



ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36: Summary

This document presents a summary of the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36: Overarching Framework and Action Plan 1. It will be updated when future action plans are released.

Our Vision

Our vision is for Canberra to be climate resilient and net zero by 2045, with a long-term ambition to become climate positive.

Our goals:

-  Net zero
-  Restoring and supporting nature
-  Adapting our city

Our principles:

-  Equity
-  Resilience



About the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-36

Our vision is for Canberra to be climate resilient and net zero by 2045, with a long-term ambition to become climate positive.

This means:



Climate resilient

Being able to anticipate, withstand and recover from climate events, while adapting to long-term changes to the climate in ways that protect people, communities and the natural environment.



Net zero

When the greenhouse gas emissions released equal the amount captured from the atmosphere and stored. For the purposes of the Strategy, this refers to Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions in the ACT.



Climate positive

Going beyond net zero by removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, creating an environmental benefit and moving towards climate repair.

Our goals



Net zero

The ACT is accelerating emissions reduction efforts and is on track to meet net zero by 2045. We're building a net zero economy that supports everyone to participate in and benefit from the transition.



Restoring and supporting nature

Through a landscape-scale approach, the ACT is strengthening resilient, connected ecosystems and reducing pressures that limit adaptive capacity, supporting species and ecosystems to adapt and persist in response to climate change while maintaining ecological functions and natural values.



Adapting our city

The ACT is prepared for the impacts of a changing climate. We're driving climate adaptation action across our community to protect people, mitigate urban heat, deliver more liveable neighbourhoods and support our natural environment.

Our core principles

To ensure that climate action is effective, coordinated and fair, the ACT Government will apply two core principles across all climate-related decision-making.



Equity

The ACT is making real progress that is fair, equitable and doesn't leave anyone behind. We're supporting those most affected by climate change and most impacted by the economic and social changes in the net zero transition.



Resilience

The ACT community, infrastructure and ecosystems are resilient. We're strengthening our communities, our services, operations and assets and supporting our natural environment to withstand, respond to and recover from climate shocks and stresses, while avoiding actions that make things worse.

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.

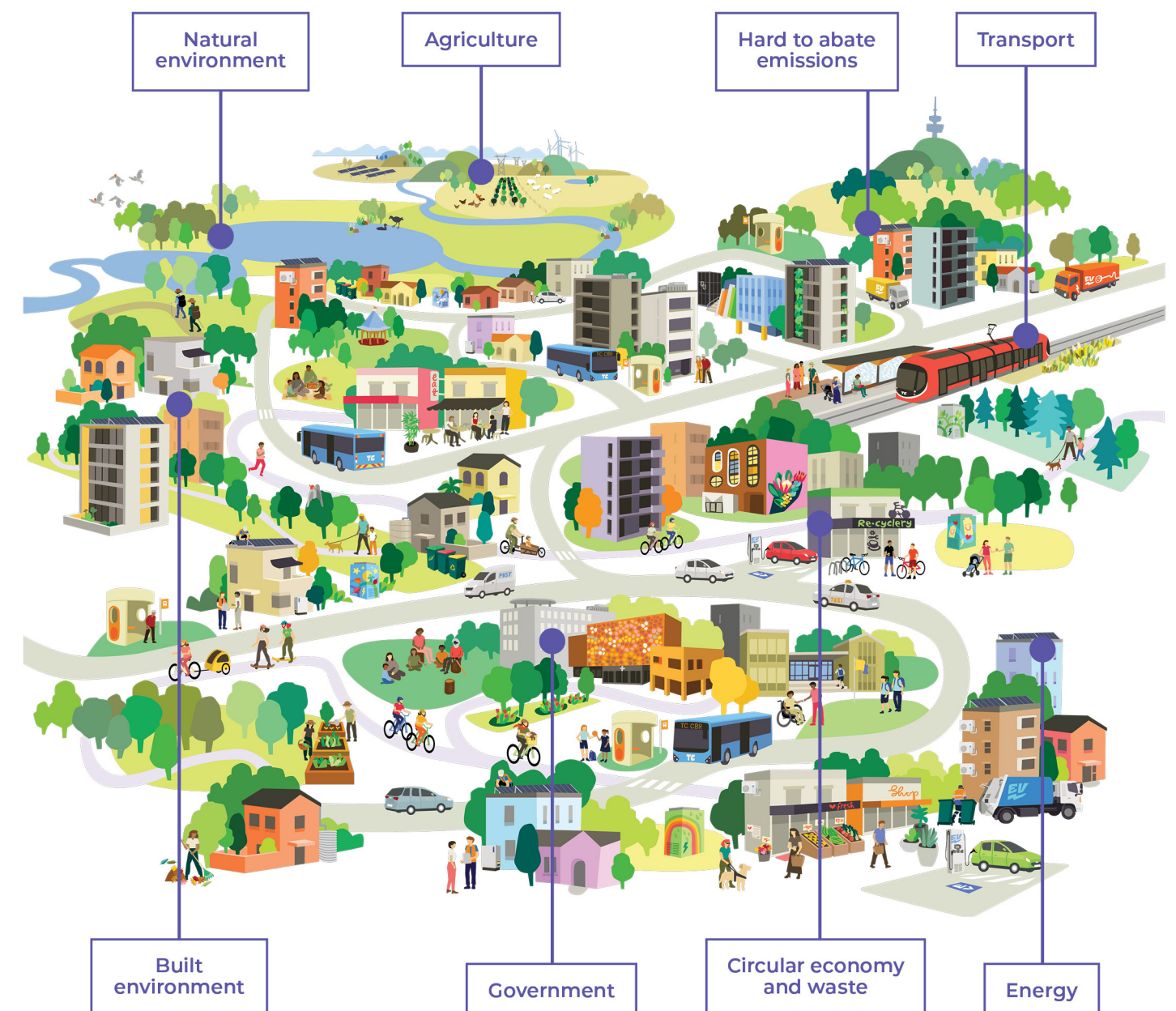
The resilience principle relates to the capacity of our social, economic, natural and built systems to withstand, adapt to and recover from the impacts of climate change. Applying this principle means considering whether our strategic actions would still be effective under a range of future climate conditions, including higher temperatures, reduced average rainfall and more frequent and severe extreme weather events.



