



ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36: Action Plan 1

Delivering our existing commitments and
laying the foundations for what comes next



ACT
Government

Acknowledgement of Country

The City and Environment Directorate acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

We respect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, and their continuing culture and contribution they make to the Canberra region and the life of our city.

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A message from the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water



Canberra has already made strong gains in cutting emissions and preparing for a changing climate. However, the pace and scale of change required over the next decade demand a clear focus, taking an informed system-wide response and building the foundations for sustained long-term progress.

This Action Plan 1 brings to life the direction set out in the [ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36: Overarching Framework](#) through practical, near-term action that can be delivered now. It identifies where the ACT Government will lead, enable and invest to deliver real progress over the coming years.

This is the first action plan under the new approach for delivering the ACT's Climate Change Strategy through an overarching framework complemented by action plans. Further actions to those in Action Plan 1 will be progressed in future action plans. This agile approach allows us to continually build on our efforts to date without delay while also taking the time to properly understand the many complex challenges and responses as they emerge or evolve.

Action Plan 1 focuses on areas where government intervention is essential. It addresses community barriers to transition, supports households and businesses to transition, strengthening resilience to climate impacts, and supporting the systems, services and assets our city depends on. At the same time, we recognise that government cannot act alone. Progress depends on strong partnerships, with the community, industry, First Nations peoples, and all levels of government playing important and complementary roles.

Canberrans have been clear in their expectations. They want decisive climate action that reduces emissions, builds resilience and improves liveability, while ensuring the transition is fair and inclusive. This Action Plan is designed to deliver on those expectations by aligning climate action with everyday benefits for people across our city.

Through this Action Plan, the ACT Government is setting out how we will deliver on our commitments - turning ambition into action and laying the groundwork for a more resilient and climate positive Canberra.

Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water



Executive summary

The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36: Action Plan 1 delivers essential climate actions to drive down emissions and enable emission reduction over the long term. It also establishes the foundations for a climate-ready Canberra so Canberrans can be prepared for and be resilient to the changing climate.

It is our intent that Action Plan 1, and subsequent action plans, will help the ACT achieve its vision to be climate resilient and net zero by 2045 and working towards climate positive. The actions identified in this Action Plan are guided by and support the vision for each pillar in the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36: Overarching Framework.

Action Plan 1 represents the immediate priorities for the ACT Government. Other priorities identified throughout this Action Plan remain critical to achieving our vision of a climate resilient and climate positive Canberra and can be addressed in later action plans.

Action Plan 1 includes key work that sets the foundation for future action to be progressed over the coming decade to accelerate and achieve net zero and a climate ready city. We will also continue to engage with the community and experts to ensure our actions are effective and making an impact, and to share what we learn along the way.

Action Plan 1 is designed to deliver co-benefits across the ACT community and economy. This includes ensuring equitable outcomes for all Canberrans, and positive impacts on Canberra's health, wellbeing, liveability, productivity, and energy and economic security.

How this Action Plan works

How to read this Action Plan

The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36 consists of the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36: Overarching Framework (the Framework) and supporting Action Plans, which will be developed over the life of the Framework. Together, they help us to deliver on our vision to deliver a climate resilient, net zero Canberra, working towards climate positive.

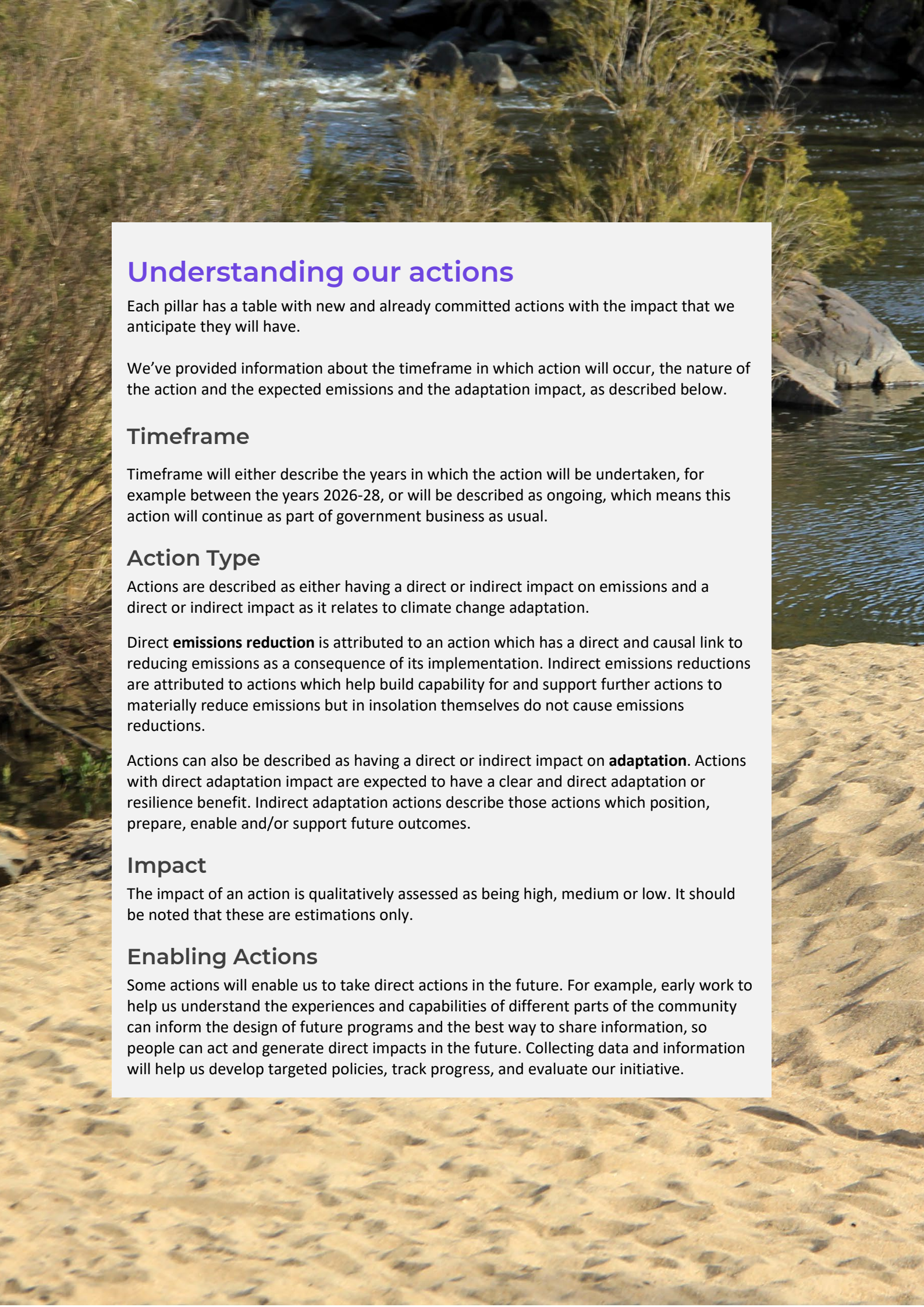
This Action Plan 1 explains the emissions reduction and climate adaptation actions to be undertaken by ACT Government for the near term. These include both new commitments and work already underway.

This document is divided into sections that can be read independently, depending on your area of interest. We call these sections our pillars for action, and they are eight strategic areas we intend to use as the building blocks of our actions to reduce emissions and build resilience. These pillars broadly reflect the major sources of emissions and sectors to focus adaptation and resilience across the Territory, and are:

- Natural Environment
- Built Environment
- Transport
- Energy
- Circular Economy and Waste
- Hard to abate emissions
- Agriculture and
- Government.

Together, they provide a comprehensive framework to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.





Understanding our actions

Each pillar has a table with new and already committed actions with the impact that we anticipate they will have.

We've provided information about the timeframe in which action will occur, the nature of the action and the expected emissions and the adaptation impact, as described below.

Timeframe

Timeframe will either describe the years in which the action will be undertaken, for example between the years 2026-28, or will be described as ongoing, which means this action will continue as part of government business as usual.

Action Type

Actions are described as either having a direct or indirect impact on emissions and a direct or indirect impact as it relates to climate change adaptation.

Direct **emissions reduction** is attributed to an action which has a direct and causal link to reducing emissions as a consequence of its implementation. Indirect emissions reductions are attributed to actions which help build capability for and support further actions to materially reduce emissions but in isolation themselves do not cause emissions reductions.

Actions can also be described as having a direct or indirect impact on **adaptation**. Actions with direct adaptation impact are expected to have a clear and direct adaptation or resilience benefit. Indirect adaptation actions describe those actions which position, prepare, enable and/or support future outcomes.

Impact

The impact of an action is qualitatively assessed as being high, medium or low. It should be noted that these are estimations only.

Enabling Actions

Some actions will enable us to take direct actions in the future. For example, early work to help us understand the experiences and capabilities of different parts of the community can inform the design of future programs and the best way to share information, so people can act and generate direct impacts in the future. Collecting data and information will help us develop targeted policies, track progress, and evaluate our initiative.

How this plan supports emissions reduction

Reducing global emissions is critical to limiting global warming and reducing future climate change and damage. Our current climate policies reduce the ACT's emissions, but they are not enough on their own to get us to net zero. As demonstrated in the Framework, the scale of effort and ambition by the ACT will need to increase if we are to play our part in reducing global emissions and achieving net zero.

Our work to date has helped us achieve key emissions reductions, for example in the electricity sector. This plan presents a range of new actions to build on the progress we have made to date. This suite of new and continuing actions will work together to compound our emission reduction efforts. The work undertaken to date has set in place key policy drivers that are still generating emissions reductions. For example, the Government set the groundwork for electrification of the city. The ongoing work to fulfil this commitment will continue to generate emissions reductions that will be reflected in the annual greenhouse gas inventory. Another example is the commitments made to support the uptake of zero emissions vehicles. There has been a substantial increase in the uptake of electric vehicles and as this continues emissions from the transport sector will also decline. Other work that continues to deliver emissions reductions includes supporting households through the Home Energy Support Program.

Emissions reductions require systemic change over time, from building the enabling infrastructure and policy frameworks, to scaling zero-emissions technologies and completing the phase-out of fossil fuels. Many of the actions identified in Action Plan 1 are foundational and enabling in nature. While the immediate emissions reduction potential from some actions are limited or indirect, they build evidence, systems and capabilities that are needed to support more substantial emissions reductions outcomes over time in subsequent action plans. This action plan establishes foundations to ensuring future actions are well designed, achievable and deliver lasting impact.

Between now and 2036 is a period of market and system tipping points. By the mid-2030s, we will be working to phase out light internal combustion engine vehicles, and we expect low emissions technologies to become the default. By 2040, all Government operations will be net zero, and we will have a fully electric bus fleet and a mature light rail network that forms the backbone of a zero-emissions public transport system. Development of further ACT Climate Change Strategy Action Plans will support this transition and will set up the ACT to be working towards a climate positive city, including the elimination and management of residual emissions and decommissioning of the gas network by 2045 or earlier in some parts of the network.

