Orbital Links
- Other Central Orbital Links
- Local Links and Future Walkable Places
- Town Centres
- Urban Intensification Areas



Theme 4 Community

Our City Centre is where people from all backgrounds, ages and income levels can represent their needs and concerns and take part in decisions that affect them. All residents will feel safe and at home, and visitors will be welcomed.

A Growing Community

The communities that make up the City Centre are growing each year and, with growth, come exciting opportunities. However, we also need to plan and support our communities to ensure they thrive and are able to change over time so that people and places remain connected, inclusive and cohesive.

This requires providing a diversity of safe and welcoming places, services, programs, events and participatory processes to create opportunities for community connections, including connections to culture and family.

Celebrating the diversity of our cultures and the richness this diversity brings to the City Centre requires recognising the right of all people to be different, respected and valued. Achieving this means doing things differently – from where we meet and how we work together with the community, to the language used and actions practised.

Community Building

Community building actively fosters strong, resilient and connected communities, amplifies local community voices, and enhances the capacity of communities and individuals to achieve their goals.

As an approach, it requires people, groups and organisations to work together to build connections, understanding and confidence. This enables shared identities and aspirations to emerge and creates a sense of collective responsibility for community wellbeing. It also places an important emphasis on participation and collaboration which, in turn, reinforces the value of democracy, good governance and accountability.

The Traditional Custodians of the ACT

The ACT Government places an important emphasis on reflecting and amplifying First Nations voices in the planning and engagement process and will be guided by the following key considerations:

- Apply knowledge and learnings from past planning and research reports to all engagement with First Nations communities to build towards a deeper understanding and identification of specific policies for further consideration in the draft City Plan in the future.
- Whenever possible, go out to the community and reach out to where they are through smaller events and meetings that are convenient and accessible.
- Build relationships with participants as individuals and with organisations, getting to know them to foster relationships beyond the life of the draft City Plan process.
- Grow outreach and consistent partnerships with a range of First Nations organisations and service providers.
- Take a culturally sensitive and meaningful engagement approach aligned with First Nations practices on holding community conversations.

Housing Diversity

To accommodate a change in our growing City Centre, it is essential that the right infrastructure and services are in place and that a diversity of housing types is available to meet people's different needs, both now and in the future.

As a fundamental human need, housing plays an important role in people's wellbeing by contributing to their physical and mental health. Housing choice enables people to remain in the City Centre. Homes should cater for changing household needs such as when starting a family when children grow up and leave home, and changing jobs or working from home. A proactive approach to encouraging housing diversity in the City Centre promotes housing choices for all residents as they move through different life stages and their housing needs change.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

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



Top: Pop up events and activations bring life and community to the City Centre
Top right: STORYBOX Plinth by ESEM Projects in City West.
Source: City Renewal Authority

Middle left: Canberra Dragon Dance Lunar New Year Celebrations
Source: City Renewal Authority
Middle right: Openair cinema event
Source: City Renewal Authority

Right: Public spaces supporting community gatherings.
Kids Day Glebe Park
Source: City Renewal Authority





Theme 5 Design Excellence

The design of the City Centre's buildings, streets, spaces and places and how they integrate has a significant impact on how the city functions, its attractiveness to residents, students, businesses and visitors, and the broader image of Canberra at the National Capital. Achieving design excellence* is inseparable from quality planning outcomes and sits at the forefront of all planning processes related to the City Centre.

Design Excellence

Design excellence is an accepted planning term used to refer to the design quality of a building or project and to various requirements intended to lift design quality. The description of design excellence is broadly consistent across government planning legislation and often summarised as 'the highest standard of architectural, urban and landscape design'.

Design excellence is a multi-faceted accolade that describes projects demonstrating exceptional architectural, landscape and urban design standards. It is measured by the function, liveability, sustainability and public contribution of buildings, spaces and places. Importantly, design excellence can be achieved in projects of any scale and value and is not limited to high-cost or iconic buildings.

Achieving Design Excellence

Achieving design excellence requires the public and private sectors to work together to realise the City Centre's potential as an active, engaging and people-focussed destination that encourages residents, students, businesses and visitors to spend more time in the city and support local businesses. The public sector can play its part by organising, designing, maintaining and improving the streets, parks, places and public buildings. The private sector can do its part by building the structures and landscapes that define and support these public places. The success of the City Centre demands that the public and private sectors be committed to sustainable, high-quality architecture, landscape architecture and urban design.

Good Design

Good design is often defined as both a process and an outcome that creates inclusive, user-friendly, active and attractive spaces and places that continue to provide value and benefit to people and the built and natural environments over extended periods.

As both a process and an outcome, good design comes in many forms and is defined by much more than how something looks. High-quality design has the potential to shift negative perceptions of growth through the creation of fit-for-purpose, adaptable, inclusive and inspiring environments.

Why Good Design Matters

Good design is essential in developing a sense of civic pride, improved quality of life and equal opportunity. It is integral to the attractiveness, liveability and prosperity of the City Centre.

Promoting good design outcomes through championing design excellence benefits social, physical and environmental outcomes in the City Centre and supports a thriving creative economy.

Creating a Strong Design Culture

As the primary users and custodians of the City Centre, the community has a strong role to play. Creating a strong design culture needs to be underpinned by an engaged and demanding public with high expectations for design quality. Through raising design awareness and engagement, there is a significant opportunity to empower the community as vocal advocates.

Enhancing Liveability

The quality of the City Centre's urban environment, including the spaces between buildings, the public realm and streetscapes, profoundly impacts the City Centre's image and liveability. Prioritising the delivery of a high-quality public realm improves the attractiveness of active transport modes such as walking and cycling and contributes substantially to the physical health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.

Building City Brand and Identity

Buildings of outstanding quality and character have an enduring legacy and influence a City Centre's image and design culture. Buildings such as the Sydney and Melbourne buildings, the Nishi Building, the Canberra Centre and Constitution Place contribute significant cultural and economic value and provide strong place anchors in their respective precincts.

Attracting and Retaining Talent

Many recent studies strongly demonstrate that the quality of a city centre's buildings, places and public realm is a key determinant in choosing which city to live, work, study or visit. With increasing competition between global cities for talent in the knowledge economy, the design quality of Canberra's City Centre is critical to its desirability as a destination.

Climate Responsive Design

Climate responsive design is essential in establishing a resilient City Centre of the future. Built form, parks and open spaces, the public realm and streets must be designed to work with and respond to Canberra's local climate. Their design should create places that are resource efficient and deliver climate resilience.

The Built Environment

To remain economically competitive in today's global economy, the City Centre must be more than functional. It must work well, but it also must be beautiful, dynamic, safe and inclusive.

Great cities do not happen by accident – they are designed and curated so that individual private and public developments work together to create cohesive blocks, character areas and precincts.

Design excellence and good design are not just an aesthetic overlay but are essential components of city building. They are also good for the economy and build a sense of infectious civic pride.

The Public Realm

The public realm is the fundamental organising element of the City Centre and its precincts, and plays a vital role in supporting population and employment growth, health, liveability, social equity and overall quality of life. It is a key shared asset that draws people together and creates strong social bonds.

The public realm and the buildings that frame it convey our public image to the world and unite us as a city. They contribute to the City Centre's cultural heritage and are fundamental to defining its urban form and character. They set the stage for festivals, civic life and

daily social interaction. The high-quality design of public spaces also enhances people's sense of community identity. Done well, the result is a City Centre that is well-connected, inclusive, walkable, attractive, safe, functional and accessible and supports a diverse community.

All developments in the City Centre will be designed to enhance and extend, where appropriate, a high-quality public realm that supports the creation of complete communities inclusive of public streets, parks and open spaces for every scale of city building.

Built Form

Quality of life and our enjoyment of the public realm depends partly on the buildings that define and support the edges of the City Centre's streets, parks and open spaces. The scale and massing of buildings define the edges and shape the public realm. Ground floor uses, entrances, doors, windows, materials and quality of these building edges help to determine the visual quality, activity, environmental comfort and perception of safety in public spaces.

Individual building façades that are visible from and form the edges of streets, parks or open spaces are read together as the walls that define and support the public realm. They should be conceived not only in terms of individual building sites and

programs but also in terms of how sites, buildings and their interface with the public realm fit within the existing and planned context of the immediate area, precinct and City Centre.

Creating Cultural Capital

Great city centres worldwide offer and promote animated cultural life and recognise the contribution of the arts to the quality of life of its residents.

A thriving cultural life also acts as a magnet for attracting and retaining residents and new businesses. Arts and cultural activities, including expressions of popular culture, crafts and multiculturalism associated with everyday activities, enrich the day-to-day quality of life of residents and workers and play an essential role in the look and feel of the City Centre, its collective identity and image projected to the world.

The cultural industries of Canberra's City Centre play an important role in the local economy. Amplifying their importance and creating new opportunities for creating more cultural capital will contribute to building the City Centre's resilience and economic base, support cultural tourism and continue to build its competitiveness.

*The Principles and Priority Objectives of Design Excellence align with the National Capital Design Review Panel (NCDRP) process.

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN EXCELLENCE



Design for integration



Design for people and place



Design for equity and accessibility



Design for health and happiness



Design for resilience



Design for resources



Design for beauty



Design for change



Design for economy

Adapted from the AIA Framework for Design Excellence

City Beautiful

Canberra's City Centre has a competitive advantage over other centres – regionally and nationally. It has an enviable quality of life that continues to attract and retain people with capital, skills, knowledge, creativity and imagination. To remain prosperous well into the future, we must consolidate and build on these strengths as we grow.

Prosperous cities are renowned for their built and natural beauty, and usually a balance of both. People choose to live, and businesses choose to invest in beautiful cities. People also want to live in cities that understand their past and push their creative limits.

High-quality design in public and private areas will deliver a sustainable, liveable, healthy and beautiful City Centre. This will protect and enhance the historical and cultural character of the City Centre and areas of significant character.

The role of design excellence is further elevated by implementing additional design standards through the Canberra City Centre Urban Design Framework (UDF). The UDF sets clear expectations for government departments involved in the planning, regulating and designing of the City Centre, the development industry and the community regarding their role in delivering great places and buildings for people.