Our pillars for action

While climate action touches all parts of ACT society, our efforts have been organised around eight pillars to focus action over the next decade.

These pillars reflect the major sources of emissions across the Territory such as transport and energy use, as well as the systems and environments most exposed to climate risk, including our natural landscapes, urban areas and infrastructure. Together, they provide a comprehensive framework to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.



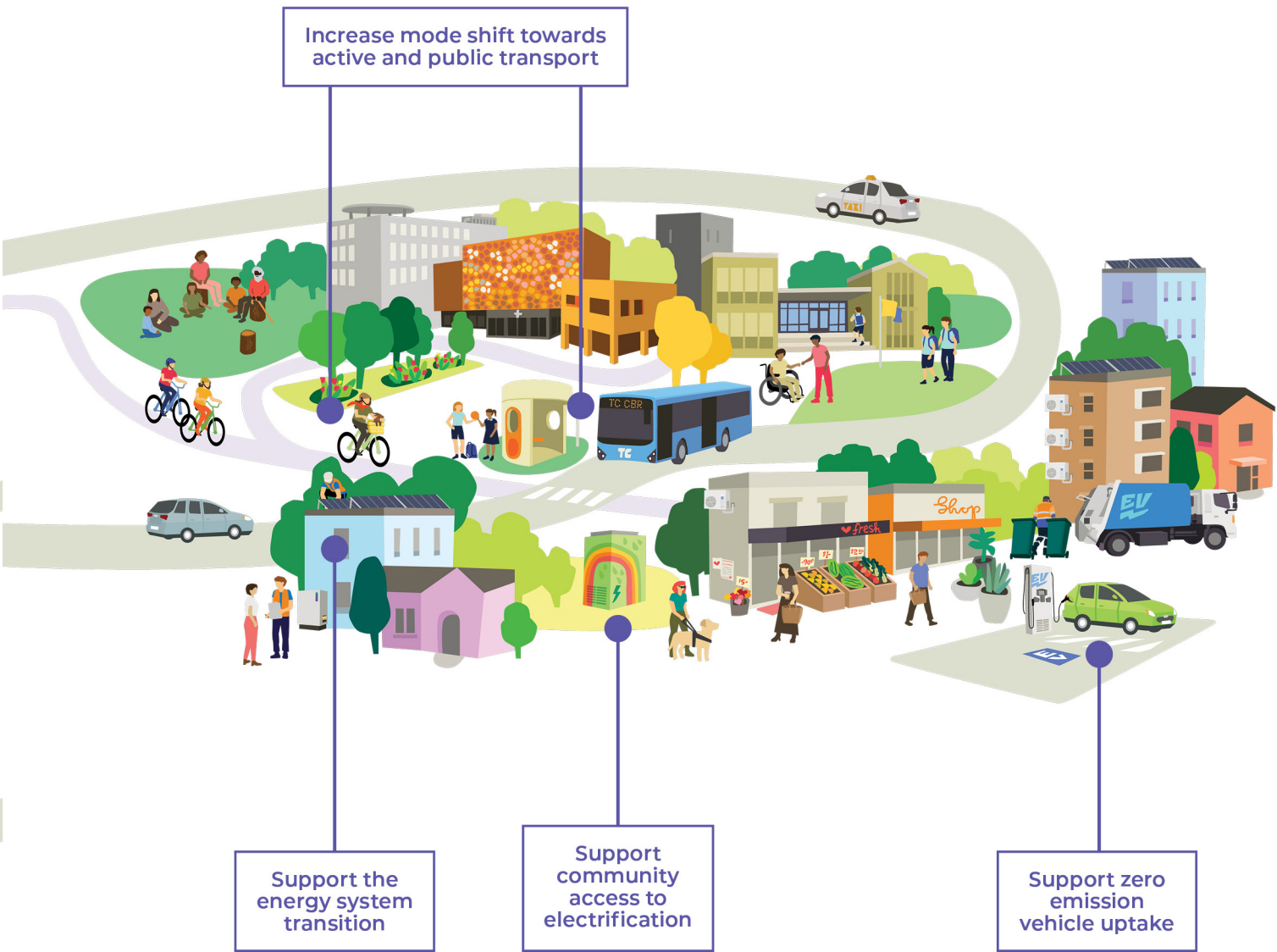
Natural and built environment

Our vision for the natural environment is that by 2036 looking after nature is at the heart of our climate change action. For the built environment, our vision for 2036 is for Canberra's homes, streets and neighbourhoods to be 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. To deliver on these, we are prioritising the following areas in the first action plan.



