



ACT
Government

Environment and Planning

CORPORATE PLAN

2015-17







Dorte Ekelund
Director-General
EPD

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

The ACT Government is committed to Canberra as a truly sustainable and creative city; a centre of economic growth and innovation with a socially inclusive community; the home of Australia's pre-eminent cultural institutions and a place of great natural beauty.

The Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) acknowledges the serious responsibilities we carry and the enormous opportunities that we have to contribute to a proud and distinguished future for Canberra, the capital of our nation and home to nearly 400,000 people. EPD has a continuum of responsibilities ranging from the strategic planning of the City and its surrounds, to the protection and maintenance of important environmental, cultural and heritage values. We are strongly supportive of the need to address climate change through reducing our carbon footprint, and to respond to climate change impacts through adaptation. We are committed to progressively enhancing the design and amenity of our city centre and our urban areas, transport connections throughout the Territory, and the economic and social infrastructure that supports our lifestyle, while protecting and enhancing areas of environmental and heritage importance.

This Corporate Plan reflects these diverse responsibilities by setting a framework for strategic priorities and actions. It is guided in particular by the ACT Planning Strategy, Transport for Canberra, Climate Change Strategy (AP2), and the ACT Government's Performance and Accountability Framework. It translates the Government's strategic planning into achievable and measurable outcomes for the ACT.

Our commitment to the Government and community, and directorate goals and priorities, our willingness to work collaboratively internally and externally, and our professionalism in all that we do, underpins our work.

All of us in EPD are responding to the tasks we share, ensuring that we are a productive and cohesive agency with a positive culture and clear goals. Every member of the EPD team, whether in policy development, regulatory roles, program delivery or any of the many supporting roles, contributes to the achievement of our strategic priorities and goals, exemplifies our values and seeks to make Canberra and the wider Territory, a prosperous, well-planned, sustainable and beautiful place to live and visit, now and into the future.



OUR VISION

Sustainable, Prosperous, Liveable, Innovative –
Canberra is Exciting (SPLICE)



THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The ACT Government's long-term Vision, expressed in *The Canberra Plan: Towards our Second Century*, is that Canberra will be recognised throughout the world:

- as a truly sustainable and creative city
- an inclusive community that supports its vulnerable and enables all to reach their potential
- as a centre of economic growth and innovation
- as the proud capital of the nation and home of its pre-eminent cultural institutions
- as a place of natural beauty.

In expanding on this Vision, the Government has articulated four strategic themes to which all ACT Government Directorates contribute through their specific functional responsibilities and budget funded initiatives:

- health and education
- economic growth and diversification
- suburban renewal and transport
- liveability and social inclusion.

The Chief Minister aspires
for Canberra to be

**“The Coolest
Little Capital
in the World”**

Minister Andrew Barr quoted in
The Canberra Times, 27 February 2015





OUR KEY RESULT AREAS

To play our part in achieving the Government's vision for the City and the associated strategic priorities, we will commit to delivering outcomes against the following key result areas which are implemented through our Divisional, Branch and Team plans:

1. Deliver a planning and leasehold system that delivers quality spatial outcomes and urban design, integrated transport and development outcomes that contribute to economic prosperity and a sustainable Canberra

- Develop planning and land management strategies that integrate with transport planning, shape the growth of the City, enhance the community's lifestyle and balance environmental objectives
- Support the development of a compact city and sustainable transport network through strategic planning
- Manage urban infill strategies which are growth focused and integrated around commercial centres and transport initiatives sensitively with regard to evolving community attitudes
- Develop and implement policies that improve the sustainability and resilience of the natural and built environment
- Diligently administer a transparent and accountable leasehold and planning approvals system that underpins the Territory's economy
- Maintain and enhance a world-leading spatial mapping and property description system
- Increase community and industry educational role to foster understanding of strategies and policies

2. Protect and enhance our natural environment, water resources and heritage values

- Increase community awareness and involvement in protecting and conserving the ACT's natural resources.
- Administer a robust multi-agency governance model for water management in the ACT and region.
- Build knowledge and implement practices that protect and manage the ACT's biodiversity.
- Enhance the policy framework to protect the quality of the ACT's air, water and the environment.
- Implement the ACT's environment strategies and plans –Nature Conservation Strategy 2013-2023, Water Strategy 'Striking a Balance' 2014–44 and Action Plans.
- Work with the Commonwealth and other states/territory to develop and implement national environmental and water reforms - including within the ACT's portion of the Murray Darling Basin.
- Implement innovative water sensitive urban design systems.
- Describe, register and conserve places and objects of national and cultural significance.