Design excellence will be considered throughout the lifecycle of development approvals and construction to promote and support innovation and design excellence, creating a culture of design and architectural quality.

To achieve design excellence, the future City Centre must be one where:

- nature is within easy reach throughout
- arts and culture are actively promoted, and public art is visible and accessible

- heritage buildings and features are celebrated and conserved as integral to its identity
- good design and achieving design excellence is the hallmark of public spaces and buildings
- streets and places are animated and attractive people places
- significant views and focal points are preserved
- all design is responsive to the environment and community needs
- built and natural areas are well maintained, with clean and beautiful green spaces, including community and rooftop gardens
- environmental sustainability, social consciousness and design excellence is the standard.

Below left: Incorporating green space and landscape elements into design



PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

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



Mixed use developments bringing vibrancy and life to the City Centre



Theme 6 Character

The City Centre has a positive and coherent identity and offers unique and diverse experiences through its architecture, streets and places, arts and culture, higher education and businesses, precincts and character areas.

Local character

Local character is what distinguishes one place from another, for example, its unique culture or heritage. It is the way a place looks and feels. People are at the heart of what makes a place unique and a place without people is a place without character.

Each of the City Centre's precincts possesses its own identity through its food, music, culture, street life, social connections and stories. Combined, these characteristics have shaped the distinctive identity of the City Centre.

Place Stories

How people envision and live their lives in a place, as well as the stories of past and present, all contribute to its unique character. This is the narrative that people identify with and remember about a place. All places have social value, and stories have a fundamental role to play in how people assign this value to a place. Whether they are stories that are shared, or individual experiences and perceptions, all the stories of a place come together to create its unique character.

Stories can draw people to a place, they can create a sense of belonging and community cohesion, or can completely reinvent a place. This sense of character is fluid, but stories have the unique ability to reveal past and present character and explore the collective desires of future character.

Future Character

Improving the liveability, connectivity, resilience and equality of opportunity in the City Centre is critical to shaping its future character. Together, these are the

key issues that drive the economics of place and cultivate its future character.

Getting the balance right is difficult, as it is not simply a dichotomy between community values, development opportunities and industry interests. The right mix of housing, infill development, employment, education, amenity and infrastructure create the opportunity for the future character of the City Centre to come to life and, ultimately, will make each of its precincts unique. A thriving and diverse City Centre will enhance its identity and solidify its momentum toward becoming a connected network of great places to live, work, visit and play.

Liveable Places

The experiences and opportunities available to people living in different types of communities are what distinguishes one place from another; they influence how people experience a place and how they perceive its character. Not only can the place be experienced through its look and feel, but also by the level of activity it attracts daily and nightly. The built form enables activity, but the activity's level and intensity will influence the built form's evolution in return.

As we have become more globally connected, it can be easy to overlook the everyday influences our actions and behaviours have on the built environment. It is not just the built characteristics that create the unique character of a place; it is how people use and inhabit the place – how people live.

Distinctive places also directly impact behaviour and influence the

liveability of a place. This makes it important to embrace and celebrate what makes local character unique as it directly represents community values and the contributions people have made to constructing the identity of a place. With this comes increased happiness, health and productivity. Placing people at the centre of design creates places that people love – where they can form attachments and deeper meaning. With that comes distinct places that have character, a greater sense of civic pride and belonging.

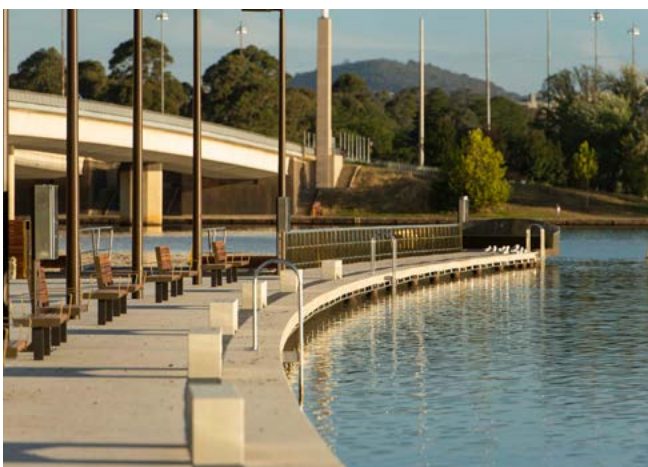
PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

- 1 Champion tourism, arts and culture to create a City Centre where people come day and night and year round.
- 2 Initiate creative projects with City Centre stakeholders to bring imagination and creativity into the everyday experience of the City Centre.
- 3 Develop high-quality creative placemaking projects as an integral part of the fabric, animation and community life of the City Centre.
- 4 Facilitate growth that delivers connected precincts, destinations and experiences in locations adjoining key activation areas.
- 5 Create gateways that celebrate arrival in the City Centre with direct links to surrounding destinations.



Above: Public art supports local character and adds to the cultural mix

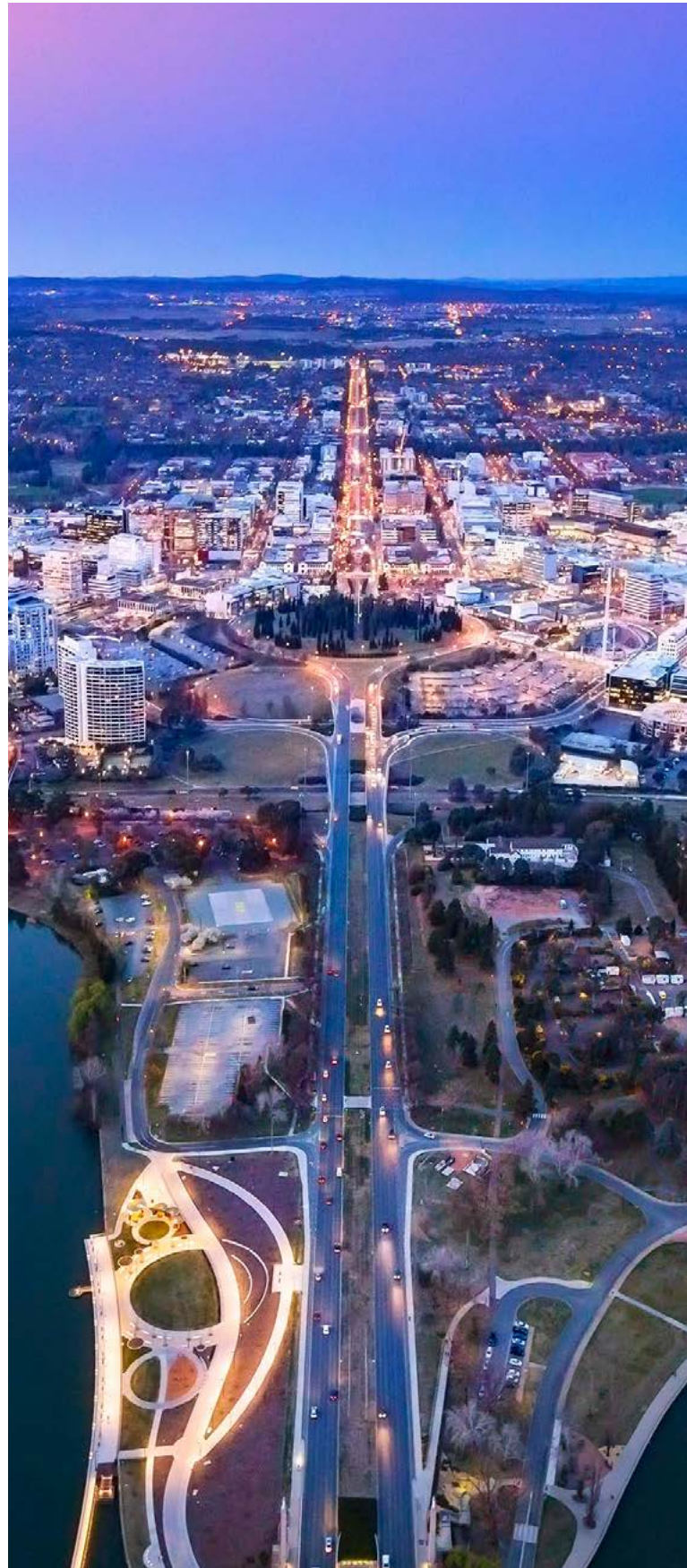
Below: Butterfly installation by Skunk Works for Enlighten Festival
Source: City Renewal Authority



Above: Public infrastructure can be used to activate spaces and encourage people to visit and spend time

Boardwalk, West Basin.
Source: City Renewal Authority

Right: City Centre night aerial view





NO

03 PRECINCT DIRECTIONS





03 Precinct Directions

3.1 City Centre Precincts

The City Centre comprises five precincts, each with its own places and destinations, some with national significance and others with a unique local character. Each precinct has a distinctive mix of land uses, activities, social connectors and functions that provide social and physical connectivity, local diversity and cultural richness, all of which contribute to their liveability.

Creating Connections

There is still much to be done to improve the liveability of each of the City Centre precincts. Increasing physical and social connectivity within and between precincts, diversifying land use, clustering activities, and connecting through technology are fundamental to enabling vibrancy and people and places to thrive. In particular, the co-location of activities and social infrastructure is critical to ensuring the efficient use of land and viability of successful places, the development of new and the redevelopment or renewal of existing activity centres and public transport.

Delivering high-quality, place-based outcomes requires integrating site-specific planning proposals with the desired precinct-wide place and community aspirations. This process results in the creation of well-loved local places – an attractor in and of themselves.

As the population of each precinct grows and demographics change, a greater number of high-quality and diverse public places will be required, from streets, parks and open spaces, to places for community events, recreation, public art, markets and festivals.

With continued growth and renewal across the City Centre, there is also an increase in opportunities to provide innovative and engaging public spaces while expanding and connecting precincts in new and exciting ways.

Connecting People and Place

Connecting people and places is a critical first step. This requires a better understanding of how the community uses the existing spaces within each precinct to inform new infrastructure, amenities and services that can lead to stronger social and economic outcomes. As an approach, this requires diving deeper into what it takes to make precincts come alive and be the places where people want to live, work and visit; it addresses the importance of catalyst projects and the need to create focal points, the

right mix and balance of uses, digital connections and things to do day, night and weekends year-round.