Building on our work to date

The ACT has developed strong foundations to respond to the challenge of climate change across all sectors of our city. This action plan builds on and leverages the extensive work underway. Existing programs and commitments will continue to progress and are included in this Action Plan to give a holistic overview of how the next tranche of actions complements existing work. Future action plans will build on this work to increase our overall effort as we work towards net zero and climate resilience. Strong progress to date includes:

- Continuing to protect and restore our natural environment, including strategic water, biodiversity and nature conservation activities.

- Upgrading public housing with insulation and electrification and embedding climate resilience, energy efficiency and emission reduction into planning and construction and the built environment.
- Striving for a world class transport system that supports a compact, sustainable and vibrant city.
- Being at the forefront of electrification and phasing out fossil fuel gas in the energy sector.
- Reducing per capita emissions and transitioning towards a more circular economy.
- Undertaking early planning for responsible management of residual emissions while continuing to focus on reducing all emissions as much as possible.
- Supporting farmers and landholders to manage increasing climate pressures to support a strong local food system and healthy and resilient land stewardship.
- Across government, we are demonstrating climate leadership through reducing emissions from our own operations and understanding our climate risks.

Related actions

The ACT Government has a broad range of complementary work underway and planned that is supporting the ACT to achieve our climate vision and goals. The following is a summary of related actions as well as work underway that will continue in this Action Plan 1.

Integrated Energy Plan

A range of actions are included in the [Integrated Energy Plan](#) to support the decarbonisation of our energy systems. This includes phasing out fossil fuel gas, planning for gas network decommissioning; limiting gas appliances; ensuring a supported and skilled workforce and ensuring grid resilience. This work is continuing and supports our path towards net zero and a climate resilient city.

ACT's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy 2022-30

The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36 supersedes the [ACT's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy 2022-30](#). Of the 28 actions, 21 have been completed or are now part of business as usual. The remaining actions are incorporated into the Overarching Framework and Action Plan. This includes longer term direction setting, such as working towards new light vehicle sales in the Territory, phasing-out light internal combustion vehicles and prohibiting the onboarding of new internal combustion engine vehicles to rideshare and taxi networks. Other ongoing work includes continuing cross-jurisdictional engagement and exploring opportunities to replace government commercial and heavy vehicles with ZEVs as models become available. Action also continues on the next stage of ACT Government fleet vehicle charging infrastructure and implementing a pathway towards zero emission waste trucks.

Living Infrastructure Plan

The ACT Climate Change Strategy supersedes the [Living Infrastructure Plan](#). Of the 15 actions included in that plan, 9 have been completed or are now part of the government's business as usual. The 4 remaining actions have been included in this Climate Change Strategy. This includes the longer-term target to achieve 30% tree canopy cover and high levels of surface permeability in Canberra's urban footprint by 2045. The other actions relate to ongoing work to incorporate climate resilience into planning/buildings, trialling cooling initiatives and work on a Microclimate Assessment Guide which is expected to be completed shortly.

Transforming our city - a pathway for coordinated action

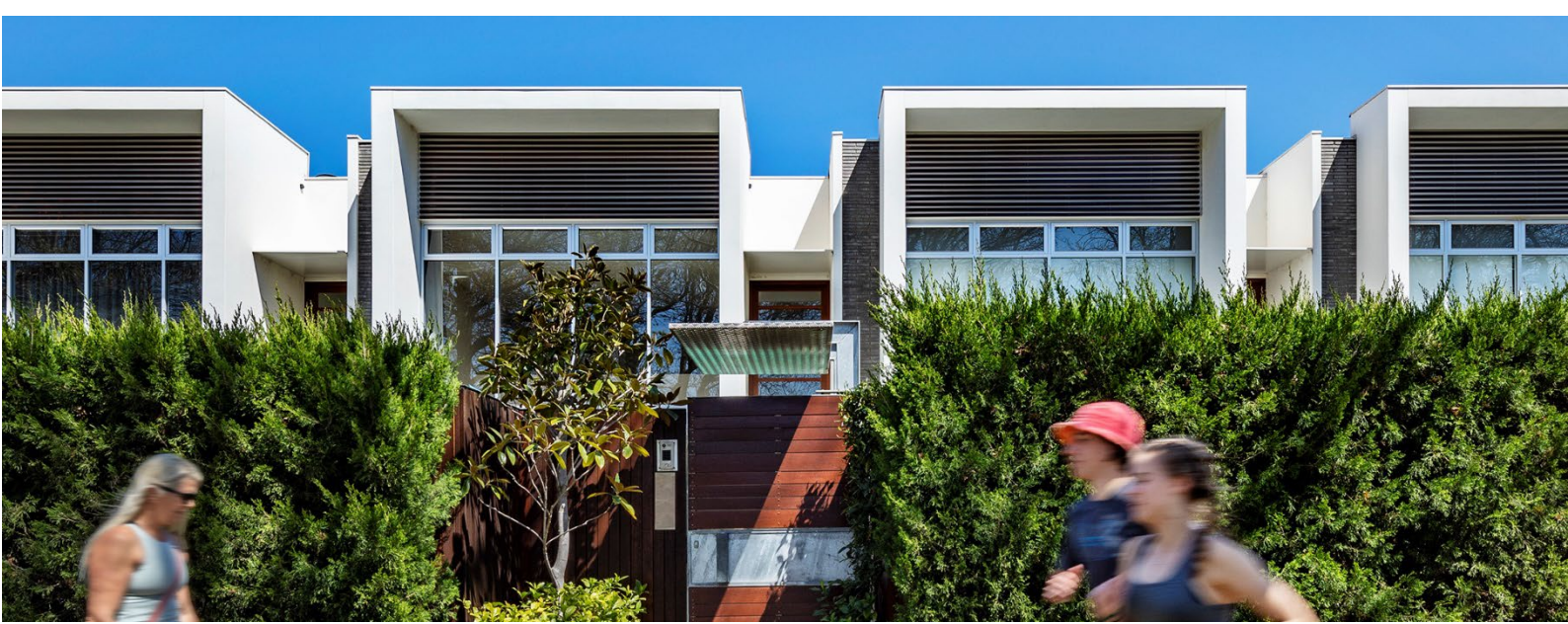
Planning for a climate-ready and liveable city

Climate change is no longer a distant threat - it is a defining, ACT-wide challenge that shapes how we live today and the city we leave for future generations. Climate impacts are felt across every system: from the way buildings perform in extreme heat, how transport networks cope with disruption, to the resilience of water, energy and waste infrastructure, and the health of urban landscapes. As such, responding to climate change requires a Territory-wide approach that embeds climate thinking at the heart of planning and decision-making.

Building a climate-ready city starts with identifying where emissions occur, where climate risks are greatest, and where action can improve resilience and liveability. This means delivering more efficient, climate-ready buildings; shifting to low-emissions, accessible transport; transitioning utilities to renewable and circular systems; and supporting landscapes to provide cooling, biodiversity and more efficient and effective water management. This delivers co-benefits such as more affordable services, convenient transport options and thermally comfortable buildings and neighbourhoods. Together, they show how a more climate-ready city is also a more liveable city.

However, a strategy alone is not enough. Action Plan 1 is the mechanism for turning strategic ambition into practical outcomes by identifying the tangible next steps for creating a climate-ready city and staying on the pathway to net zero and towards climate positive. Together, with the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36: Overarching Framework these outline a clear pathway forward while also demonstrating how climate action can create a more liveable and convenient city.

This approach also recognises the importance of integrating our climate goals across government and into key ACT frameworks, such as the forthcoming Planning and Transport Strategy. This will help ensure a coordinated whole-of-government approach so that climate goals inform how land is used, infrastructure is delivered and investment decisions are made.





Better aligning and embedding our action

The [Independent review of the ACT Government action on climate change](#) undertaken in 2024 noted that “Currently, strategic plans in the ACT are numerous and, at times, fragmented”.

Bringing together our actions into a consolidated and coordinated action plan was a key recommendation. This does not mean removing all strategies and plans but rather ensuring that across government there is a clear cohesive approach that brings all actions together. In responding to this recommendation, consideration has been given to how best to bring together our existing strategies and plans and build on the foundations these have established.

Some plans and strategies that incorporate climate change action also have roles beyond this and it would not be appropriate to combine them in their entirety into one plan. For example, the Nature Conservation Strategy sets out the actions and investment in activities to protect, conserve, and enhance nature in the ACT. While this includes embedding a climate change adaptation lens into nature conservation, the Nature Conservation Strategy considers broader biodiversity and conservation matters, such as invasive species, conserving ecosystems and protecting critical habitats.

Planning plays a central role in shaping outcomes. Technical, operational and spatial planning influence how communities grow and function. Compact, well-connected neighbourhoods reduce emissions and improve access. Resilient infrastructure supports energy and water security; and well-designed nature and biodiversity networks help cool the city and manage stormwater. Embedding climate change considerations across all systems and processes will support a low-emissions, resilient and liveable city for the community.

To focus our efforts, each pillar of this strategy has a clear pathway for what we are doing now and what comes next to achieve cross-sector objectives and supporting a climate resilient and towards a climate positive Canberra. Each pathway consists of existing ongoing plans and strategies and those proposed for the future or currently under development. These plans and strategies will further the aims for each pillar and drive action. For some pillars, the action needed has already been set in motion. For others, greater transformation is needed. For example, the Integrated Energy Plan lays out the electrification pathway to drive significant reduction in emissions while supporting the transition to a low-carbon energy system. The necessary emissions reduction in transport is already underway through a range of existing plans and strategies, and this will be further delivered by the new Planning and Transport Strategy.

The following provides a summary of how each pillar in the ACT Climate Change Strategy interacts and influences other key areas of government to ensure our work is cohesive now and in the future.