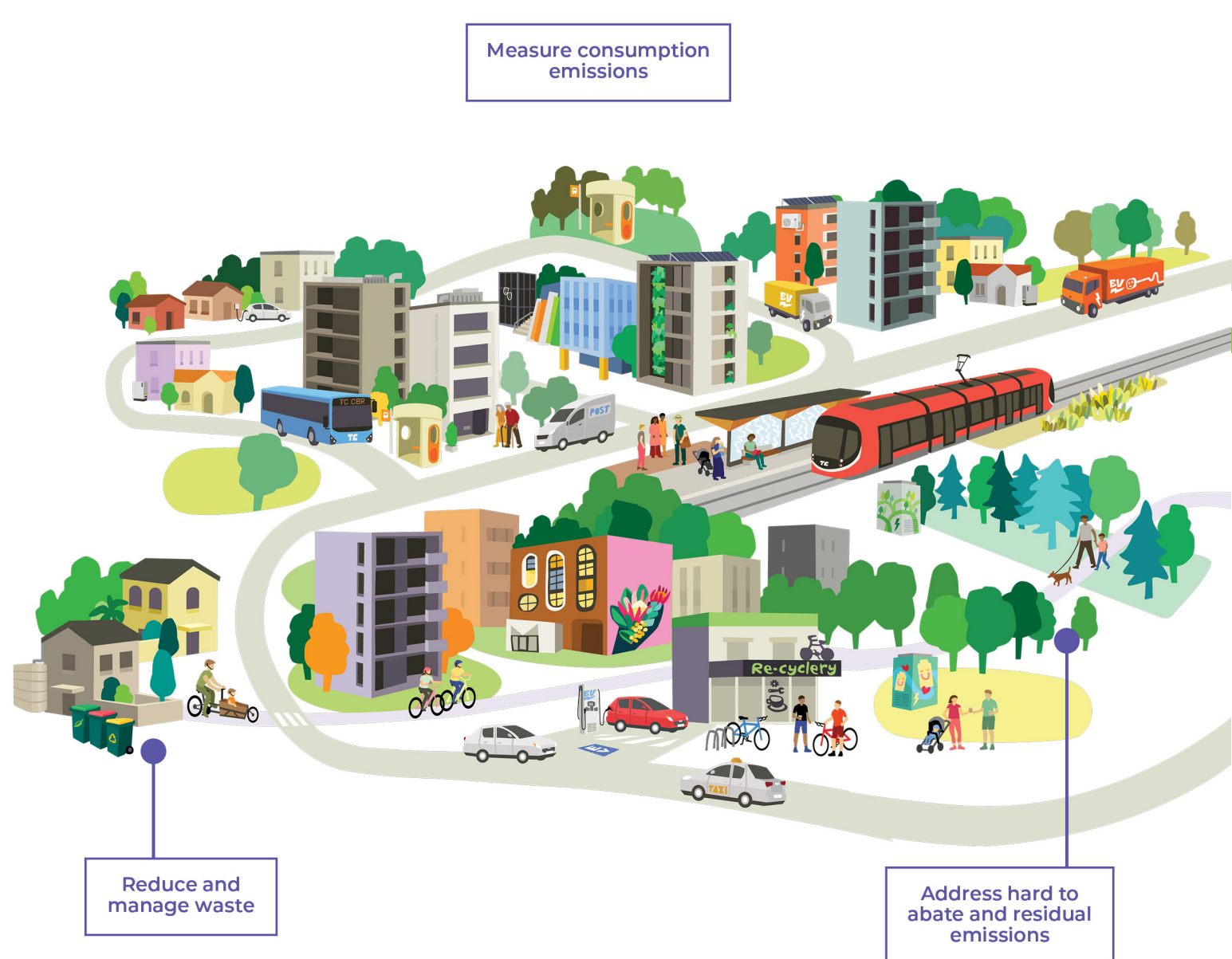
Transport and energy

Our vision for transport is that 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. For energy, our vision for 2036 is for the ACT to continue 