Connecting Opportunity

The City Centre's success depends on creating better connections – connections to places, environments, buildings, activities and each other. Research shows that city centres with higher levels of connectivity are more lively, productive and prosperous.

Priority Directions

Precinct-level priority directions for each precinct are included in the draft City Plan and reinforced through the Canberra City Centre Urban Design Framework, the National Capital Plan Precinct policies, the Territory Plan's district policy and the objects and functions of the City Renewal Authority (CRA).

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



Precinct 1 City Hill

→ CANBERRA'S CULTURAL AND CIVIC CORE

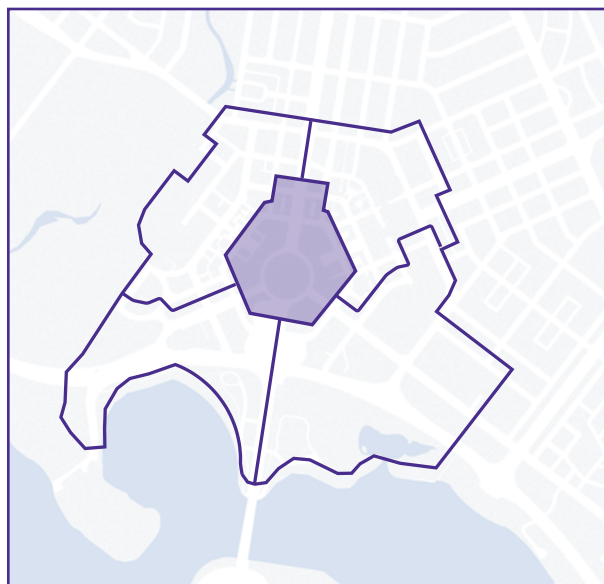
The City Hill precinct will be Canberra's iconic cultural and civic core and the apex of the National Triangle. The precinct's future release and development potential make it one of the most significant renewal sites in the City Centre.

Precinct Character

The City Hill precinct within the City Centre is located at the apex of the National Triangle astride an important entrance route to the Parliamentary Zone and forms a significant element in the physical structure of central Canberra.

The City Hill precinct forms the Griffins' symbolic and geographical centre for the City – a corner completing the National Triangle as a gateway to the Central National Area and a hub connecting significant main avenues and vistas.

While the City Hill precinct is the geographic centre of the City Centre, currently the City Hill precinct is disconnected and does not appear or act as the City Centre's core.



PRECINCT SNAPSHOT

Employment opportunities

There are

919

jobs in the precinct



Population growth

6,160
(2046)



Walkability

Desirable

70%



Acceptable

24%

Tree canopy cover

Precinct

11%



City Centre

18%

Visitation



Morning

36%



Afternoon

25%



Evening

17%



Night

22%



Frequency



10% <Once a month

10% Every 3-6 months

13% Monthly

24% >Every 6 months

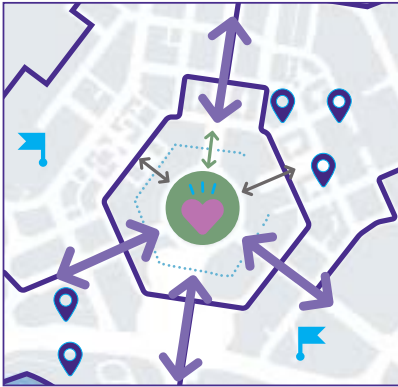
15% Every 2-3 months

27% Never

Note that the information available for the City Hill precinct as compared with other precincts is currently limited. Precinct Snapshot Data refers to both 2016 and 2021 precinct data from the City Renewal Authority (CRA) - Place Success Dashboard as not all the 2021 individual precinct data was available when the draft City Plan was prepared. The snapshot is to be updated when 2021 precinct data in the CRA Place Success Dashboard is available.



Sydney and Melbourne Building illuminated. Source: City Renewal Authority



Above: The diagram is intended to illustrate a place-led design approach that builds on each precinct's existing urban fabric and character to create pedestrian and active travel-friendly, human-scaled outcomes. Key aspects of the precinct's future and priority directions have been diagrammatically shown to indicate:

- the need for cross-precinct connections
- the establishing / reinforcing of a clear precinct heart
- creating connections to and between multiple destinations
- for new development opportunities, the creation of a finer urban grain.

Future Desired Character

The City Hill precinct is the unfinished part of the City Centre's planning and development, providing a significant opportunity to establish a positive character.

The City Hill precinct will continue as an area of heritage, civic and cultural importance at the centre of Canberra and a point of the Griffins' National Triangle. Future uses will fit its iconic location and encourage activity focussed on the cultural economy.

The symbolic importance of the City Hill precinct should be reinforced in the design treatment of the streetscape and public places and supported through the design and development of the adjacent blocks and the landscaping and design of the avenues.

- Improve the public realm to facilitate access by walking and cycling.
- Activate currently underutilised spaces or buildings with cultural initiatives.
- Reinforce role as the City Centre and cultural heart of the city and links to national institutions.
- Support multi-modal public transport, including improved pedestrian connections and links to light rail stages 1 and 2.

Below: Aerial view of the City Hill precinct and surrounds



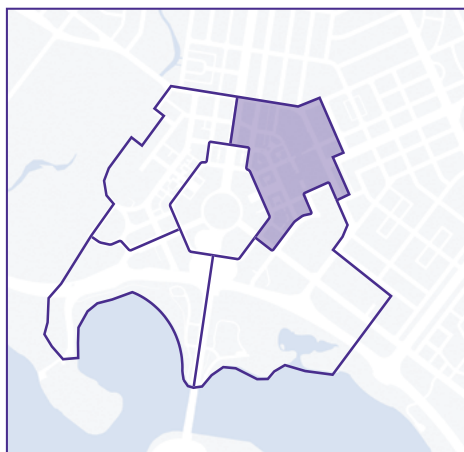
PRIORITY DIRECTIONS

- 1 Reinforce the precinct's role as the civic and cultural heart of the City Centre.
- 2 Provide clear and legible pedestrian links to facilitate greater pedestrian connectivity within and between the City Hill park and the wider precinct.
- 3 Enhance and activate the City Hill park to realise its potential as the heart of the City Centre, reinforcing its cultural prominence as a point in the National Triangle.
- 4 Encourage a fine-grain density around the City Hill precinct with activity focussed on the cultural economy.
- 5 The legacy of the Griffin Plan should guide the planning and design approach to City Hill while accepting contemporary realities.

Precinct 2 City North-East

→ CANBERRA'S RETAIL AND ENTERTAINMENT HEART

City North-East will be the City Centre's retail and entertainment heart with various cultural and entertainment uses. It is characterised by its extensive network of pedestrianised streets, including Garema Place, City Walk, Petrie Plaza and the Bunda Street shareway. Garema Place is a well-loved and popular public space, hosting public festivals and celebrations year-round.



Precinct Character

City North-East is Canberra's central business and entertainment district, dominated by retail and commercial uses.

A distinctive feature of the City North-East precinct is its extensive network of places for people. It, therefore, has the highest levels of pedestrian use.

Places for people in the City North-East precinct establish important pedestrian links to key destinations within the City Centre and provide opportunities for people to meet, gather and participate in public life.

A mix of fine grain, low-scale buildings and larger floor area, low scale development with consistent setbacks are the architectural character in this precinct.

Future Desired Character

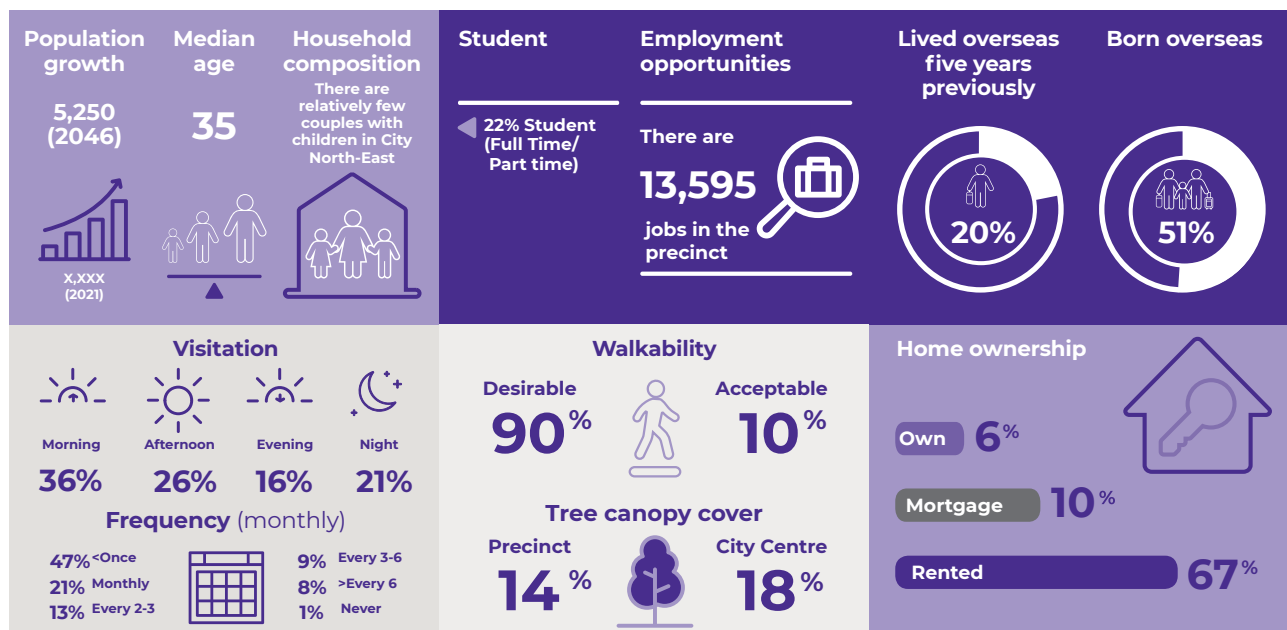
City Centre will continue to function as the city's retail core, surrounded by a mix of uses, public places and spaces.

Encouraging a greater mix of uses, including independent, niche and boutique retailers, will diversify the retail economy and increase activity in the area, which will support nearby civic uses and revitalise important public spaces such as City Walk and Garema Place.