Table 1: ACT Climate Change Strategy pillars – pathway to change

Pillar	Key existing policies	Key upcoming plans and strategies	Actioning this now and in the future
Natural Environment	<u>Nature Conservation Strategy 2013-2023</u> <u>ACT Water Strategy 2025-45</u> <u>Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045</u> <u>Living Infrastructure Plan</u> (superseded by this Climate Change Strategy)	Landscape Plan Nature Conservation Strategy 2026-2036	The Landscape Plan will take a long-term, strategic, spatial approach to urban growth while incorporating our nature conservation objectives across Canberra. The Landscape Plan will have a strong climate adaptation focus, alongside providing a strategic direction for urban heat mitigation. The Landscape plan will be the foundation work to inform establishment of an Urban Growth Boundary for the ACT. The ACT Climate Change Strategy will support the Landscape Plan through ensuring there is a strong adaptation focus and supporting biodiversity in nature reserves across the ACT. The new Nature Conservation Strategy 2026-2036, the ACT Water Strategy 2025-45 and the Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045 will continue setting strategy direction, including climate considerations, for nature conservation, water management and managing trees across our city.
Built Environment	<u>ACT Planning Strategy</u> <u>ACT Sustainable Buildings Pathway</u> <u>ACT Infrastructure Plan</u> <u>ACT Housing Strategy</u>	Planning and Transport Strategy	The Planning and Transport Strategy is expected to operate as a long-term, strategic document that sets direction for integrated land use and transport outcomes. The ACT Climate Change Strategy will support development of key policy levers. For example, it will support mode shift through enabling more people to live in locations where sustainable travel is viable and support emissions reductions through system design and compact urban forms that link housing, transport and access to active travel networks.
Transport	<u>ACT Transport Strategy 2020</u> <u>Active Travel Plan</u> <u>ACT's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy 2022-30</u> (superseded by this Climate Change Strategy) <u>Zero Emissions Transition Plan for Transport Canberra</u>	Planning and Transport Strategy	This will lead into actions and changes, for example through district strategies, the Territory Plan and operational plans. Other ongoing built environment and transport plans and strategies including the ACT Sustainable Buildings Pathway, the ACT Infrastructure Plan, the Active Travel Plan, the ACT Housing Strategy, and the Zero Emissions Transition Plan for Transport Canberra will continue setting strategy and guiding actions for Canberra.

Pillar	Key existing policies	Key upcoming plans and strategies	Actioning this now and in the future
Energy	<u>Integrated Energy Plan</u>		The Integrated Energy Plan sets out a clear pathway to reduce energy emissions across homes, businesses and transport and electrify our city by 2045. The Integrated Energy Plan also provides critical regulatory and investment certainty for Energy Market Bodies, other jurisdictions and EvoEnergy. The ACT Climate Change Strategy provides consistency across energy and climate objectives as we phase out fossil fuel gas, plan for gas network decommissioning and ensure grid resilience. Government will undertake a mid-point review of the Integrated Energy Plan, expected in 2027, providing another opportunity for continued consistency across energy and climate.
Circular Economy and Waste	<u>ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030</u> <u>ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011-2025</u> <u>ACT Waste-to-Energy Policy 2020-2025</u>		The ACT Circular Economy Strategy and ACT Waste Management Strategy help us manage and reduce waste and take steps towards a circular city, with the aim to keep materials in use for as long as possible and reducing pressure on natural resources. The ACT Climate Change Strategy supports key linkages with emissions and waste and managing our scarce resources. Work is underway to develop an action plan specifically targeted at waste management under the Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030, as well as to develop a single use plastic plan. The ACT Waste-to-Energy policy prohibits the use of thermal technology to recover energy from waste within the ACT and respects the waste hierarchy, ensuring that waste reduction, reuse and recycling of materials will take precedence over energy recovery.
Hard to Abate	Carbon offsets are permitted under Section 6 of the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010</i> . The Minister may make a determination to		While we continue to undertake actions to reduce emissions, there will be emissions that can't be avoided. The government is looking to develop a carbon offsets policy for residual emissions to support high-integrity activities that remove carbon elsewhere. This may involve the use of additional land-based carbon sequestration measures or the use of high-quality carbon removal offsets.

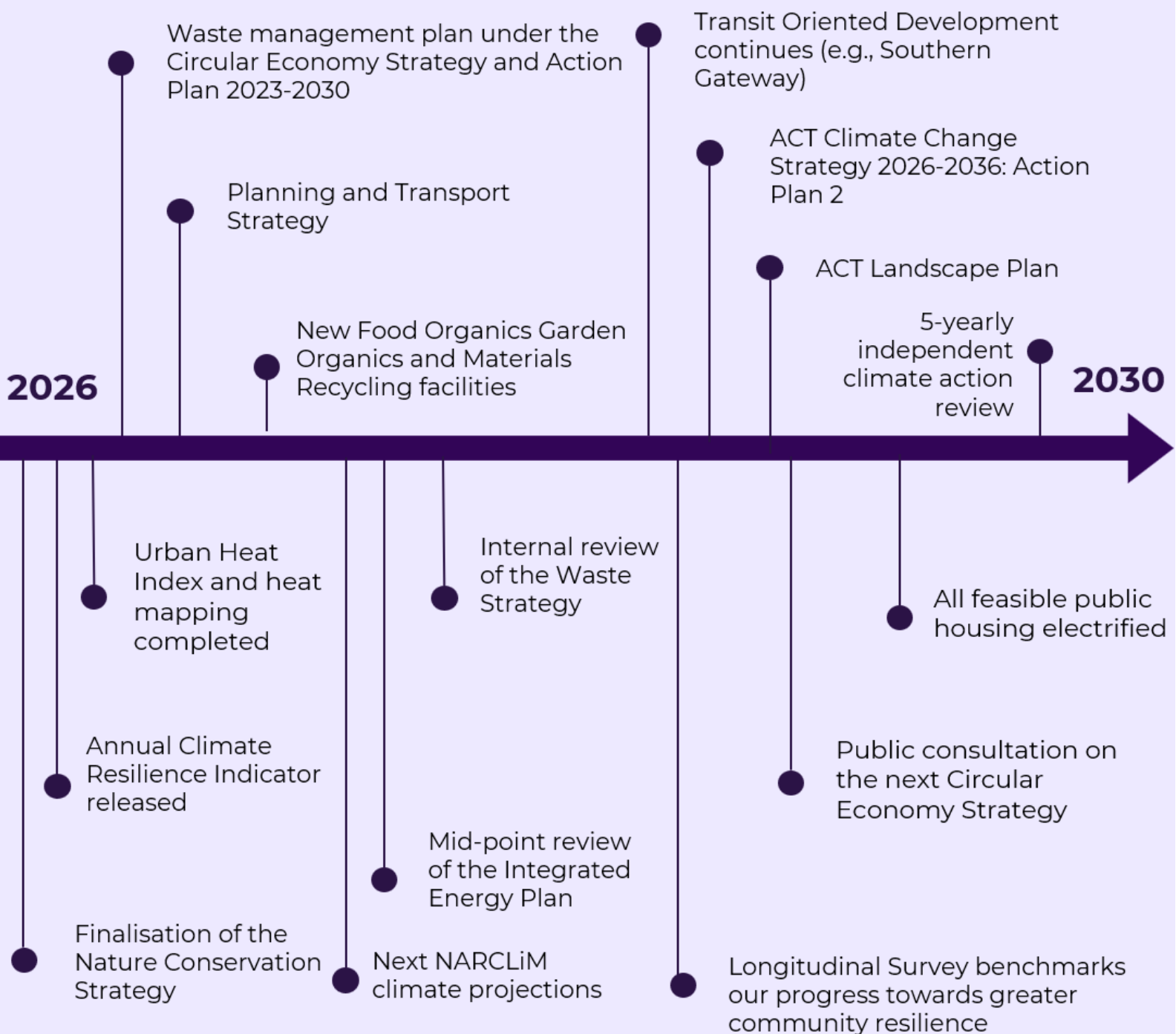
Pillar	Key existing policies	Key upcoming plans and strategies	Actioning this now and in the future
	balance any emissions of greenhouse gas in the ACT.		
Agriculture	<u>Canberra Region Local Food Strategy 2024-29</u>		Farmers and landholders play a vital role in feeding the community, caring for landscapes and adapting to a changing climate. The ACT Climate Change Strategy and Local Food Strategy support ongoing work in the agriculture sector including investigating carbon abatement options and on farm emissions reduction as well as a regional drought resilience planning program.
Government	<u>Electrification of Government Gas Assets Program</u> <u>Zero Emissions Government</u> <u>Climate Change Risk Assessment for the ACT</u> <u>(Summary report)</u>		The <u>Everyday Climate Choices website</u> includes information on the broad range of work the government is doing to get to net zero emissions and adapt to climate change, including electrification programs, climate risks considerations and a framework to support reaching net zero government emissions.



Sequencing our transformation

The ACT's pathway to becoming a net zero, climate-ready city by 2045 is a deliberate, staged transformation from early climate leadership to a fully decarbonised, resilient and circular economy. The following timeline outlines a practical pathway for progressively strengthening climate resilience and emissions reduction actions over time. This pathway is indicative only, providing a rough outline of the near-term key milestones that may need to be achieved while acknowledging that a high level of uncertainty remains. Longer term work and key milestones to net zero and beyond and adapting for a warmer world over the next two decades is provided in the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36: Overarching Framework.

Indicative timeline of key milestones



Taking Action – Key Informers

The following are key informers that provide the evidence base to underpin effective, data-informed climate action. These are part of a broader range of data and evidence across each pillar that underpins climate action.

While this work does not of itself reduce emissions or improve resilience, it generates the information needed to ensure our policies and initiatives are well targeted and deliver measurable outcomes. This is critical for ensuring our policies across different action plans over the lifetime of the Strategy make tangible progress towards our overarching strategic goals.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The ACT Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report shows how the ACT is tracking with emissions reductions towards our net zero targets. Estimating emissions annually is essential for the ACT to measure and report on its progress towards meeting our net zero targets.

It has been updated every year since 2012 and enables us to compare our progress to the 1990 baseline indicator. Each report provides a detailed breakdown of where emissions have been generated, enabling us to monitor and evaluate the progress of our policies and programs.





Climate Change Risk Assessment

The ACT will conduct the second Climate Change Risk Assessment for the ACT to identify and assess ACT climate vulnerabilities, particularly to ACT Government services, operations and assets. Regular climate risk assessments and climate risk management increase understanding and improve resilience of the ACT's services, operations, finances and assets, including assisting to mitigate impacts on insurance costs, property values and other vulnerabilities stemming from more frequent climate hazards.

The first Climate Change Risk Assessment for the ACT was conducted in 2022 and provided valuable information to guide ACT Government planning, policy and operations regarding climate risk and vulnerabilities. This second risk assessment will enable us to assess how previously identified risks may have evolved, to identify new or emerging risks, and highlight opportunities to improve resilience across them all.

Community Needs Assessment

The ACT will undertake a community needs assessment to inform climate action planning to help understand the suitability and effectiveness of potential climate actions to support targeted, equitable and prioritised actions. The ACT Government is committed to listening to the climate needs of Canberrans and this needs assessment will help us understand the experiences and capabilities of different parts of the community, particularly those most at risk from climate impacts, to ensure that mitigation and adaptation actions are designed with a strong equity and inclusion lens.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Framework

In order to measure our success, we need to track our progress. The development of a MERI framework will allow us to evaluate our progress and see whether the ACT Climate Change Strategy is delivering on its intended outcomes. This includes tracking progress against targets, identifying risks and adjusting actions as new information, technology and opportunities emerge. Governance arrangements will support collaboration across government, industry, community and businesses, ensuring everyone works together to achieve a climate resilient, climate positive future.

Depending on our levels of success, we can also adjust our actions, enhance delivery mechanisms and optimise our outcomes to improve the effectiveness of our work, based on the data we've gathered.

