



## MINISTER'S WELCOME

I welcome you to this newsletter, the first of regular newsletters to keep you informed about progress on work the ACT Government is doing to implement my Statement of Planning Intent.

Released last year, the Statement sets out a number of priorities and actions to guide planning decisions in the ACT in the years to come.

I'm pleased to report that since I launched the Statement, there has been much progress on many of the actions. This newsletter highlights four of these actions.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the many members of the community who got involved and helped to set the priorities and actions in the Statement. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

**Mick Gentleman MLA**

Minister for Planning and Land Management

## Growing Community Gardens

A new 'Guide to community gardens in the ACT' was released in February 2016 delivering on an immediate action of the Statement of Planning Intent.

The guide provides advice to community organisations wanting to set up a new community garden.

Community gardens are an increasingly popular community-based way of growing food. They provide an opportunity for local communities to grow vegetables and fruit for personal use and enjoy the company of like-minded gardeners in a healthy, social and sharing environment.

There are currently 17 community gardens in the ACT and many have waiting lists, highlighting the growing demand for new gardens. The guide follows on from earlier ACT Government work streamlining the requirements for establishing a community garden.

To view the guide, visit [www.planning.gov.au](http://www.planning.gov.au)



*Community gardens are an increasingly popular community-based activity.*

# Placemaking – Creating Urban Spaces For People (#Cbrstreetlife)

In response to community and stakeholders requests for higher quality public places, a key priority of the Statement is to deliver high quality public spaces and streets through placemaking.



*Tocomwal Lane place activation.*

Placemaking is an approach that allows hands-on community involvement in the design and management of public spaces. It can include ‘pop up’ design days, design competitions and community initiatives such as markets. It often uses light, quick and cheap improvements that can be easily tested and modified by users before more expensive works are committed.

Placemaking can be led by community groups and developers, not just government.

An immediate action of the Statement is to develop a placemaking guide for the ACT to provide overarching principles and help all ‘placemakers’ engage their community and navigate regulations to make their project happen.

The guide will draw on examples of placemaking locally, nationally and internationally and will allow for placemaking projects to be evaluated and adjusted over time to ensure their success.

Look out for opportunities to be involved during the year.

# ‘Have Your Say’ Proves Popular

During consultation for the development of the Statement of Planning Intent in 2015, the community asked for a more interactive and flexible engagement approach that uses social media and online tools to connect to broader segments of the community during the planning process.

[Haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au](http://haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au) is a new online community engagement tool that invites everyone to read, share and comment on various planning projects. It is easy to use and has proved popular with many members of the community already.

Since its launch in 2015, [haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au](http://haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au) has attracted over 23,000 visits. Recent projects include the City and Gateway Urban Renewal Strategy, Tharwa Village Plan and several town and group centre master plans.

# New Ideas Get a Virtual Touch

The ACT Government is building a 3D city model to help bring urban and building plans to life for the public and planners alike.

The community will be able to ‘see’ the impact of proposals more clearly and better understand important planning tools such as building height, setback and plot ratio rules. They can potentially participate in 3D workshops.

Planners and designers will be able to perform interactive, live, experimental 3D analysis of planning options against an accurate 3D background of the city.

The tool is based on state of the art laser imaging technology (LIDAR), with the first phase important in upcoming projects including the City and Gateway Urban Renewal Strategy. Future phases will include other areas of Canberra.