New development fronting these spaces will respect existing heritage and function while making them livelier and better utilised.

Public realm upgrades will also support these uses and activate key pedestrian routes, including east-west connections and links to key transport hubs, including light rail. Connectivity to new development areas, such as West Basin and City Hill, will also be strengthened.

PRECINCT SNAPSHOT



Precinct Snapshot Data refers to both 2016 and 2021 precinct data from the City Renewal Authority (CRA) - Place Success Dashboard as not all the 2021 individual precinct data was available when the draft City Plan was prepared. The snapshot is to be updated when 2021 precinct data in the CRA Place Success Dashboard is available.



Above: The diagram is intended to illustrate a place-led design approach that builds on each precinct's existing urban fabric and character to create pedestrian and active travel-friendly, human-scaled outcomes. Key aspects of the precinct's future and priority directions have been diagrammatically shown to indicate:

- the need for cross-precinct connections
- the establishing / reinforcing of a clear precinct heart
- creating connections to and between multiple destinations
- for new development opportunities, the creation of a finer urban grain.

Further opportunities for residential accommodation will support improved connections with the neighbouring suburbs of Braddon and Reid. New community facilities and upgraded existing facilities will support a larger population in the City Centre in future.

- Support the creation of a live entertainment area in City North-East as an important contributor to the City Centre's character, economic diversity and social and creative outlets.
- Reinforce and extend the pedestrian network to key destinations within the City Centre.
- Continue to improve pedestrian connectivity and the ground-level experience.
- Protect and expand retail and commercial floorspace opportunities, particularly for independent, niche and boutique retail.

- Improve interface between existing retail uses with public spaces, working with landowners to facilitate more vibrancy in key public places.
- Encourage night activation and increased opportunities for public art.

City Centre Special Entertainment Area

The ACT Government is committed to encouraging a creative and lively Canberra that supports a diverse economy, including the live music and entertainment scene. The Government has been working to achieve these objectives, supported by input from the community and industry.

The ACT aims to build Canberra's reputation as an event-friendly city, including hosting and attracting significant events with regional, national and international patronage. Events are crucial to growing the visitor economy's value and promoting Canberra's City Centre as a vibrant, dynamic, creative and inclusive city for people to work, live, visit, study and invest.

Creating a supportive framework for entertainment venues such as bars, theatres, clubs, cinemas, restaurants and evening events contributes to the City Centre's nighttime economic growth and urban renewal and generates activity throughout all hours of the day.



Left: City North-East precinct, the heart of retail and entertainment activity



ACT Government's intention to establish an entertainment area in the City Centre has been confirmed through the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly (PaGA), which commits to amending the Territory Plan to achieve this during the new parliamentary term (agreed legislative reform #14). This reflects that the City Centre is already the preeminent nightlife and music destination in the ACT, hosting a range of venues and spaces in a higher concentration than other locations in the ACT.

Current and subsequent consultancies, along with stakeholder input, will inform both the controls and policies used to define and manage City Centre Entertainment Precinct, including whether these apply evenly across the whole precinct, or whether a 'core' and 'frame' approach is adopted.

PRIORITY DIRECTIONS

- 1 Protect and expand retail and commercial floorspace opportunities and diversify the retail economy.
- 2 Consolidate the nightlife character in the City Centre to enable the continued growth of the night-time and visitor economy.
- 3 Improve the ground-level experience between existing retail uses with public spaces and facilitate more activity in the main pedestrian areas.
- 4 Better connect to the south, east and west and with the neighbouring suburbs of Braddon and Reid.
- 5 Encourage new development to generate activity, support business and attract investment.



Precinct 3 City North-West

→ THE INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE QUARTER

City North-West will be City Centre's knowledge and innovation hub characterised by its mix of residential, higher education, research and commercial facilities.

Precinct Character

City North-West demonstrates a diverse character that has seen significant changes in recent years, including a growing residential and student population. The urban structure and form of the area have contributed to the larger commercial floor plates and student accommodation that distinguish the precinct.

Future Desired Character

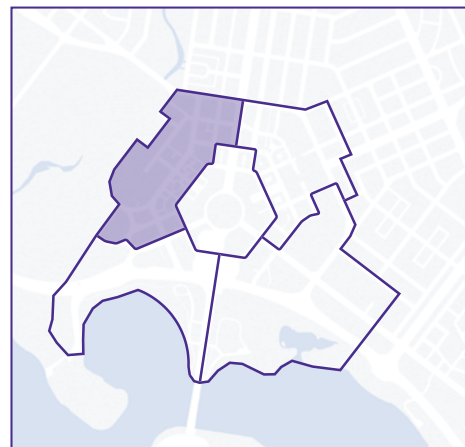
City North-West will continue catering to higher-order commercial and employment activities, combined with selected residential typologies and finer-grain public realm. This will support a strong connection between the City Centre and the ANU education precinct.

In the future, the precinct will be the densest business, knowledge and innovation hub in Canberra, complemented by an appropriate range of residential and mixed uses. This knowledge character will be

based on its connections to the ANU and take full advantage of its highly accessible location adjacent to light rail and as a key entry point to the City Centre.

The future development of City North-West provides substantial opportunities for urban art, placemaking and improvement of existing public spaces. Links to the existing cluster of arts facilities will be enhanced, along with creating a finer-grain public realm.

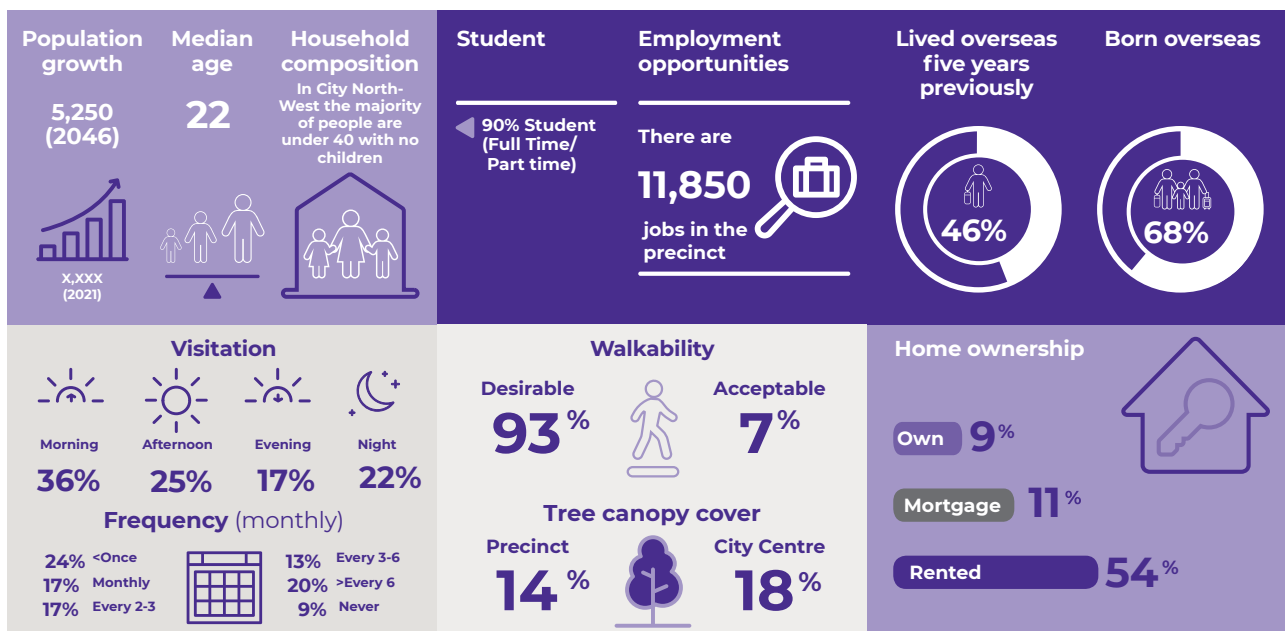
- Encourage development that protects conditions and opportunities for existing and emerging innovation and knowledge-related employment.
- Improve pedestrian connectivity to the City Centre and initiate further placemaking and public art opportunities.
- Retain and establish supporting community facilities as part of redevelopments.
- Enhance fine-grain



characteristics at ground level.

- Develop as Canberra's premier 'CBD' office area, with a selected supportive range of residential typologies, including for students/knowledge workers and visitor accommodation.

PRECINCT SNAPSHOT



Precinct Snapshot Data refers to both 2016 and 2021 precinct data from the City Renewal Authority (CRA) - Place Success Dashboard as not all the 2021 individual precinct data was available when the draft City Plan was prepared. The snapshot is to be updated when 2021 precinct data in the CRA Place Success Dashboard is available.

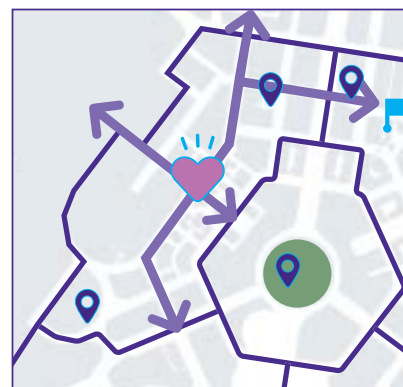


NO NAME LN.

No Name Lane in City North-West



Above: Design Canberra Festival at Latin American Plaza, Designed by Rose Armstrong



Above: The diagram is intended to illustrate a place-led design approach that builds on each precinct's existing urban fabric and character to create pedestrian and active travel-friendly, human-scaled outcomes. Key aspects of the precinct's future and priority directions have been diagrammatically shown to indicate:

- the need for cross-precinct connections
- the establishing / reinforcing of a clear precinct heart
- creating connections to and between multiple destinations
- for new development opportunities, the creation of a finer urban grain.



PRIORITY DIRECTIONS

- 1 Reinforce the connection between the City Centre and the ANU education precinct.
- 2 Provide a range of residential typologies responding to the adjacent education and research precinct to accommodate future growth.
- 3 Protect and reinforce the fine-grain public realm character that provide an amenity to the professional and residential communities.
- 4 Ensure future development and land use respond to opportunities for existing and emerging innovation and knowledge-related employment.
- 5 Enhance the heart of the precinct identity and the 'front door' between the ANU and the City Centre.