Development of a MERI framework is expected to be one of the first actions to be completed following the release of the Strategy, recognising its importance in supporting the delivery of all other initiatives in the Action Plan. This reporting will be made publicly available through the Minister's Annual Report under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* to ensure transparency and accountability to the public.

Table 2: Key Informers New Actions

Actions	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Better understand local community needs to foster climate action	2026-30	Indirect	Low	Low
Conduct the next climate change risk assessment for the ACT	2026-2028	Indirect	-	Medium
Develop the ACT Climate Change Strategy MERI Framework	2026	Indirect	-	-

Table 3: Key Informers Continuing Actions

Actions	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Continue the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report	Annually	Indirect	Low	-
Continue to deliver the Ministers Annual Report under the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010</i>	Ongoing	Indirect	-	-

Taking Action – Our Principles

The identification and implementation of actions for this Strategy are guided by our two core principles of equity and resilience.

The equity principle guides how the benefits, costs and opportunities associated with climate change and the transition to net zero are shared fairly across the community. It recognises that some people are more exposed or vulnerable to climate impacts and may have less capacity to adapt without support. This principle also includes our responsibility to future generations, ensuring that decisions made today contribute to a better environmental, social and economic future over the long term. For example, our approach to expanding tree canopy cover in the urban environment will prioritise areas with greater exposure to urban heat and higher levels of social vulnerability to help reduce climate risks and improve community wellbeing.

The resilience principle relates to the capacity of our social, economic, natural and built systems to withstand, adapt to and recover from the impacts of climate change. Applying this principle means considering whether our strategic actions would still be effective under a range of future climate conditions, including higher temperatures, reduced average rainfall and more frequent and severe extreme weather events. For example, considering whether our infrastructure investments are being designed with future climate conditions in mind and will be capable of continuing to function during and after severe climate events.

While these principles underpin the actions across all pillars of the Strategy, the below actions have been specifically developed to support and promote equity and resilience.



Equity

Engage the community on climate action

Ongoing engagement with ACT communities is essential to ensuring climate action is inclusive and supports the wellbeing of current and future generations. By working closely with communities most affected by climate change, we can design policies that better reflect lived experience and address the needs of diverse groups, including First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

This includes delivering targeted resources and information to support sustainable and climate ready choices. It includes empowering Nggunawal People to continue their connection to Country, supporting First Nations families of the ACT to take action to respond to climate change, and engaging young people through initiatives such as the Sustainable Schools Program.

The effectiveness of these actions will be measured through the *Living Well With a Changing Climate Longitudinal Survey*. By capturing demographic and geographic differences in community experiences, the survey helps to assess how well people are able to adapt to and recover from climate impacts and whether climate action is delivering equitable outcomes across the community.

Resilience

Build community resilience

A socially connected community where people support each other to prepare for, adapt to and recover from climate impacts is a more resilient community.

These actions will help foster and enhance these connections, including by ensuring community sector organisations can continue delivering critical services in changing climate conditions, and through undertaking a community needs assessment to inform climate action planning. This will ensure that mitigation and adaptation actions are designed with a strong equity and inclusion lens.

The Strategy also provides support for community-led projects that strengthen neighbourhood connections, building on the success of initiatives such as the Community Garden Grants program, recognising that strong local networks can play an important role in improving resilience to climate impacts.

Enable sustainable businesses

Businesses are crucial to achieving climate action because they are both exposed to climate risk and are central to driving the transition to a low-emissions, resilient economy.

Improving business sustainability through ongoing innovation and activities like electrification and climate risk management can help boost business resilience and market certainty. This involves continuation of existing work in these areas to help ensure business viability in a changing climate and enable businesses to take advantage of opportunities provided by the net zero transition. It intends to strengthen climate-ready economic development, in alignment with Mission 2 of CBR 2030: ACT's Strategic Economic Development Framework, to support ACT's transition to a net zero economy.

Enable a future-ready workforce

We need to ensure that our workforce is future-ready and equipped with the skills needed to adopt sustainable practices, respond to climate challenges, and lead emerging industries.

This is critical to unlocking the economic opportunities presented by the net zero transition and climate action more broadly. This will involve ongoing delivery of skills and training programs to support workforce upskilling.

Table 4: Cross-cutting Equity and Resilience New Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Prepare Community Service Organisations for climate change	2026-28	Direct	-	Medium
Engage with Traditional Owners and the First Nations community to explore community led solutions that support resilience	2026-28	Indirect	Low	Medium
Develop a Next Generation Statement of Priorities	2026-28	Indirect	Low	Low



Table 5: Cross-cutting Equity and Resilience Continuing Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Deliver targeted communications and engagement to support sustainable and climate-ready choices	Ongoing	Indirect	Medium	Medium
Provide grants to empower local groups to deliver community-led climate initiatives, such as the Community Garden Grants Program; as well as support for projects that reduce emissions, build resilience and empower communities to take action	Ongoing	Direct	Medium	Low
Maintain and expand the ACT Disaster Resilience Hub, which provides advice and tools to support Canberrans to prepare for emergencies	Ongoing	Indirect	-	Medium
Identify future workforce needs required to deliver a climate-ready city and establish skills and training programs such as targeted VET training subsidies and Canberra Institute of Technology's (CIT) Electric Vehicle TAFE Centre of Excellence	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	Low
Continue to support schools and students to take climate action through the Sustainable Schools Program	Ongoing	Direct	Low	Low
Continue delivery of the Sustainable Events Program to provide support and advice to community events	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	Low
Continue delivery of the Sustainable Business Program to provide technical advice and rebates to businesses	Ongoing	Direct	Medium	-
Continue the Energy Innovation Fund to support early-stage innovation	Ongoing	Direct	Low	-

Future priorities

In future action plans and other ACT Government complementary work, the following priorities will be explored.

- **Support and empower priority groups** through direct, targeted approaches, programs and policies that address challenges
- **Explore ways to improve climate education and empowerment**, including expanding youth engagement and engaging with the broader community to foster innovation and community-led action.
- **Improve, protect and promote community health and wellbeing** in the face of increased average temperatures and heatwaves.
- **Prioritise community wellbeing** through ensuring that climate policies and programs embrace equitable planning, decision-making and actions, with community wellbeing front of mind. This includes continuing to track community resilience via the Living Well with a Changing Climate - ACT Longitudinal Survey.
- **Strengthen and improve disaster resilience** planning across sectors, including the health, energy and transport systems.
- **Support and unlock economic opportunities** through climate action. We will listen to business needs to manage climate risks while helping them innovate, reduce costs, and tap into emerging markets.
- **Support future workplace needs** by continuing to engage with businesses to understand the barriers to transition and to ensure we have a future-ready workforce with the skills to adopt sustainable practices, respond to climate challenges, and lead emerging industries.



Complementary work

These principles are supported by the following strategies, plans and major actions. These complement and deliver on the priority areas identified under this pillar.

- The **ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024-2030** is a framework for building resilience to disasters in the ACT. The strategy aims to minimise the devastating losses our communities can face from bushfires, floods, storms, security situations and other hazards.
- The **ACT Social Recovery Framework** helps our community prepare for and recover from disasters. Social recovery focuses on the human aspects of recovery after a disaster. This includes focusing on health and wellbeing, safety and security, and community connection and cohesion.
- **CBR 2030: ACT's Strategic Economic Development Framework** frames action on climate change as a core economic development opportunity, guiding actions that not only respond to climate challenges but actively shape a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Major actions include:

- **Supporting households and businesses** with advice to create energy transition plans and switch off gas, including through the Make Your Next Choice Electric tool, Sustainable Home Advice Program and the Business Energy Journey tool.
- **Providing financial support to households** to install energy-efficient products through the Sustainable Household Scheme and the Home Energy Support Program.
- **The Sustainable Business Program** supports businesses to reduce operating costs and improve sustainability in the areas of energy, waste, water and transport. Businesses can receive technical advice and may be eligible for up to \$13,000 in rebates.
- **The Energy Innovation Fund** provides grants which aim to support new business models and innovation to solve energy transition challenges and accelerate the uptake of energy transition initiatives.
- **The Sustainable Event Program** supports event organisers with advice and equipment to make public events more sustainable.
- **The Home Energy Efficiency Program** provides renters and homeowners with advice on how to save money on energy bills while staying comfortable

Taking Action – Pillar 1: Natural Environment

By 2036: Looking after nature is at the heart of our climate change action.

Key action areas

The following action areas have been identified as the primary focus for natural environment efforts in this action plan. The tables below list new and continuing actions which address these priority areas.

Adaptation for nature and water

Climate change is placing pressure on ecosystems, landscapes and biodiversity and contributing to long term challenges such as water availability. We need to ensure that Canberra's growth is shaped by the protection and enhancement of its landscapes. These actions will help us understand how we need to adjust our environment management practices to support the long-term sustainability of these natural systems. It will also investigate more efficient ways of using water, such as through community education, more efficient water fixtures and regulatory measures.

Understand our land use impacts

This work will strengthen understanding of land use impacts by reviewing methodologies used to account for emissions from land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). LULUCF covers activities such as agriculture, forest management, reforestation and deforestation, which can both generate greenhouse gas emissions and remove carbon from the atmosphere. Forests, soils and vegetation can act as carbon sinks by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, helping to offset emissions from other sectors. By improving the accuracy of LULUCF accounting, we can enable more effective land-based climate policy and help identify opportunities for more sustainable land management practices.



Table 6: Pillar 1 Natural Environment New Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Improve the land use, land use change and forestry emissions accounting methodology	2026-28	Indirect	Low	-

Table 7: Pillar 1 Natural Environment Continuing Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Continue to support ACT's natural environment and biodiversity to adapt to a changing climate	Ongoing	Direct	-	Medium
Improving the efficiency of our water use	Ongoing	Direct	-	Medium

Future priorities

Future action plans and other ACT Government complementary work will also explore the following priorities.

- **Continue embedding Ngunnawal leadership** and recognising the enduring value of cultural knowledge systems alongside scientific methods. We will continue engaging the Ngunnawal community as active partners in conservation practice as key for caring for and managing Country. Our efforts must be undertaken with full respect for the Ngunnawal People's intellectual property and cultural rights.
- **Reduce our impact on the landscape** and reducing urban sprawl by setting an urban growth boundary, as well as strengthening the connections between our natural areas and suburbs to support healthy communities.
- **Manage water more efficiently.** We will assess the impact of climate change on future water availability and support more efficient water use through upgrading water fixtures and improving community water literacy.
- **Improve resilience of ecosystems** through identifying and prioritising action for ecosystems at risk of immediate harm from climate change.
- **Deliver a Nature Positive future** and holistically consider our built and natural environments by ensuring alignment between the Nature Conservation Strategy 2026–2036, the forthcoming ACT Landscape Plan and Planning and Transport Strategy, as well as delivering a nature positive future across urban and non-urban land.