3. Deliver balanced and effective policies for safe buildings, effective environmental controls and optimal land use outcomes

- Continually improve policies and supporting systems for consistent and timely decisions
- Enhance regulatory frameworks to deliver high standard and safe building outcomes for the community and business
- Develop innovative legislation, systems and processes to streamline the way we provide high quality outcomes for the community
- Develop and implement new electronic business systems for better decision making and timely services to the community

4. Lead the community to make Canberra a zero-net carbon emitter

- Secure business and community understanding and endorsement on climate change action with support from the Climate Change Council
- Support the deployment of large scale renewable energy generation to meet ACT's Greenhouse gas reduction targets
- Support and facilitate the growth of the renewable energy industry as part of a vibrant clean economy, built around Canberra's existing competitive advantages and knowledge based economy
- Support increased energy efficiency in homes, businesses, schools and other parts of the built environment
- Contribute to the security and affordability of our energy supplies
- Promote an understanding of climate science implications for the ACT within and beyond the ACT Government, and guide adaptation strategies to increase the Territory's resilience in the face of the unavoidable impacts of climate change
- Provide a guiding influence to other parts of government to deliver Carbon Neutral Government operations

5. Demonstrate leadership, innovation and accountability

- Instil a Directorate-wide culture of continuous improvement
- Inform, educate and involve the community in our work
- Develop and apply high quality, accessible service-delivery strategies capitalising on web-based and other innovative technologies
- Support the community, business and education sectors to actively make decisions and take actions to contribute to the sustainability and prosperity of the Territory.





OUR PEOPLE AND OUR VALUES

People are our most valuable asset. Our collective contributions is what makes EPD, and ensuring that our people have a supportive working environment will enable us to fully realise the Government's vision for the Territory. To realise this value, we will commit to:

- Provide an effective induction process for our new staff and ongoing advice and information for our existing staff on the achievement of our corporate planning strategies and information on their rights and responsibilities
- Provide effective performance feedback including regular informal feedback on the work they do well and any areas for improvement
- Identify and provide appropriate professional development and training opportunities for our staff to assist them to do their jobs and also grow and develop to take on new and challenging work throughout their career with EPD
- Support managers to take an active role in ensuring staff are respected at work and compassionately support their staff during times of personal difficulties. Provide a safe working environment, whether in the office or in the field, and
- Implement a strong governance framework which effectively deals with issues such as risk management, fraud and corruption prevention, quality assurance and continuous improvement.





EPD strongly adopts the ACTPS set of Values and Signature Behaviours and has adopted them as our own. In brief they are:

Respect

- We take pride in our work
- We value and acknowledge the contribution of others
- We relate to colleagues and clients in a fair, decent, caring and professional manner

Integrity

- We do what we say we'll do and respond appropriately, especially when the unexpected occurs
- We take responsibility and are accountable for our decisions and actions
- We engage genuinely with the community, and manage the resources entrusted to us honestly and responsibly

Collaboration

- We work openly and share appropriate information to reach shared goals
- We actively seek out other views when solving problems and value and act on feedback on how we can do things better

Innovation

- We look for ways to continuously improve our services and skills
- We are open to change and new ideas from all sources

A full statement of these values can be found in the ACTPS Code of Conduct available [here](#).





EPD – WHAT WE DO

The EPD delivers a complimentary combination of planning and environmental functions to help make Canberra and the ACT the most liveable place in the world. Canberra and the region are recognised for thoughtful planning, excellence in environment protection and enhancement, effective management of the built form, ambitious and innovative approaches to tackling climate change and a growing knowledge and innovation hub.

EPD is the lead agency on major strategies that shape the future growth and sustainable development of Canberra and ACT:

- ACT Planning Strategy
- Transport Strategy
- Climate Change Strategy
- Nature Conservation Strategy
- Water Strategy
- Territory Plan.