Precinct 4 City South-East

→ WHERE EDUCATION, BUSINESS AND TOURISM FLOURISH

City South-East will be the tourism, business and education precinct defined by community, tourism and recreation use and benefitting from convenient access to high-quality parks and open space.

Precinct Character

City South-East is framed by Constitution and Commonwealth Avenues, making up the northern part of Canberra's National Triangle. City South-East is characterised by its open spaces, recreation, community and tourist use, including Casino Canberra, Canberra Olympic Pool, the National Convention Centre and the current Reid CIT campus. Glebe and Commonwealth parks offer the largest areas of public open space within the wider City Centre area.

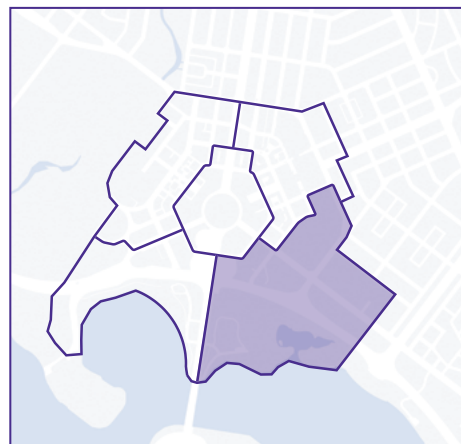
Future Desired Character

There is significant potential for intensification and character improvement in City South-East. New development will provide a transition to the existing eastern suburbs of the city. A growing population will support the provision of further leisure, recreation and educational facilities in the area.

Future investigations will examine the potential for the location of significant public infrastructure projects in this part of the City Centre. The new University of NSW campus at Reid provides a catalyst to develop City East as an education hub on an axis connected through the City Hill precinct to the ANU.

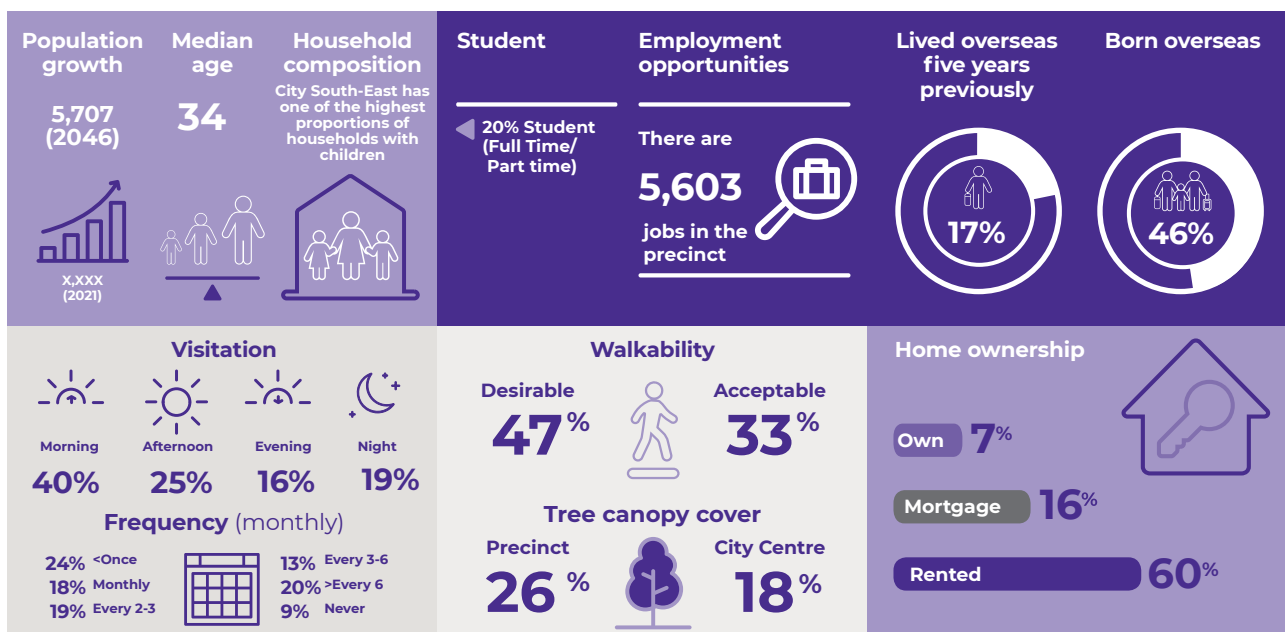
More development in City South-East will require improved pedestrian connections between the City Centre and the lakeside, particularly to Commonwealth Park. City South-East will be accessible by rapid and direct public transport, including connections to key employment nodes, such as the Parliamentary Zone.

- Improve pedestrian connections to the City Centre, Commonwealth Park and the lakeside.
- Become a destination for a range of leisure, recreation, tourism and education uses.



- Enhance accessibility by major public transport upgrades, including to and from key employment centres like the Parliamentary Zone and Russell Offices.

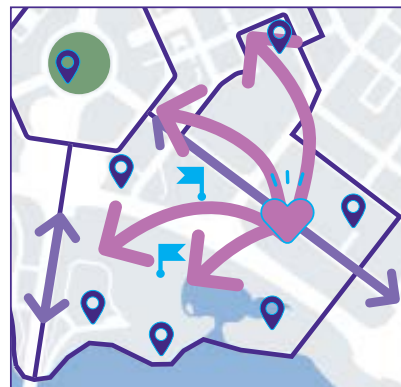
PRECINCT SNAPSHOT



Precinct Snapshot Data refers to both 2016 and 2021 precinct data from the City Renewal Authority (CRA) - Place Success Dashboard as not all the 2021 individual precinct data was available when the draft City Plan was prepared. The snapshot is to be updated when 2021 precinct data in the CRA Place Success Dashboard is available.



Above: Celebrating its 35th year, Floriade is Australia's Biggest Celebration of Spring. It is held annually at Commonwealth Park.



Above: The diagram is intended to illustrate a place-led design approach that builds on each precinct's existing urban fabric and character to create pedestrian and active travel-friendly, human-scaled outcomes. Key aspects of the precinct's future and priority directions have been diagrammatically shown to indicate:

- the need for cross-precinct connections
- the establishing / reinforcing of a clear precinct heart
- creating connections to and between multiple destinations
- for new development opportunities, the creation of a finer urban grain.



PRIORITY DIRECTIONS

- 1 Provide opportunities for tourism, recreation, education and mixed uses.
- 2 UNSW City Campus will be an anchor site for a revitalised precinct of social diversity.
- 3 Encourage future development that reinforces connectivity to the the National Triangle.
- 4 Strengthen connections with the innovation and knowledge sector in City North-West.
- 5 Provide a strong link connecting the City Centre to the lake.



Floriade NightFest at Commonwealth Park.

Precinct 5 West Basin and Acton Waterfront

→ A LIVELY URBAN COMMUNITY CONNECTED TO LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN

West Basin and Acton Waterfront will be a lively urban precinct that brings the everyday life of the City Centre to the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.

Precinct Character

Fronting the shoreline of Lake Burley Griffin, West Basin connects the Acton Peninsula with the picturesque formal lake area of the Central National Area and major transport corridors along Commonwealth Avenue and Parkes Way. Recent private redevelopment has transformed the New Acton area, receiving national and international acclaim for its design.

The area presents an opportunity for transformational urban renewal extending the City Centre to the lakefront and creating an inclusive new waterfront public park and boardwalk extension and a people-focussed public realm that will attract visitors from across the region and attract further investment to the precinct.

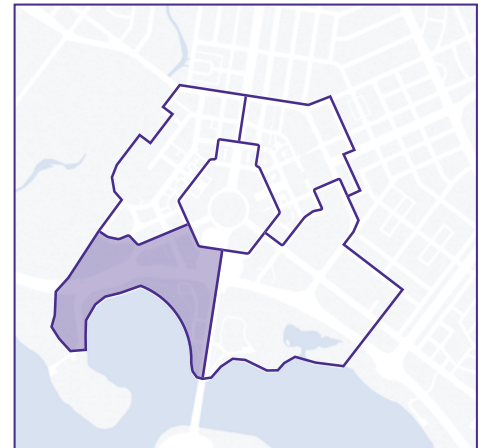
Desired Future Character

Future development in New Acton and West Basin will improve the accessibility of the area and strengthen its connection to the City Centre.

Development between the generous public waterfront and the City Centre will provide for a mix of land uses to create neighbourhoods with local amenities. A key feature of West Basin will be its community and recreational facilities, which will enhance its existing green space and waterfront setting. Improving pedestrian and cycling connectivity to and from the waterfront will be key to unlocking its potential and providing an inclusive experience.

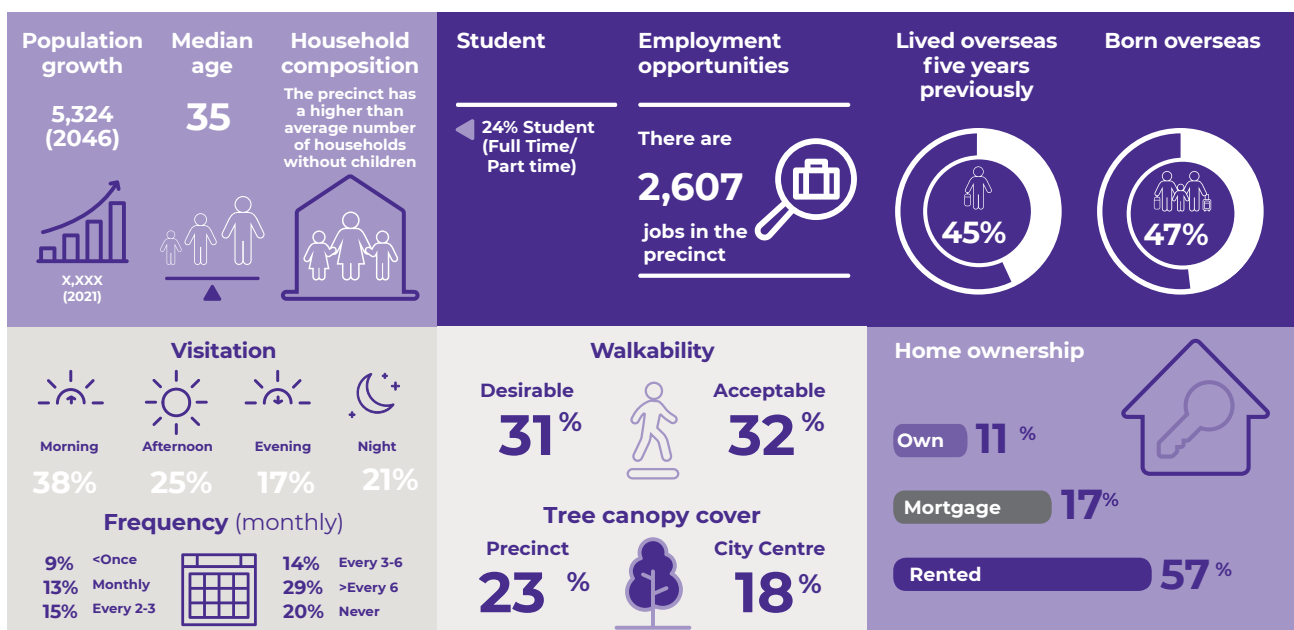
Much like West Acton, the future development of West Basin will be transformational, bringing the everyday life of the City Centre to Lake Burley Griffin.