- **Increase carbon sequestration** and increase carbon stored in the landscape by protecting and restoring native vegetation, improving soil health and supporting land management practices that enhance long-term carbon sequestration while delivering biodiversity, productivity and resilience benefits.
- **Support for industry** including supporting businesses, farmers, rural landholders and the broader community in the ACT to stay resilient as extreme weather events like droughts and water shortages become more common.

Complementary work

This pillar is supported by the following strategies, plans and major actions. These complement and deliver on the priority areas identified under this pillar.

- The forthcoming **Nature Conservation Strategy 2026-2036** sets long-term vision and goals for nature conservation in the ACT, shaping legal, policy and program development and guiding government targeted interventions, governance and community engagement regarding decision-making and conservation action in the ACT.
- The **ACT Water Strategy 2025-2045** sets the long-term direction for how water is managed and valued across the Territory. It includes a focus on climate resilience by considering the impact of climate risks on the health of catchments and other water bodies and ensures sustainability by ensuring the water supply is utilised to serve Canberra's needs as efficiently as possible.

Major actions include:

- The appointment of an **ACT Landscape Architect** and forthcoming development of the ACT Landscape Plan which will deliver activities to support the integration of ecological values and connectivity in urban planning.
- The **ACT Environmental Grants Program** helps the community address local environmental issues they care about and supports projects to connect more of the community to nature.



● Taking Action – Pillar 2: Built Environment

By 2036: Canberra's homes, streets and neighbourhoods are greener, more resilient and easier to live in – with fewer emissions, keeping people safe in extreme weather, and giving everyone access to comfortable, healthy and affordable places to live and gather.

Key action areas

The following action areas have been identified as the primary focus for built environment efforts in this action plan. The tables below list new and continuing actions which address these priority areas.

Mitigate the impacts of urban heat

Higher average temperatures and more frequent and intense heatwaves constitute one of the biggest challenges that the ACT faces from climate change and will be exacerbated by the urban heat island effect.

These actions seek to reduce the exposure, severity and impacts of urban heat, particularly on human health. Tree canopy cover is one aspect of addressing urban heat, but alternative solutions will be needed in some areas. Better consideration of reducing urban heat and its health impacts across government, including in new policies such as the forthcoming Planning and Transport Strategy, and coordination of responses across government, will also help reduce vulnerability of communities and infrastructure.

Improve resilience to flash flooding

While climate change will decrease overall annual rainfall, it will also increase the risk of severe storms and heavy rain events, leading to flash flooding in urban areas.

These actions will reduce these impacts by helping us to better understand which locations may become more flood-prone over time, informing future planning and infrastructure decisions. It will also explore ways to improve how our landscapes absorb stormwater, reducing flood risk while supporting healthier neighbourhood trees, plants and green spaces.



Deliver climate ready homes and communities

Improving our built environment to be net zero and climate ready will look different for different people and different circumstances. We want to ensure that our homes and communities are providing a safe and liveable city under changing climate conditions.

This will include piloting the development of a neighbourhood-level plan, co-designed with that community, to identify potential actions that can drive adaptation and reduce emissions. Providing practical guidance and supportive regulatory environments empower communities to become more resilient and make better climate choices.

Reduce embodied and operational emissions from infrastructure

The operation, construction, maintenance and refurbishment of buildings and infrastructure generate emissions both within and outside of the ACT, contributing significantly to climate change globally.

This work will improve government and industry capability to reduce these emissions. Measuring and valuing emissions impacts in major projects will encourage government decision-making to take emissions into account. Similarly, independent sustainability ratings and a phased approach to carbon management on all major projects will support consistent, cost-effective emissions reduction, while also sending strong signals to the market to invest in the low carbon industry and capability. Reducing operational emissions will continue to be a key focus because they occur over the lifetime of assets and is an ongoing source of emissions. Addressing these through energy efficiency, transitioning to electric and optimising asset performance offers immediate and sustained reductions, complementing efforts to reduce embodied emissions and helping to minimise whole-of-life climate impacts.

Table 8: Pillar 2 Built Environment New Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Investigate additional options to reduce urban heat and its impacts on Canberra's community, focused on Canberra's hottest areas as identified by urban heat mapping	2026-28	Indirect	-	Medium
Development of a new surface permeability policy for urban Canberra	2026-29	Indirect	-	Medium
Embed stormwater and runoff considerations in the ACT's planning frameworks and policies	2026-29	Indirect	-	Medium
Pilot development of a local-level net zero and climate ready community plan	2026-28	Indirect	Low	Medium
Pilot measuring and valuing emissions impacts in major government transport planning and infrastructure projects	2026-27	Indirect	Low	-

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Implement carbon management practices on major government infrastructure projects	Phased in from 2027	Direct	Low	-

Table 9: Pillar 2 Built Environment Continuing Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Continue policy and research on the expansion of Canberra's tree canopy to cover 30% of the city by 2045	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	Medium
Continue implementation work on public land to expand Canberra's tree canopy to cover 30% of the city by 2045 and to maintain it at that level thereafter	Ongoing	Direct	Low	Medium
Continue to embed urban heat considerations in the ACT's planning frameworks and policies	Ongoing	Indirect	-	Medium
Embed climate resilience and energy efficiency into planning and construction	Ongoing	Indirect	-	Medium
Require independent sustainability ratings on major government infrastructure projects	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	-
Continue to electrify and insulate all feasible public and community housing	By 2030	Direct	Low	Medium
Maintain regulation for minimum energy efficiency standards for ceiling insulation in residential rental properties	Ongoing	Direct	Low	High
Deliver and promote climate-wise living through demonstration homes, engagement activities and all-electric suburbs with the Suburban Land Agency	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	Low

Future priorities

Future action plans and other ACT Government complementary work will also explore the following priorities.

- **Delivering a climate-ready built environment** by integrating emissions mitigation and climate adaptation into planning, urban design and construction processes to deliver buildings and neighbourhoods that are environmentally responsible, energy efficient and resilient over their lifecycles, including through the Sustainable Buildings Pathway and the forthcoming Planning and Transport Strategy. We will also support the transition of more complex buildings such as multi-unit, mixed use and large commercial developments.
- **Ensuring a supported and skilled workforce** and supporting upskilling for key trades groups integral to delivery of a climate-ready built environment.
- **Strengthening building standards** including advocating to strengthen national building standards to support climate resilience and for a clear trajectory to net zero and aiming for nationally aligned and streamlined regulation.
- **Managing disaster risk** and climate-related hazards by increasing consideration of bushfire risks and improving resilience to flash flooding in urban areas, including consideration of impacts on transport and infrastructure.
- **Embedding circularity in the built environment.** We will explore opportunities to promote circular design and construction practices, including increasing use of recycled materials, adaptive reuse of existing infrastructure and whole-of-life approaches that minimise resource usage.

Complementary work

This pillar is supported by the following strategies, plans and major actions. These complement and deliver on the priority areas identified under this pillar.

- The **Sustainable Buildings Pathway** is a plan to make buildings in Canberra more sustainable by making better choices in building, operating, and renovating to ensure all buildings both minimise their impacts on climate change and can cope with the effects of climate change now and in the future.
- The **Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045** sets out the ACT Government's vision for managing the trees across our city. Through this strategy we maintain our urban forest and expand our tree canopy cover.
- The **Planning Act 2023** and the **Territory Plan** and associated design guides promote energy efficiency, water management, and urban heat mitigation through urban planning, design and delivery.
- Consideration of biodiversity and ecological sustainability is also built into the planning processes that guide urban development through the **Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guide 2024** which helps to protect biodiversity and ecological values by providing guidance on how new developments can be undertaken in harmony with the natural environment. Similarly, the **Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna** has conservation responsibilities in relation to urban planning and development applications.

We are continuing to build on a range of major actions, including:

- Embedding **climate resilience and energy efficiency** into planning and construction, such as establishing minimum efficiency standards for all rental properties, mandatory disclosures of energy performance and requiring new buildings to demonstrate energy performance and meet mandatory minimum energy efficiency standards.
- Developing and implementing the **new ACT Planning and Transport Strategy**, guided by the ACT Climate Change Strategy.
- **Electrifying and insulating all feasible public and community housing** by 2030.
- **Working with the construction and building industry** to promote world-leading, low-emissions buildings.
- **Participating in nationally consistent approaches** to infrastructure decarbonisation.
- Continuing various **programs to support energy efficiency upgrades** for households and businesses, as outlined in the Taking Action: Our Principles section.



Taking Action - Pillar 3: Transport

By 2036: Canberrans have multiple low-carbon transport options for moving around our city, including safe, accessible and convenient public and active transport, as well as zero emissions vehicles.

Key action areas

The following action areas have been identified as the primary focus for transport efforts in this action plan. The tables below list new and continuing actions which address these priority areas.

Increase mode shift towards active and public transport

Mode shift and consequent reduction in travel by fossil-fuel powered vehicles will help reduce transport emissions. Mode shift also has significant health and wellbeing benefits for the community. These actions will encourage Canberrans to walk, wheel, ride and travel by bus or light rail, particularly for short trips.

Canberra's planning legacy as a sprawling, low-density city has historically not supported high public transport and active travel use. Transit oriented development seeks to change this by building sustainable communities with more people living next to, and utilising, high frequency public transport services. Improvements to public transport services, and bus priority and active travel infrastructure are also planned to reinforce this feedback loop and support increased demand for these services.

We want to improve active and public transport to make it more appealing for people to walk, cycle and use public transport, through upgrading our active and public transport networks and supporting choices that reduce the need to travel, particularly for short trips and to stay comfortable in the warming climate.

Further actions will help the government understand how and why people travel in the ACT, what options there are to reducing private vehicle dependency and how we can reprioritise future infrastructure away from road construction towards public and active transport. Improving how we collect travel data will also help us develop targeted policies, track progress, and evaluate mode shift initiatives.



Support ZEV uptake

Transport is the single biggest source of emissions in the ACT, with the majority coming from private transport. We want to support ZEV uptake through supportive policy settings. This includes improving equitable access and helping overcome the barriers faced by renters, low-income households, businesses and other groups.

Along with mode shift and overall decreases in vehicle kilometres travelled, transitioning to zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) will significantly reduce emissions from this sector. This work will deliver supportive infrastructure and policies to break down barriers to ZEV uptake, kickstart commercial ZEV transition and incentivise the transition away from internal combustion engines. This will also encourage broader business electrification, accelerate the second-hand market and support the stability and resilience of our electricity network.