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. To deliver on these, we are prioritising the following areas in the first action plan.



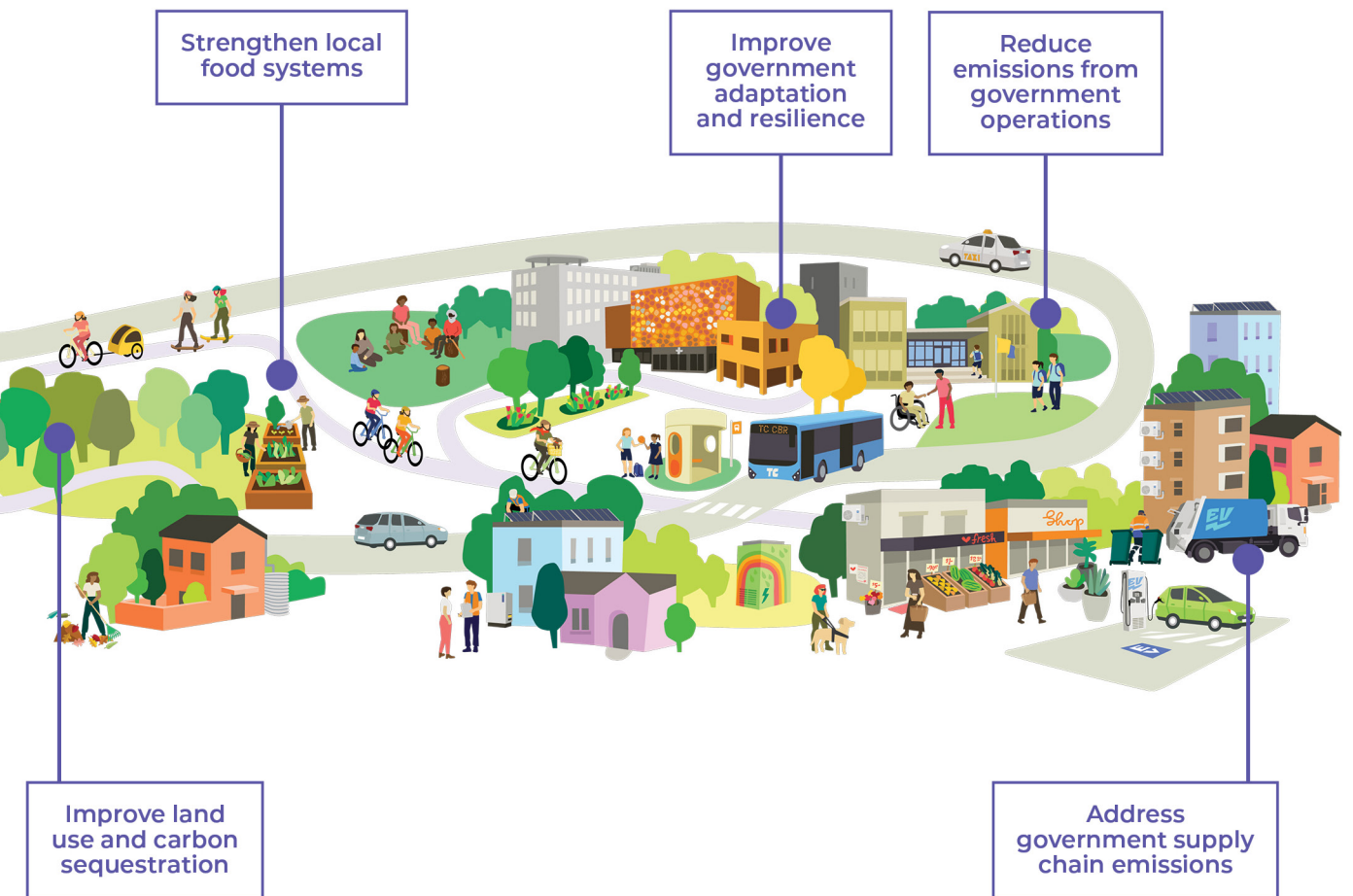
Circular economy, waste and hard to abate emissions