→ Enhance pedestrian connectivity from the waterfront and to the wider city precinct.



- Revitalise existing public and open spaces through investment in public realm, setting the groundwork for future mixed-use development.
- Develop a distinct, lively and accessible Canberra waterfront area as a destination for visitors and residents.

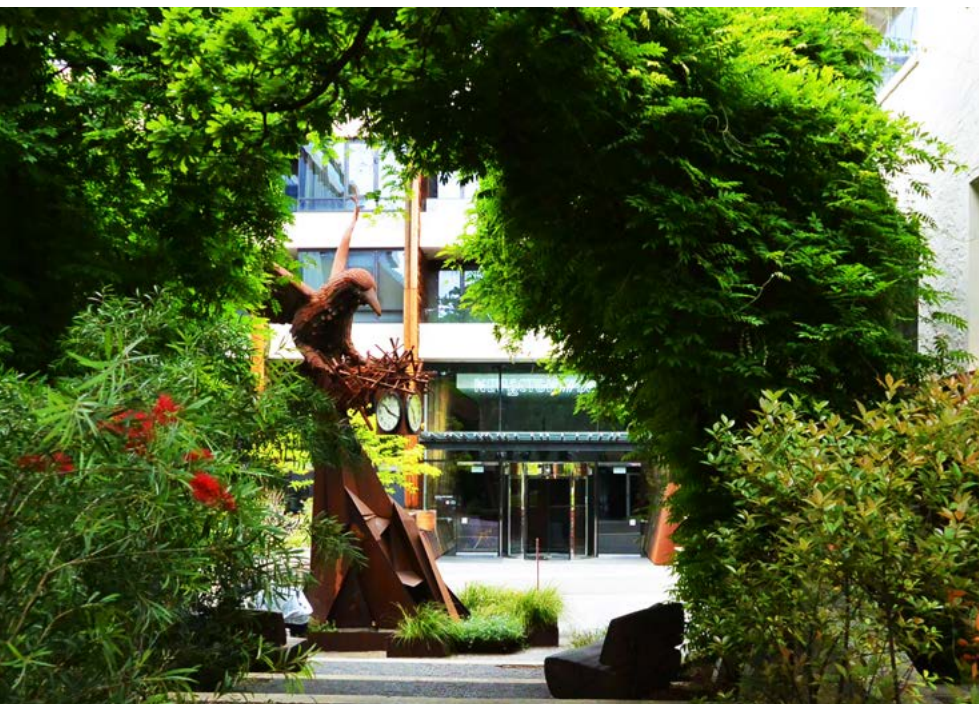
PRECINCT SNAPSHOT



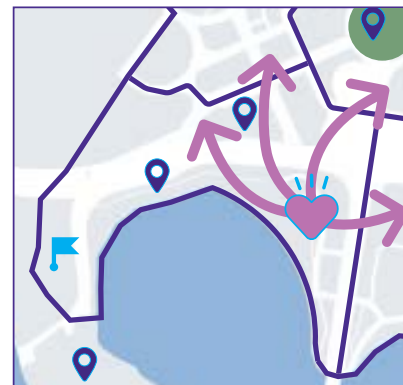
Precinct Snapshot Data refers to both 2016 and 2021 precinct data from the City Renewal Authority (CRA) - Place Success Dashboard as not all the 2021 individual precinct data was available when the draft City Plan was prepared. The snapshot is to be updated when 2021 precinct data in the CRA Place Success Dashboard is available.



New Acton public artwork



Above: New Acton is home to a growing number of public artworks and murals that contribute to the area's character and create a strong sense of place.



Above: The diagram is intended to illustrate a place-led design approach that builds on each precinct's existing urban fabric and character to create pedestrian and active travel-friendly, human-scaled outcomes. Key aspects of the precinct's future and priority directions have been diagrammatically shown to indicate:

- the need for cross-precinct connections
- the establishing / reinforcing of a clear precinct heart
- creating connections to and between multiple destinations
- for new development opportunities, the creation of a finer urban grain.



PRIORITY DIRECTIONS

- 1 Create a more accessible and people-focussed lakefront destination for visitors and residents.
- 2 Prioritise pedestrian and cycling connectivity from the waterfront and to the wider city precinct.
- 3 Invest in public realm, setting the groundwork for future mixed-use development.
- 4 Accommodate a mix of uses including a high-quality community / recreational facility that serves the regional as well as City Centre community.
- 5 Ensure the provision of social infrastructure and facilities to meet projected population needs.



Henry Rolland Park. Source: City Renewal Authority



A photograph of a crowd of people walking through a colonnade, overlaid with a large purple diagonal graphic. The text "A FAIR PLACE FOR ALL" is centered at the bottom in white.

A FAIR PLACE FOR ALL





04 MAKING IT HAPPEN

04 Making it Happen

4.1 Implementation Framework

The draft City Plan is structured around a single unified vision that is supported by ten strategic city-shaping goals, six themes with thirty priority City Centre-wide objectives, 30 precinct-level directions and 21 ongoing, short and medium-term actions that support the City Centre becoming a cultural destination and an economic hub that drives success for the city and region.

The comprehensive update to the 2014 City Plan is the first step of a continuous planning and implementation process over the life of the plan and beyond. While the Plan itself provides a framework that will guide decision-making over the long term, ensuring that it remains robust and relevant to public and private decision-makers will be an ongoing task that will rely on regular monitoring and review of trends, community and stakeholder engagement and feedback on actions and initiatives as they are progressed.

The implementation framework's success relies on a combination of investment from the Territory and Australian Governments and the private sector. The actions indicate how the Government intends to implement the draft City Plan. However, the actions are subject to further community and stakeholder consultation and other processes that would typically apply to implement them. Any future impacts arising from specific implementation actions required to deliver the City Plan's vision, priority outcomes and directions will be subject to future Government consideration, with any associated financial impacts to be considered through the Government's usual budget processes.

Just as whole-of-government objectives and strategies have informed the development of the draft City Plan, its implementation also involves working across all government directorates. A comprehensive approach is needed to achieve integrated and sustainable results. Traditional sectoral and program boundaries in policy and project delivery must not be allowed to impede coordinated efforts by different agencies.

A Dynamic Document

The draft City Plan is a dynamic document designed to respond to changing needs and conditions over time. This implementation framework outlines actions and initiatives that will be used to ensure that the vision of the draft City Plan becomes a reality. The precise timing, responsibility and funding for each action are difficult to predict precisely. The various timings indicated have been used to set the broad priorities that will guide future development and investment in the City Centre. In this context, the implementation framework has sought to:

- present priority objectives, directions and the city-shaping moves required to guide decision-making

- identify catalyst projects currently underway or planned
- provide actionable outcomes and initiatives with high-level guidance on timeframes and responsibilities.

The draft City Plan will be monitored and refined regularly to consider future opportunities to be captured and built into the implementation process. While the draft City Plan accounts for growth and development for the 18 years up to 2040, the implementation framework focusses on delivering priority actions and initiatives over the next ten years.

Flexibility

It is essential to recognise that the draft City Plan is a guide. It provides a preferred scenario for the future of the City Centre and represents the broader priorities and values of the community and government. However, as change is constant, the draft City Plan must be flexible enough to adapt to new opportunities and situations. Decision-makers and the community generally should recognise the broader intentions of draft City Plan to make decisions that best serve the public interest.

The Implementation Framework is delivered in two parts:

01

CITY SHAPING PROJECTS

This section documents current and future projects that have the potential to act as catalytic city-shaping initiatives that deliver on the draft City Plan's vision, priority outcomes and directions.

02

ACTIONS

This section identifies the actions and initiatives needed to deliver the draft City Plan's vision, priority outcomes and directions and areas for collaboration and future work across government.



Top: Christmas in the City Centre

Middle: Kids Day Glebe Park
Source: City Renewal Authority

Right: Alinga Street light rail station

Draft City Plan and Canberra City Centre Urban Design Framework

The draft City Plan update is being delivered along with a Canberra City Centre Urban Design Framework (UDF), a priority action identified in 2014 City Plan. The UDF provides practical and best-practice design guidance to enhance the City Centre's identity, amenities, functionality and accessibility. The UDF establishes clear guidance on built form and public realm design to support the desired city and precinct-level priority outcomes and directions identified in the draft City Plan.

Following further community and stakeholder consultation, the UDF will specifically be used to inform the following initiatives:

- changes to planning policies in the Territory Plan to legislate elements of the UDF
- a forthcoming Urban Design and Housing Design Guide as part of the Planning System Review and Reform Project
- an update to the City Services technical design standards, including the 2013 Canberra Central Design Manual
- an online Urban Design Toolkit for design development in the City Centre.

Left: Temporary shade structure by Brindabella Contractors
Source: City Renewal Authority



Governance

A critical aspect of the draft City Plan and required update from the 2014 version is the focus on delivery and how outcomes are actioned, measured and reported. Good planning governance can be achieved through strategic and spatial planning processes that provide a clear line-of-sight and hierarchical approach to policy development and implementation that is evidence-based and developed through genuine consultation. It provides a basis for decision-making in a strategic context rather than on an ad-hoc basis. This approach communicates and clarifies the purpose of planning and builds community trust in the planning system. Better planning governance will result in better coordination, implementation and administration of actions and initiatives that seek to elevate the quality of planning and design outcomes across the City Centre.