Table 10: Pillar 3 Transport New Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Implement improved travel data collection	2026-28	Indirect	Low	-
Investigate how to encourage mode shift to public transport and active travel	2026 - 28	Indirect	Low	-
Research travel demand management and mode shift options	2026 - 28	Indirect	Low	-
Offer low-interest loans for cargo bikes	2026 - ongoing	Direct	Medium	-
Preliminary planning and design works for a potential fourth bus depot on the northside to support the growth of our fully electric bus fleet	2026-28	Indirect	Medium	-

Table 11: Pillar 3 Transport Continuing Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Offer \$20,000 low-interest loans which includes zero-emissions vehicles worth up to \$60,000 through the Sustainable Household Scheme	2026-ongoing	Direct	High	-
Continue to incentivise ZEVs via stamp duty and registration fees	Ongoing	Direct	Medium	-

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Strategic public electric vehicle (EV) charging investment	2026-28	Indirect	Medium	-
Prohibit onboarding of new internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to taxi and rideshare networks	By 2030	Direct	High	-
Continue to plan, construct and operate Light Rail	Ongoing	Direct	Medium	-
Continue to assist businesses and organisations to transition to zero-emissions vehicles	2026 - Ongoing	Indirect	Medium	-
Integrate land use and transport planning, placing more value on public places that prioritise pedestrians, cycling and public transport and providing social infrastructure required for sustainable communities	Ongoing	Indirect	Medium	-
Provide support and advice for EV charging in apartments	Ongoing	Direct	Low	-
Change the Territory Plan to enable Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and support more people to live near high frequency bus and light rail services and shopping and commercial centres	2026-28	Indirect	Medium	Medium
Introduce new rapid bus services and increase the frequency of local services to every 20 minutes	2026-28	Direct	Low	-
Plan and deliver bus priority on key transit corridors including the Belconnen Transitway	2026-ongoing	Direct	Low	-
Plan key gateway corridors as multi-modal corridors supporting safe access to public transport and active travel	2026-ongoing	Direct	Low	-

Future priorities

Future action plans and other ACT Government complementary work will also explore the following priorities.

- **Supporting charging infrastructure**, with a particular focus on public settings, businesses and multi-unit developments.
- **Planning for a gradual, equitable and safe phase-out** of light internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to take place from 2035, thereby reducing emissions from combustion fuels.
- Further exploration of **vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology** including supporting V2G uptake and engaging the community on the benefits of smart charging and V2G technology which can help balance electricity demand and help consumers save on energy costs.
- **Integrating planning, transport and place**. We will use the Planning and Transport Strategy to improve how we plan and deliver where people live, work and access services. This will help create neighbourhoods and precincts that rely less on cars and provide easier, more reliable transport choices.

Complementary work

This pillar is supported by the following strategies, plans and major actions. These complement and deliver on the priority areas identified under this pillar.

- Implementation of the **ACT Transport Strategy 2020** includes planning, constructing and operating the light rail and improving Canberra's bus network and service frequency.
- The **Active Travel Plan 2024-30** supports enacting the vision to have more Canberrans walking and cycling more often to improve quality of life through, supported by the **ACT Road Safety Framework 2026-31** which recognises and aims to protect vulnerable active transport users.
- Implementation of the **Zero Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra (2024 Refresh)** transitions Transport Canberra bus fleet to ZEVs.
- Developing the **Transport Canberra Customer Strategy Action Plan** to deliver a public transport system that reflects the community's needs.

We are building on a range of major actions, including:

- Continuing to operate and expand the **light rail network**.
- Improving the **bus network**, service frequency and customer experience.
- Delivering **strategic public electric vehicle (EV) charging investment** across the ACT.
- **Assisting businesses and organisations to transition** to zero-emissions vehicles, such as through the Sustainable Business Program.
- **Incentivising ZEV uptake**, such as through lower stamp-duty and registration fees for lower-emissions vehicles.

- **Running programs to ensure active transport options** are affordable and accessible to all Canberrans. This includes funding SEE-Change to operate an e-bike library, a program which allows Canberrans to borrow e-bikes for a 14-day period at no cost and providing publicly available e-bikes and scooters across the ACT through shared e-bike and e-scooter schemes.



Taking Action – Pillar 4: Energy

By 2036: The ACT continues to be at the forefront of electrification and the phase-out of fossil fuel gas, with a focus on a just transition supporting those who need it most.

Key action areas

The following action areas have been identified as the primary focus for energy efforts in this action plan. The tables below list new and continuing actions which address these priority areas.

Support the energy system transition

The phase-out of fossil fuel gas combined with ongoing delivery of 100% renewable electricity will contribute significantly to achievement of net zero in 2045. As the ACT electrifies and transitions away from the use of fossil fuel gas, we want to be sure that we have a reliable, resilient, affordable and 100% renewable electricity network.

A coordinated and planned approach to phasing out gas and electrifying our city, including support for parts of the community facing barriers, will enable all Canberrans to experience the full benefits of electrification. Batteries will play a critical role in this transition, by supporting electrification, enhancing grid stability and resilience, and reducing pressure on our energy infrastructure. These actions will help create the conditions needed to accelerate electrification, including enabling batteries to operate flexibly to manage energy demand, build grid resilience, provide backup power when needed, and enhance network efficiency for the benefit of all consumers.

Support community access to electrification

All Canberrans should be able to share in the benefits of electrification across homes, business and transport. Empowering the community means enabling informed choices and greater participation in the energy system, supported by tools such as smart technologies, accessible information and tailored programs. These actions provide the support to households and businesses, particularly those facing barriers, with the support needed to make the switch and take control of their energy use.

Table 12: Pillar 4 Energy New Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Explore battery options to improve energy management, grid resilience and equity	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	Medium
Review the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme and Electricity, Gas and Water Rebate to ensure effective support of priority groups	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	Low
Implement actions under the National Consumer Energy Resources Roadmap	Ongoing	Direct	Low	Low

Table 13: Pillar 4 Energy Continuing Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Maintain 100% renewable electricity	Ongoing	Direct	High	-
Enforce and maintain regulation to restrict new gas network connections	Ongoing	Direct	Medium	-
Support the roll out of smart meters to enable households and businesses to maximise the benefits of electrification	Ongoing	Direct	Low	Low
Work with the community, including renters, people living in apartments and those in commercial buildings, to work through the challenges they face to electrify	Ongoing	Indirect	Medium	Medium
Continue implementing the Wood Heater Removal Program, which provide rebates to replace wood heaters	Ongoing	Direct	Low	Low
Provide financial support to households to install energy-efficient products through the Sustainable Household Scheme	Ongoing	Direct	Low	Medium

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Continue to support households and businesses with advice to create energy transition plans and switch off gas, including through the Make Your Next Choice Electric tool, Sustainable Home Advice Program, and the Business Energy Journey tool	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	Medium
Continue to deliver targeted support for priority groups to reduce energy bills and improve the comfort of their homes, including the Home Energy Support: Rebates for Homeowners program, Renters Home Energy Program and the Access to Electric Program	Ongoing	Direct	Medium	Medium
Support the uptake of consumer energy resources such as rooftop solar, batteries, smart appliances, electric vehicles and vehicle to home/grid	Ongoing	Indirect	Medium	Medium
Continue to undertake the Big Canberra Battery project	Ongoing	Direct	Low	Medium

Future priorities

Future action plans and other ACT Government complementary work will also explore the following priorities.

- **Phasing out fossil fuel gas** by developing an approach to regulating gas network connected appliances, in consultation with community and industry, while also planning for a safe, efficient and equitable decommissioning of the gas network.
- Ensuring we are meeting **future skills needs** and working with industry to find pathways for affected workers, such as gas fitters, to ensure we are delivering a just transition.
- **Ensuring grid resilience and stability** by supporting increased uptake of battery storage solutions to improve grid stability and resilience to climate-related disaster events.
- **Connecting building and energy systems.** We will explore how buildings can communicate with and respond to the electricity grid in real time to help maximise energy efficiency, reduce peak demand, and improve the reliability and resilience of the electricity network.
- Continue **community engagement and support** with transparent and honest discussions about transition choices as well as focusing on helping those with priority needs to improve efficiency, reduce energy needs, and electrify.

- Helping Canberrans learn about, take up and benefit from the **uptake of smart meters and consumer energy resources** and new energy services which can lower energy bills, reduce emissions and improve grid stability.
- Continue **exploring potential electrification pathways for apartment buildings** to support the challenges of multi-storey buildings.

Complementary work

This pillar is supported by the following strategies, plans and major actions. These complement and deliver on the priority areas identified under this pillar.

- The **Integrated Energy Plan 2024-2030** provides the long-term pathway for the transformation of the ACT's energy system to achieve net zero emissions by 2045, building on our existing success in securing 100% renewable electricity in 2020. This first Integrated Energy Plan (IEP1), for 2024–2030, lays the foundations to allow ACT's households and businesses to capture the benefits of electrification out to 2045 and beyond.

We are continuing to build on a range of major actions, including:

- Reaching and maintaining **100% renewable electricity**.
- Maintaining **regulation to prevent new fossil fuel gas network connections** in most areas, ensuring that all residential use buildings, and most commercial buildings, will be all-electric.
- Continuing the **Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)** to deliver energy and cost savings for participating ACT households and small to medium businesses for the lifetime of installed technologies.
- Delivering various **programs to support households and businesses to electrify and reduce energy bills** by providing advice, resources and financial support. These include the Sustainable Business Program, the Sustainable Household Scheme, Home Energy Support Program, Make your next choice electric and Sustainable Home Advice Program, Renters Home Energy Program, Community Outreach for Energy Hardship Program.



Taking Action – Pillar 5: Circular Economy and Waste

By 2036: The Territory is becoming a circular city, through increasing rates of resource recovery and declining quantities of waste to landfill and Territory-wide consumption emissions are reducing.

Key action areas

The following action areas have been identified as the primary focus for circular economy and waste efforts in this action plan. The tables below list new and continuing actions which address these priority areas.

Measure consumption emissions

Considering our consumption emissions helps us understand the full impact of living and working in the ACT and supports responsible consumption, circular economy approaches to waste and lower emissions across supply chains. Much of the ACT's emissions impacts occur outside the Territory through the goods and services we consume. This action takes the first step in monitoring Territory consumption, which can be used to start managing these emissions over time.

Reduce and manage waste

A growing population presents challenges to reducing overall emissions, particularly those arising from waste in landfill. This encompasses work around encouraging Canberrans to reduce waste and divert waste from landfill, such as through education and business support, as well as on infrastructure solutions to increase resource recovery, reduce emissions and reduce organic waste to landfill.