The ACT Planning Strategy in conjunction with Transport for Canberra guides the strategic planning directions for the City's future growth and sustainable development. This requires EPD to undertake planning and transport investigations, master planning and heritage assessment and conservation. Our capacity to make informed land use and environmental decisions is enhanced by our Survey Office and associated GIS capability including ACTMAPI. The Territory Plan, developed in consultation with the community and the Legislative Assembly, is the Government's statutory land use plan for residential, commercial, industrial or special purpose land. Everything that happens on land in the Territory needs to meet the requirements of the Territory Plan. Applications for development, building and leases are assessed by EPD against the provisions of the Plan and Territory leases. EPD deals with breaches of planning and development approvals and lease conditions and a wide range of land use complaints. The Directorate also leads the way in providing a wide and innovative range of on line services to its customers.

EPD leads on the **Territory's cutting edge climate change agenda** with the development and implementation of comprehensive mitigation and adaptation strategies and the Government's sustainable energy policy. Through innovative measures such as the feed in tariffs and reverse auctions for solar and wind s, the ACT is on track to achieve not only a nation leading target of 90% renewable energy and 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 but also to provide significant opportunities for local investment in the renewables industry and research. Our Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme and ActSmart programs are reducing energy costs for ACT households and small businesses and helping to achieve reductions in emissions. Participation in national electricity and gas market reforms aim to reduce energy costs and improve customer protections while maintaining a secure, safe and reliable energy supply. Work is also underway on a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy that will help build resilience to the impact of climate change in our city and neighbouring region.

The Directorate plays a significant role in ensuring that our environment is protected for future generations by integrating environmental considerations with planning and development. The **Water Strategy and the Nature Conservation Strategy** are key policy documents guiding this work. Our environmental functions involve conservation planning and research, the development of nature conservation policies, water planning and management policies and policy oversight of the regulation of land, air and water quality. The identification and management of the ACT's heritage values complement and round off EPD's role in protecting and enhancing the special values of our Territory.

EPD is also responsible for working with other Directorates and jurisdictions to deliver **efficient and effective regulatory systems and standards**. Its regulatory responsibilities extend to the way buildings, building services and utilities are designed, constructed, altered and operated in the Territory. The Directorate also supports a fairer building and construction industry, providing protection for practitioners, businesses and their clients through standards for competency, licensing, building contracts, warranties, insurance and dispute resolution. It actively engages with the Commonwealth on national building policies and standards.

All Directorates require **comprehensive and diverse corporate support** and so it is with EPD. From HRM, to financial, governance, Government Services, ICT, legislative services, facilities management and communications, the Directorate's staff and managers are supported in their day to day business needs by professional and experienced officers.

EPD has a significant impact on our community. We are an active and influential partner in realising the Government's vision for a healthy environment and productive economy.





HOW WE DO BUSINESS

EPD has a significant impact on our community. We are an active and influential partner in realising the Government's vision for a healthy environment and productive economy.

EPD invests in and utilises significant data, monitoring, research and other evidence to make informed land use, environmental and climate appropriate decisions. For example, Conservation Research monitors the ACT's biodiversity and implements research projects.

EPD is committed to strong and inclusive consultation with community, the private sector, and other parts of government and promotes access to latest available information through ACTMAPi.

EPD also works closely with other jurisdictions including the Commonwealth and NSW to align and advance shared outcomes, for example in catchment management, landcare and biodiversity restoration, and land use and infrastructure planning.

EPD delivers a number of programs either directly or through commercial contracts or contracted delivery partners such as Greening Australia and ACTEW. The ACTSmart programs support households, businesses and community adopt more sustainable use of the Earth's limited resources.

EPD supports innovative policies that have secured private sector investment in renewable energy (solar and wind) for the ACT to achieve a nation leading target of 90 per cent renewable energy by 2020.

EPD works closely with other key government arms such as the Parks and Conservation Services of TAMS in protecting and enhancing the ACT's nature conservation, with Land Development Agency in achieving a balanced development program, and with Chief Minister's, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate including Access Canberra to deliver innovative policy outcomes.





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