To successfully deliver the draft City Plan's actions and initiatives, including monitoring and reporting the progress of any outcomes, requires a whole-of-government effort with close collaboration between government directorates.

4.2 City Shaping Projects

Catalysed by 2014 City Plan, the City Centre has experienced rapid growth and transformation across cultural, civic and commercial sectors, with government and industry investment occurring at various scales. Numerous city-shaping projects have either been delivered, are currently underway or are being planned. These projects are essential catalysts for change within the City Centre and have breathed new life into our city's heart. Collectively, they build on Canberra's unique landscape setting and reinforce its identity as the capital of Australia.

Significant investment has delivered several major projects, including Stage 1 of a city-wide light rail network that connects the northern area of Gungahlin to the City Centre, the redevelopment of the ABC flats, which will add substantial residential units and commercial activity to City North-East, and public realm upgrades to both Constitution Avenue and City Walk which have brought new life to the City Centre, creating places for people to spend time, and connect with family and friends.

While further work is still to be done to establish government priorities and investment opportunities, the following projects have been identified for their strategic potential to lead the transformation of the City Centre and unlock further strategic sites across the city.



→ **Acton Waterfront**

The redevelopment of West Basin will enable the activation of Lake Burley Griffin foreshore, further securing the Legacy Plan for a national standard parkland that connects the lake to the rest of the City Centre. The land release will support residential-focussed infill development to see sustainable growth of the Territory.

→ **Redevelopment of Sections 63 and 100**

Currently used as surface parking between London Circuit and Vernon Circle, these sections offer significant development potential, with a premier address in the City Centre, supporting the local economy.

→ **Civic, Arts and Cultural District**

The project will revitalise the area around Civic Square and the Canberra Theatre Centre to create a lively art and cultural zone. It will contribute to redefining the character of the City Centre and provide a variety of new uses and revitalised facilities that will attract more users and encourage greater activity by providing convenient foot and cycle access to the community facilities.

→ **City Centre Entertainment Precinct**

The ACT Government will establish designated entertainment precincts in key centres via new provisions in the Territory Plan, starting with City Centre Entertainment Precinct. The project uses the planning framework and environment protection policy to support live entertainment and nightlife, creating a 24 hour City Centre.

→ **UNSW Campus**

The project is a key urban renewal development within City South-East that will allow for a university campus that is more integrated and connected with the City Centre and surrounds. The campus will provide an opportunity for a new residential community in the City Centre and greater activity in the precinct. The development will support more services, jobs and opportunities for investment.

→ **Raising of London Circuit**

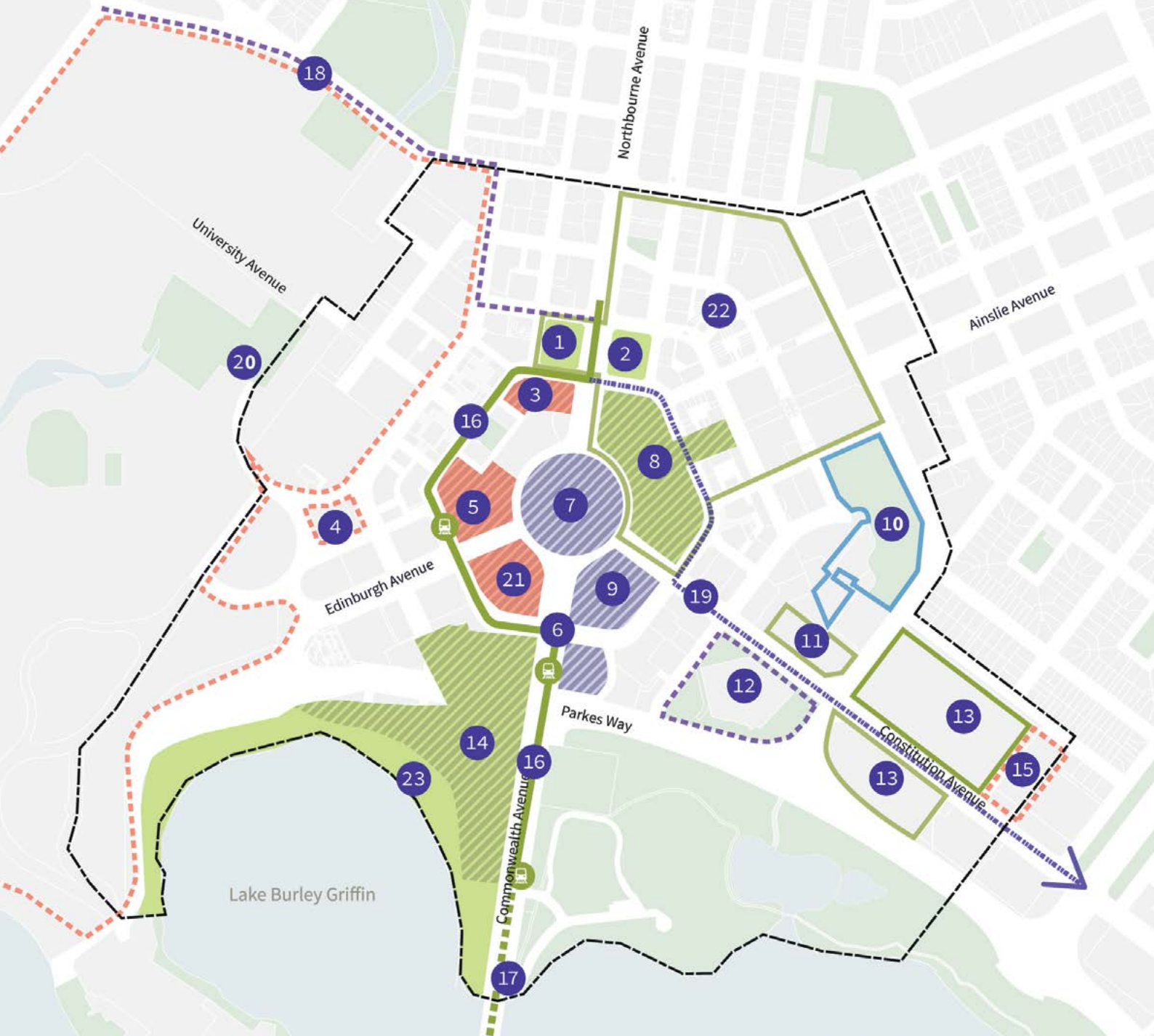
Part of London Circuit will be raised to accommodate the next stage of light rail. The completed project and the Light Rail Stage 2A will improve street accessibility, supporting various user types, promoting safety and reinforcing function and amenities.

→ **Light Rail Stage 2A**

This project will deliver a convenient new transport link from Alinga Street to Commonwealth Park to improve connectivity between the City Centre and the lake.

Top left: City Walk upgrade features

Bottom left: Merry and Bright Christmas Celebrations in the City
Source: City Renewal Authority



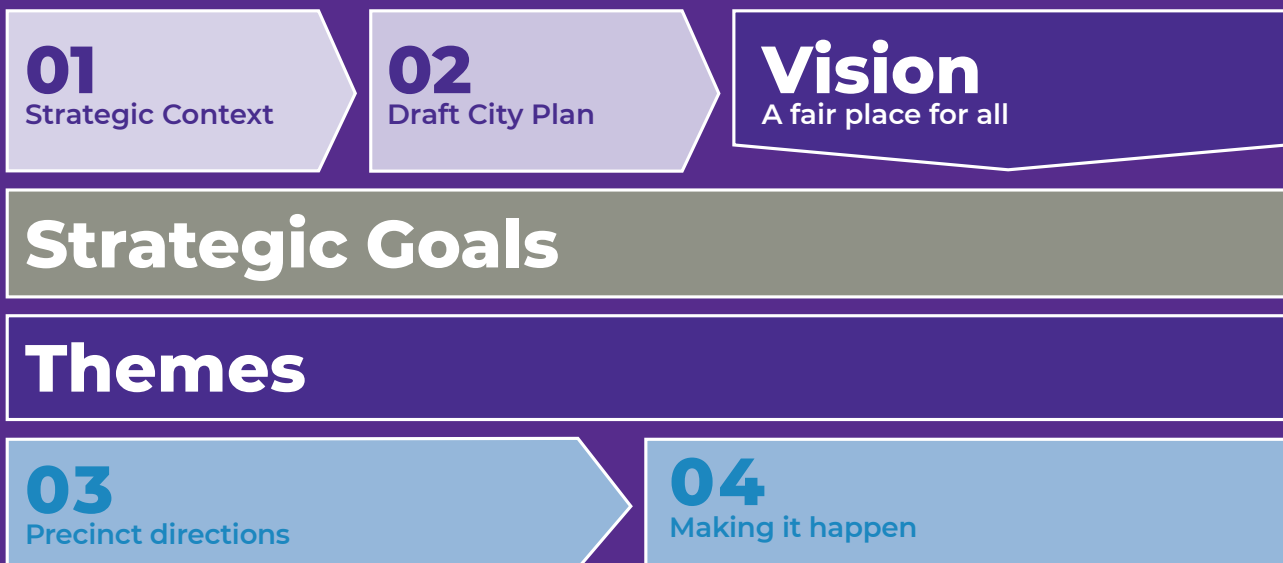
City Shaping Projects

	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	UNKNOWN TIMEFRAME
Project Underway				
Future Gov. Projects				
Future Private Projects				
Possible Projects				




- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Melbourne Building Upgrade | 9 Convention Centre | 17 Light Rail Stage 2B |
| 2 Sydney Building Upgrade | 10 Glebe Park Master Plan | 18 Future Light Rail – alignment TBD |
| 3 Mixed Used Development | 11 Existing Convention Centre site | 19 Future Light Rail – alignment TBD |
| 4 CRA Site for Future Development | 12 Civic Pool site | 20 ANU Campus Master Plan |
| 5 Section 100 Development | 13 UNSW Campus | 21 Section 63 Development (Clover leaf) |
| 6 Raising London Circuit | 14 Acton Waterfront Development | 22 Draft City Centre Entertainment Precinct Boundary |
| 7 City Hill | 15 CRA Site for Future Development | 23 Acton Waterfront Park |
| 8 Canberra Civic and Cultural District | 16 Light Rail Stage 2A | |

4.3 Action Plan


This section documents the actions needed to realise the vision and strategic goals of the draft City Plan. Some of these actions have been brought forward from City Plan 2014 as they are ongoing. New actions support the realisation of the updated draft City Plan. Implementation of the draft City Plan will be incremental and progress over the life of the plan and beyond. All new actions included in the draft City Plan are draft only and subject to entity endorsement and government agreement.