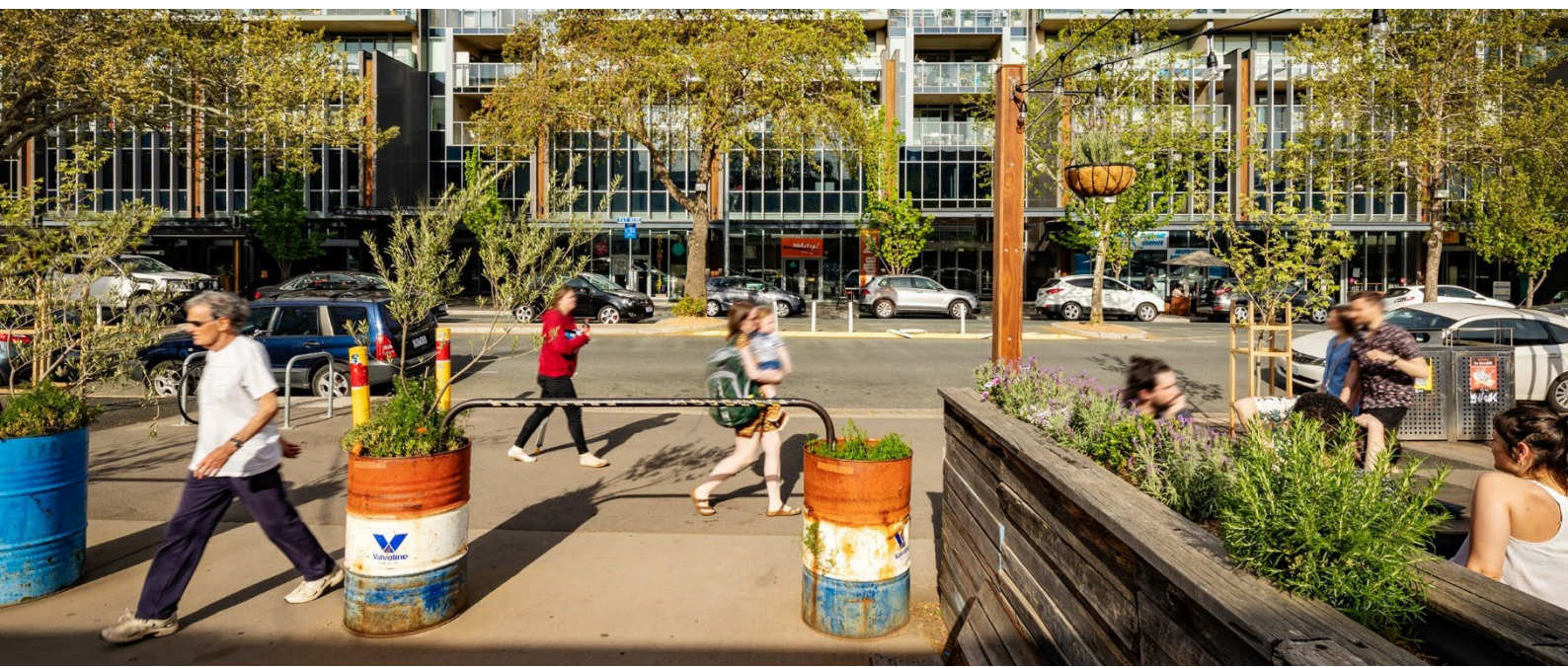


Table 14: Pillar 5 Circular Economy and Waste New Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Measure Territory consumption emissions (Territory scope 3)	2026 – ongoing	Indirect	Low	-

Table 15: Pillar 5 Circular Economy and Waste Continuing Action

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Continue to plan, construct and operate a new food organics and garden organics (FOGO) processing facility and Materials Recovery Facility	Ongoing	Direct	Medium	-
Continue to deliver waste education and community outreach activities to avoid waste and increase resource recovery	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	-
Continue to operate the upgraded landfill gas capture facility in Mugga Lane to maximise methane capture and electricity generation	Ongoing	Direct	High	-
Expand the Container Deposit Scheme	Ongoing	Direct	Low	-
Increase the number of single-use plastic products banned under the Circular Economy Act 2023	Ongoing	Direct	Low	-

Future priorities

Future action plans and other ACT Government complementary work will also explore the following priorities.

- **Encouraging responsible consumption** including through encouraging reductions in consumption, minimising waste and diverting waste from landfill. This includes monitoring the emissions arising from consumption and construction supply chains to begin managing and reducing these emissions. We will also advocate for extended producer responsibility and the consumers' right to repair.
- **Promoting circular economy practices** including supporting reduced food and textile waste, encouraging increased use of recycled materials and fostering a sharing and repairing culture. We will also support innovation and entrepreneurship in the circular economy, while supporting businesses to adopt circular practices and create jobs
- **Improving resource recovery** through continuing to invest in local resource recovery facilities and supporting Canberrans to recycle effectively, including regulations on single use plastic and business waste management practices and pathways for emerging waste streams.
- **Exploring new solutions** and investigating opportunities in resource recovery technologies.

Complementary work

This pillar is supported by the following strategies, plans and major actions. These complement and deliver on the priority areas identified under this pillar.

- The **ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-30** sets the high-level ambition with actions to drive the initial steps towards a more circular economy.
- The **Canberra Region Local Food Strategy 2024-29** aims to reduce food waste.

Major actions include:

- Operating the **Container Deposit Scheme**.
- The **Sustainable Business Program** supports ACT businesses to reduce their wastes and increase recycling through auditing waste practices, developing waste management plans, educating staff, reporting and monitoring, and workplace signages.



Taking Action – Pillar 6: Hard to Abate Emissions

By 2036: Hard to abate emissions are being minimised and managed responsibly

Key action areas

The following action areas have been identified as the primary focus for hard to abate emissions efforts in this action plan. The tables below list new and continuing actions which address these priority areas.

Address hard to abate and residual emissions

It is inevitable that there will be some emissions still being generated as we approach 2045, particularly from hard to abate sectors. This action area aims to begin tackling refrigerant and aviation emissions, as well as lay the groundwork for managing residual emissions.

It is essential that we begin acting now, because there can be a long lead time to achieving progress in these spaces. For example, advocacy to the Australian Government on reducing aviation emissions may take years to flow through to industry action, and a high integrity carbon offsets plan may require early investment in nature-based carbon sequestration solutions that take years to establish. Early planning and commitment can ensure that the cost of carbon abatement remains relatively low.

Table 16: Pillar 6 Hard to Abate Emissions New Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Develop guidelines to reduce refrigerant emissions in government programs	2026-27	Direct	Low	-
Develop a carbon offsets policy for residual emissions	2026-27	Indirect	Low	-

Table 17: Pillar 6 Hard to Abate Emissions Continuing Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Reduce aviation emissions through advocacy at the national level	Ongoing	Indirect	Medium	-

Future priorities

Future action plans and other ACT Government complementary work will also explore the following priorities.

- **Reducing emissions from refrigerants** through prioritising refrigerants with low environmental impacts and low global warming potential in government projects as well as continuing to support efforts from the Commonwealth Government to phase down damaging refrigerants.
- **Supporting aviation sector decarbonisation** including aviation electrification and uptake of sustainable aviation fuels in conjunction with other jurisdictions.
- **Addressing residual emissions** and exploring options for managing residual emissions from hard to abate sources, including how and when to consider high-integrity carbon offsets.

Complementary work

This pillar is supported by the following major action which complements and delivers on the priority areas identified under this pillar.

- Engagement and advocacy with states, territories, the Australian Government, and industry for a coordinated and ambitious approach to managing aviation emissions and continued efforts to limit imports of high global-warming potential refrigerants.



Taking Action – Pillar 7: Agriculture

By 2036: The ACT's farms and rural lands are healthy, productive and resilient – supported with good water management, climate-smart practices, strong soil and landscape care, and effective partnerships that help local farmers in a changing climate.

Key action areas

The following action areas have been identified as the primary focus for agriculture efforts in this action plan. The tables below list new and continuing actions which address these priority areas.

Strengthen local food systems

A strong local food system supports resilient livelihoods and a liveable Canberra region. Farmers and landholders play a vital role in feeding the community, caring for landscapes and adapting to a changing climate. We want to ensure that farmers and landholders are supported to manage increasing climate pressures with productive and diversified livelihoods.

This work will continue to support farmers and landholders to manage increasing climate pressures by strengthening productive, climate-smart and diversified food and agricultural enterprises. This will be done through research, partnerships, and targeted support.

Improve land use and carbon sequestration

Plants store (or 'sequester') carbon, meaning they contribute to emissions reduction in the ACT as well as being foundational to life, ecosystems, biodiversity, wellbeing and liveability. This work enables greater carbon sequestration activities in the ACT by understanding potential opportunities to better capture local land use, land use change and forestry emissions reduction activities in accounting methodology as well as through undertaking research and developing policies and plans for environmental plantings in rural lands. We want to ensure that sustainable land management practices are enhancing carbon sequestration and protecting soil, water and biodiversity.

Table 18: Pillar 7 Agriculture New Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Support farmers and land managers to undertake land-based carbon sequestration	Ongoing	Indirect	Medium	Low

Future priorities

Future action plans and other ACT Government complementary work will also explore the following priorities.

- **Building climate resilience** and supporting farmers and rural landholders in the ACT to adopt practices to stay resilient as extreme weather events like droughts and water shortages become more common.
- **Supporting viable and diversified rural livelihoods.** We will work collaboratively with farmers and landholders to support their ongoing productivity and adaptability, through diversification, innovation, skills development, and access to emerging markets and incentives.

Complementary work

This pillar is supported by implementation of the **Canberra Region Local Food Strategy 2024**, which sets out a thorough approach to strengthening the ACT and region's food and agriculture system. This complements and delivers on the priority areas identified under this pillar and includes:

- Providing support for the transition to low emissions, climate smart agricultural practices.
- Supporting climate resilient water management practices for agriculture such as through implementing the **ACT Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program**.
- Supporting land managers prepare and adapt to for climate driven bio-security risks such as invasive species and plant and animal diseases.
- Supporting initiatives that minimise food loss and waste across production, processing and consumption, and increase reuse of organic waste to improve soil health and close nutrient loops.



Taking Action – Pillar 8:

Government

By 2036: The ACT Government continues to lead by example through decarbonising government operations, improving the climate resilience of government services and assets, and supporting the wellbeing of all Canberrans.

Key action areas

The following action areas have been identified as the primary focus for government efforts in this action plan. The tables below list new and continuing actions which address these priority areas.

Improve government adaptation and resilience

As the climate changes, the ACT Government is increasingly vulnerable to rising insurance costs, greater impacts on property and infrastructure and many other vulnerabilities related to climate hazards. This action will help the government to better understand and manage these risks so that we can continue delivering essential services and infrastructure for the community. It will identify and assess the major climate risks to government and integrate climate risk management and introduce climate financial risk disclosures across ACT Government to enable better collaboration, anticipation and mitigation of these risks.

Reduce emissions from government operations

The ACT Government is committed to reaching net zero government emissions by 2040. Transport and gas usage remain the biggest sources of government emissions, generated from government buildings and the vehicle fleet. This will drive direct emissions abatement, by transitioning away from fossil fuel gas, improving energy efficiency and accelerating the uptake of zero-emissions vehicles. This will demonstrate leadership in the decarbonisation of operations and support the delivery of the Territory's emissions reduction targets.

Address government supply chain emissions

Scope 3 emissions represent a significant proportion of the ACT Government's overall emissions footprint. The ACT Government is committed to demonstrating leadership in reducing scope 3 emissions from government operations, particularly those associated with construction and maintenance activities. This will enable the government to begin measuring its own scope 3 emissions and start reducing scope 3 transport emissions that are generated via government contracts. Beginning to measure and manage these emissions will support market transformation and help lead industry pathways toward a lower-emissions economy.