For circular economy, our vision for 2036 is that the Territory is becoming a circular city, through increasing rates of resource recovery and declining quantities of waste to landfill and that Territory-wide consumption emissions are reducing. For hard to abate emissions, our vision for 2036 is that hard to abate emissions are being minimised and managed responsibly. To deliver on these, we are prioritising the following areas in the first action plan.



Agriculture and government

For agriculture, our vision for 2036 is that 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. For government, our vision is that in this decade, the ACT Government needs to continue to lead by example through decarbonising government operations, improving the climate resilience of government services and assets, and supporting the wellbeing of all Canberrans. To deliver on these, we are prioritising the following areas in the first action plan.



About Action Plan 1

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. The following are new commitments under Action Plan 1.

Natural Environment

- Improve the land use, land use change and forestry emissions accounting methodology

Circular economy and waste

- Measure Territory consumption emissions (Territory scope 3)

Key Informers

- Better understand local community needs to foster climate action
- Develop the Climate Change Strategy monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement framework
- Conduct the next climate change risk assessment for the ACT

Built Environment

- 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
- Implement carbon management practices on major government infrastructure projects
- Development of new surface permeability policy for urban Canberra
- Embed stormwater and runoff considerations in the ACT's planning frameworks and policies
- Pilot development of a local-level net zero and climate ready community plan
- Pilot measuring and valuing emissions impacts in major government transport planning and infrastructure projects

Agriculture

- Support farmers and land managers to undertake land-based carbon sequestration

Transport

- Implement improved travel data collection
- Investigate how to encourage mode shift to public transport and active travel
- Research travel demand management and mode shift options
- Offer low-interest loans for cargo bikes
- Preliminary planning and design for a potential fourth bus depot on the northside to support the growth of our fully electric bus fleet

Energy

- Explore battery options to improve energy management, grid resilience and equity
- Review the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme and Electricity, Gas and Water Rebate to ensure effective support of priority groups
- Implement actions under the National Consumer Energy Resources Roadmap

Cross cutting equity & resilience

- Prepare Community Service Organisations for climate change
- Engage with Traditional Owners and the First Nations community to explore community led solutions that support resilience
- Develop a Next Generation Statement of Priorities

Government

- Planning and initial implementation to make the ACT Government 'climate ready' by embedding climate risk management and planning across government
- Plan and begin introduction of climate financial risk disclosures across government
- Develop and maintain a whole-of-government framework to consolidate emissions reduction commitments and support consistent and coordinated implementation
- Undertake annual scope 3 emissions reporting for government operations
- Introduce zero-emissions vehicle expectations and transition planning for government contracts with significant transport components

Hard to abate emissions

- Develop guidelines to reduce refrigerant emissions in government programs
- Develop a carbon offsets policy for residual emissions

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