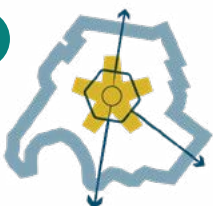



How to read the implementation framework

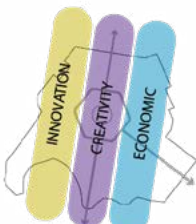
DIVERSE CITY CENTRE					
ID	ACTIONS	STRATEGIC GOALS	RELATED THEMES	TIMING	AGENCY
CPA.1 +	Develop an activity centre strategy for the City Centre.	02 04 07	  	Short	L/A EPSDD CRA
<div><div>Action Code + denotes new action</div><div>Action to be undertaken to support Strategic Goals</div><div>Strategic Goals supported by delivery of the action</div><div>Notes where the actions supports the priority directions of other themes</div><div>Indicative timeframe to deliver action</div><div>Identifies lead agency and partner agencies</div></div>					
<div><div>Timeframes Short-term: next 5 years Medium-term: next 10 years Ongoing: action has commenced and is progressing as part of a rolling or continuing commitment.</div><div>+ Any future impacts arising from specific implementation actions required to deliver the City Plan’s vision, priority outcomes and directions will be subject to future Government consideration, with any associated financial impacts to be considered through the Government’s usual budget processes.</div></div>					

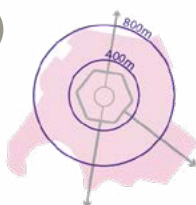
STRATEGIC GOALS


- 

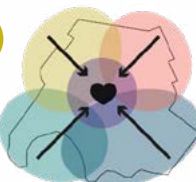
01 A City Centre that is our gateway to the world and the cosmopolitan heart of Canberra with a clear sense of arrival and more destinations for people to visit, linger and interact.
- 


02 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.
- 

03 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.
- 

04 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.
- 

05 A public transport supportive urban environment that balances movement and place with significant provision and priority for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.
- 

06 A biodiverse urban environment with generous planting on buildings, the public realm, streets and open spaces, which create memorable places to support public life.
- 

07 A unified City Centre, comprised of five precincts each with their own unique character, united as the heart of Canberra.
- 

08 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.



Sustainable Growth

Planning for sustainable growth is an important theme that will help ensure the City Centre can continue to grow and support demand for urban living while building long-term resilience across its economy and environment by creating opportunities for innovation and the knowledge economy within existing and emerging industries, research and education.



Diverse City Centre

Encourage a City Centre that strengthens its role as Canberra's primary business, education, retail, cultural and entertainment destination with memorable experiences that can't be found elsewhere.



Movement and Place

A well-connected and accessible City Centre that maximises the nexus between residential, commercial and community uses and public transport with pedestrian-friendly highly active streets and public spaces that are inclusive, fair and safe.



Community

Our City Centre is where people from all backgrounds, ages and income levels can represent their needs and concerns and take part in decisions that affect them. All residents will feel safe and at home, and visitors will be welcome.


















































Design Excellence

The design of the City Centre's buildings, streets, spaces and places and how they integrate has a significant impact on how the city functions, its attractiveness to residents, students, businesses and visitors, and the broader image of Canberra at the National Capital. Achieving Design Excellence is inseparable from quality planning outcomes and sits at the forefront of all planning processes related to the City Centre.


























Character

The City Centre has a positive and coherent identity and offers unique and diverse experiences through its architecture, streets and places, arts and culture, higher education and businesses, precincts and character areas.

ID	ACTIONS	STRATEGIC GOALS	RELATED THEME	TIMING	AGENCY
CPA.1 +	Identify underdeveloped and under-utilised sites in the City Centre.	 		Short	L/A EPSDD CRA
CPA.2 +	Establish policy settings that should support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > the redevelopment and adaptive reuse of existing buildings and spaces > commercial tenancies that offer viable and competitive choices, and are adaptable and resilient to change. 	  	 	Medium	L/A EPSDD
CPA.3	Continue implementation of the Housing Strategy to meet targets for social and affordable housing.	 	 	Ongoing	L/A EPSDD CSD
CPA.4 +	Undertake study of existing and future development capacity in the City Centre.	 	 	Short	L/A EPSDD
CPA.5	Undertake an economic development analysis to inform land use and infrastructure requirements by precinct area and inform policy.	  	 	Short	L/A EPSDD L/A CRA CMTEDD
CPA.6 +	Develop an activity centre strategy for the City Centre.	  	   	Short	L/A EPSDD CRA
CPA.7	Establish a dedicated City Centre Entertainment Precinct including changes to planning controls for new development to mitigate noise and other impacts as appropriate in mixed-use areas.	  	  	Short	L/A EPSDD
CPA.8	Develop a retail and commercial strategy to support future development.	  	  	Short	L/A EPSDD CRA
CPA.9 +	Provide guidance in the forthcoming Parking Action Plan about kerbside parking management, to manage the use of the limited on-street parking spaces that are available.		 	Short	L/A TCCS
CPA.10	Create a Movement and Place plan to balance movement requirements with a people and place focussed City Centre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > This will establish a clearer hierarchy of movement and modal priorities within the City Centre, and will be based on the Movement and Place Framework identified in the ACT Transport Strategy 2020. 	 	 	Short	L/A TCCS CRA EPSDD



Merry and Bright Christmas Celebrations in the City. Source: City Renewal Authority

ID	ACTIONS	STRATEGIC GOALS	RELATED THEME	TIMING	AGENCY
CPA.11	Facilitate growth in use of sustainable modes of travel both to and around the City Centre, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > improved active travel and public transport infrastructure and facilities > expansion of a high quality, safe and connected active travel network > support of micromobility schemes. 	  	  	Ongoing	L/A TCCS CRA
CPA.12	Undertake detailed planning for the City Centre and its future as a multi-modal transport hub, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > integration of future light rail routes and implications for orientation and location of the Civic bus interchange > identifying ideal future locations for bus layovers. 		   	Short	L/A TCCS EPSDD CRA MPC
CPA.13 +	Undertake planning, including the development of options, to lessen impacts and reduce through-traffic in the City Centre. The project will examine all modes of transport, public and private, transport and parking at both overall system and local levels. It will also consider current and future parking implications.	 	 		L/A TCCS EPSDD CRA MPC
CPA.14	Establish regular reviews of community facilities and services provision to support population growth of the City Centre and region.		  	Ongoing	L/A EPSDD CRA
CPA.15 +	Investigate opportunities for a greater diversity of uses and activities in the City Centre, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > activation programs such as events to activate underused open space adjacent to key pedestrian routes/activity areas > co-location of new community facilities with public open space to increase opportunities for outdoor recreational activities > strengthening the clustering of community theatre and arts through redevelopment and development of supporting venues as well as programs and events > inter-agency collaboration to support arts and cultural activities for all ages in the City Centre. 	 	 	Ongoing	L/A CRA EPSDD



Left: Flower and public art displays to celebrate Spring in the City Centre.

Below: Design Canberra Festival Design by Hannah Quinlivan



Middle left: Henry Rolland Park

Source: City Renewal Authority.

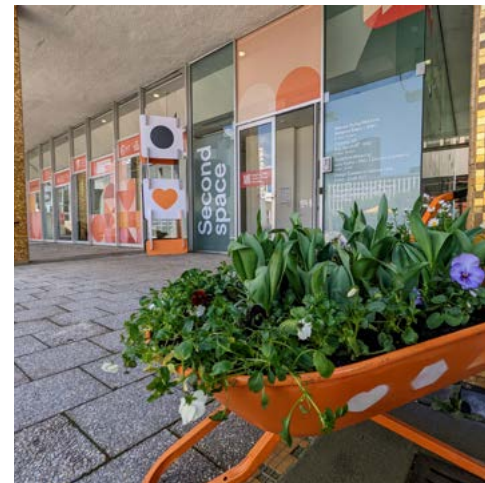
Middle right: Wheelbarrows have been distributed to local businesses throughout the City Centre to brighten up the footpaths.









































Source: City Renewal Authority



Below: Henry Rolland Park

Source: City Renewal Authority.



ID	ACTIONS	STRATEGIC GOALS	RELATED THEME	TIMING	AGENCY
CPA.16	Collaborate with the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee (DNCCC) on opportunities to provide input on knowledge, culture and traditions.		     	Ongoing	L/A All Agencies
CPA.17	Establish operational policies with design standards for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > innovative Grade A office spaces > gateway sites and entry statements > sustainability > responding to character > design excellence and innovation > community safety > public realm & landscaping. 	    	 	Short	L/A TCCS CRA EPSDD
CPA.18	Statutory planning system to adopt the directions of the draft City Plan and City Centre Urban Design Framework to improve pedestrian movement throughout the City Centre.	 	 	Ongoing	L/A EPSDD
CPA.19	Update operational policies that support City Centre character such as the Canberra Central Design Manual.	  	 	Short	L/A TCCS
CPA.20	Continue working with stakeholders in the delivery of public realm upgrades and activation initiatives to attract people and support business activity.	  	  	Ongoing	L/A All Agencies
CPA.21	Explore policy settings that support innovation in design. Examples might include incentives for competitive design processes to achieve design excellence for major sites.	  	   	Short	L/A EPSDD
CPA.22	Informed by CPA.4 and CPA.5, plan for and design service infrastructure to support developing the City Centre.	 	 	Medium	L/A EPSDD CRA



Christmas in the City, structure by CPS, graphics by Julia Slawsoki. Source: City Renewal Authority