Table 19: Pillar 8 Government New Actions

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Planning and initial implementation to make the ACT Government 'climate ready' by embedding climate risk management and planning across government	2026-29	Indirect	-	High
Plan and begin introduction of climate financial risk disclosures across government	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	Medium
Develop and maintain a whole-of-government framework to consolidate emissions reduction commitments and support consistent and coordinated implementation	2026-28	Indirect	Low	-
Undertake annual scope 3 emissions reporting for government operations	2026-28	Indirect	Low	-
Introduce zero-emissions vehicle expectations and transition planning for government contracts with significant transport components.	2027-28	Direct	High	-

Table 20: Pillar 8 Government Continuing Action

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Continue electrifying government fleet vehicles	Ongoing	Direct	High	-
Continue electrifying government gas assets	Ongoing	Direct	High	-
Ensure all new ACT Government buildings and facilities are fossil fuel gas free, including new leases. All retrofitting in Government buildings and facilities will have a goal of net zero emissions post retrofit	Ongoing	Direct	High	-

Action	Timeframe	Action Type	Emissions Impact	Adaptation Impact
Implement a pathway towards a transition to zero emission waste trucks by the mid-2030s	By 2035	Direct	High	-
Continue to consider climate impacts in Cabinet Submissions and Budget proposals, including through the Wellbeing Impact Assessments	Ongoing	Indirect	Low	Low
Continue to implement practices to reduce scope 3 emissions from Government operations such as through the Low Carbon Concrete Policy	Ongoing	Direct	Low	-

Future priorities

Future action plans and other ACT Government complementary work will also explore the following priorities.

- **Embedding climate risk assessment and management** across government and supporting ACT Government agencies to routinely embed climate risk considerations into their risk assessments and reports, including climate related financial disclosure. This includes strengthening ACT Government service and asset resilience to more intense and frequent weather events.
- **Embedding climate considerations in government decision-making** including more effectively evaluating climate change impacts and risks in new investment, policy and program decisions. This includes improving carbon and climate risk management in our major construction projects.
- **Improving our consideration of co-benefits**, like improved health and wellbeing, in decision making processes and apply the principle of intergenerational equity to all climate policy in recognition of our duty of care to the Canberra community.
- **Collaborating within government** and strengthening governance processes to build on existing collaboration on climate change across portfolios.
- **Collaborating across borders**. We will work with State, Territory, and Federal counterparts to align efforts and avoid duplication.

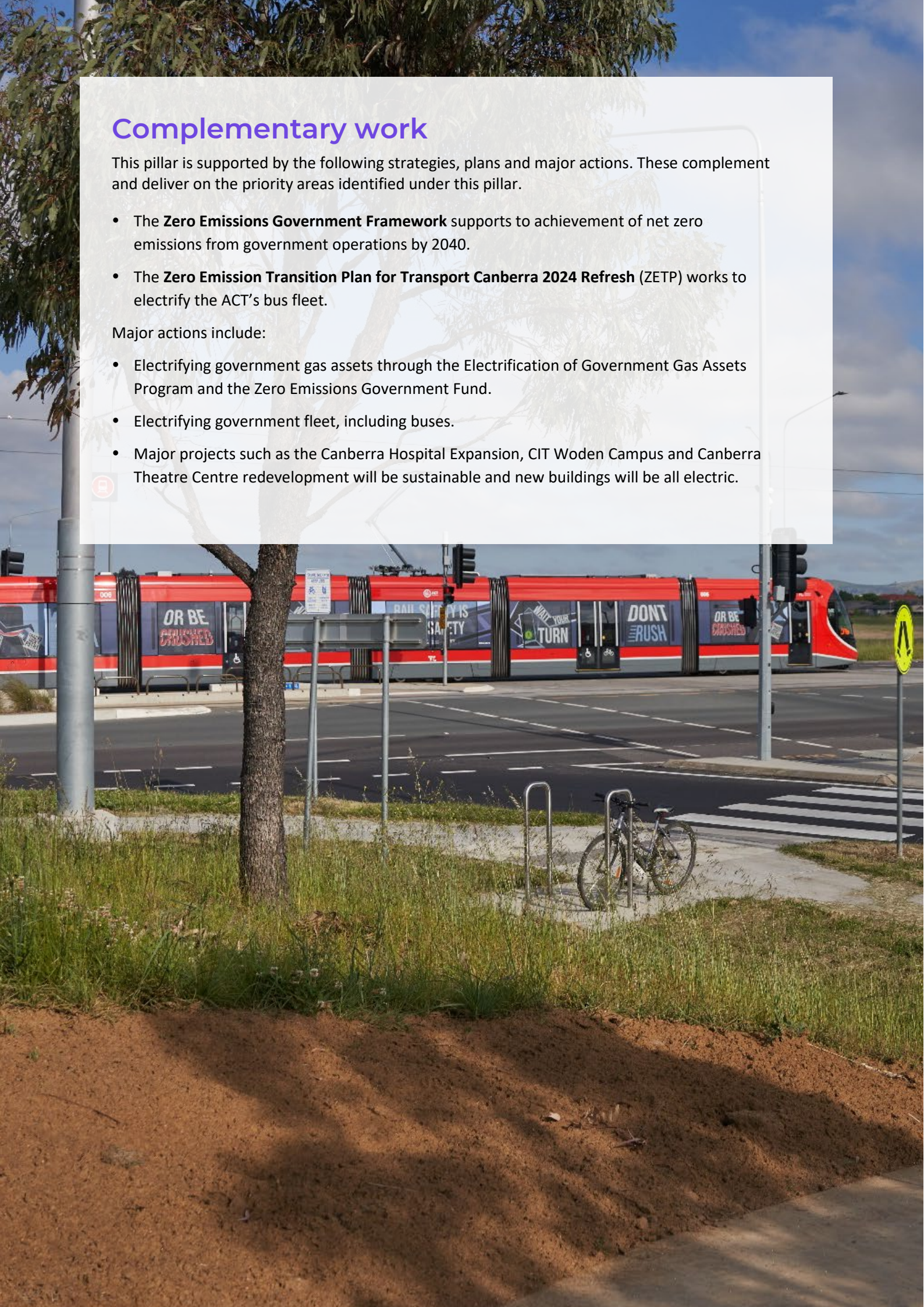
Complementary work

This pillar is supported by the following strategies, plans and major actions. These complement and deliver on the priority areas identified under this pillar.

- The **Zero Emissions Government Framework** supports to achievement of net zero emissions from government operations by 2040.
- The **Zero Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra 2024 Refresh (ZETP)** works to electrify the ACT's bus fleet.

Major actions include:

- Electrifying government gas assets through the Electrification of Government Gas Assets Program and the Zero Emissions Government Fund.
- Electrifying government fleet, including buses.
- Major projects such as the Canberra Hospital Expansion, CIT Woden Campus and Canberra Theatre Centre redevelopment will be sustainable and new buildings will be all electric.



Glossary

Term	Definition
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
Climate change adaptation	Actions taken to help communities and systems, including ecosystems, adjust to changing climate conditions and their effects.
Climate change mitigation	Efforts to reduce or prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.
Consumer Energy Resources	Small-scale resources that generate, consume or store electricity including rooftop solar, batteries, and electric vehicles.
Consumption based emissions	These are the emissions linked to the goods and services the Territory uses, no matter where those emissions occur. This includes emissions from the supply chain of goods and services, including production, transportation and disposal.
CIT	Canberra Institute of Technology
CSO	Community Service Organisations
EV	Electric Vehicle
Embodied Emissions	The generation and removal of emissions associated with the creation and end-of-life disposal of an asset. This includes the emissions associated with the production and transportation of materials, construction related emissions and end-of-life emissions.
FOGO	Food organics and garden organics
Fossil fuel gas	The ACT Government uses the term 'fossil fuel gas' rather than 'natural gas' as it clearly identifies that we are discussing non-renewable gases. Fossil fuel gas is found in the Earth's crust. It predominantly consists of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas; once extracted and burned, it cannot be renewed.
First Nations	For the purposes of this Strategy, "First Nations" refers to the broader ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, including groups with connections to the ACT.
Greenhouse gas emissions	Any of the gases whose absorption of solar radiation is responsible for the greenhouse effect including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorocarbons. Reference to emissions in this document refers to greenhouse gas emissions.

Term	Definition
Light vehicles	Passenger cars and light commercial vehicles with a gross vehicle mass of up to 3.5 tonnes.
LULUCF	Land use, land use change and forestry
Net zero emissions	When the greenhouse gas emissions released equal the amount captured from the atmosphere and stored. For the purposes of this Strategy, this refers to Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions only.
Ngunnawal	The ACT Government recognises the Ngunnawal People as Traditional Custodians of the ACT and surrounding region. The Government acknowledges that other people and families also have a traditional connection to the lands of the ACT and region, and we respect this connection to Country.
Operational emissions	The greenhouse gas emissions produced from the day-to-day operation of assets, services and activities. This includes emissions from energy use, fuel consumption, and other routine processes needed to run buildings, infrastructure, transport, and operations.
Priority groups	Some population groups are at increased risk in the changing climate. The following groups have been identified as priority and we will continue working to support these groups to transition to net zero and become more resilient: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, children and young people, people with disability and chronic health conditions, culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, older people, low-income households
Refrigerant	Substances classified as ‘Scheduled Substances’ under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 (OPSGG Act), commonly used in heat pump and reverse cycle air-conditioner (RCAC) equipment.
Resilience	The capacity of communities, environments, systems and economies to cope with a hazardous event or disturbance, while maintaining their essential functions and structure.
Scope 1 emissions	At a territory level, these are emissions released from the direct combustion of fossil fuels or fugitive emissions from activities occurring in the ACT from owned or controlled sources. This includes emissions from cars, trucks and buses travelling within the Territory, agriculture, and waste disposal. Scope 1 emissions are also measured for ACT Government as an organisation and refers to the direct emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by ACT Government.
Scope 2 emissions	Any emissions associated with the use of grid-supplied electricity. Scope 2 emissions in the ACT, as a Territory and for ACT Government, are considered zero due to the commitment to 100% renewable electricity.

Term	Definition
Scope 3 emissions	At a territory level, this includes all other indirect emissions that occur outside of our borders but are driven by the activities within the Territory. This includes emissions associated with production, transport, use and disposal of goods and services consumed in the ACT, as well as emissions from construction materials, food, waste, aviation, and other activities influenced by ACT households, businesses and government. Scope 3 for Government operations relates to indirect emissions that are a consequence of ACT Government activities, including purchased goods and services, business travel, employee commuting and leased assets.
VET	Vocational education and training
ZEVs	Zero Emissions Vehicles

ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36:

Action Plan 1

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