

Territory Priority Project Declaration and Statement of Reasons

Inner South Health Centre

Background

On 5 September 2025, Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR), on behalf of the ACT Government, wrote to me as Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development requesting the proposed Inner South Health Centre (the proposal) be declared a Territory Priority Project (TPP) under section 218 of the Planning Act 2023 (the Act).

The ACT Government has committed to delivering four new health centres across the Territory to provide more affordable and accessible health care to Canberrans closer to home. Blocks 33, 34 and 39 Section 78 Griffith has been identified as the location for the new Inner South Health Centre. The location of the proposed health centre is shown in [Figure 1](#).

The proposed health centre is anticipated to deliver community-based and multidisciplinary care including Rapid Access Clinics, Chronic Disease Management, Post-Acute Care, Specialist Dental Services, ACT Pathology, BreastScreen ACT, Allied Health Clinics, virtual care and rehabilitation support.

The purpose-built facility will accommodate approximately 50 staff and provide approximately 119 car parking spaces and associated works across the 9,175m² site. [Figure 2](#) shows the proposed location and indicative site plan.

Further information on the TPP process, including impacts on the associated MPA and any future development application for the Inner South Health Centre development proposal, can be found on the ACT Planning website [here](#).

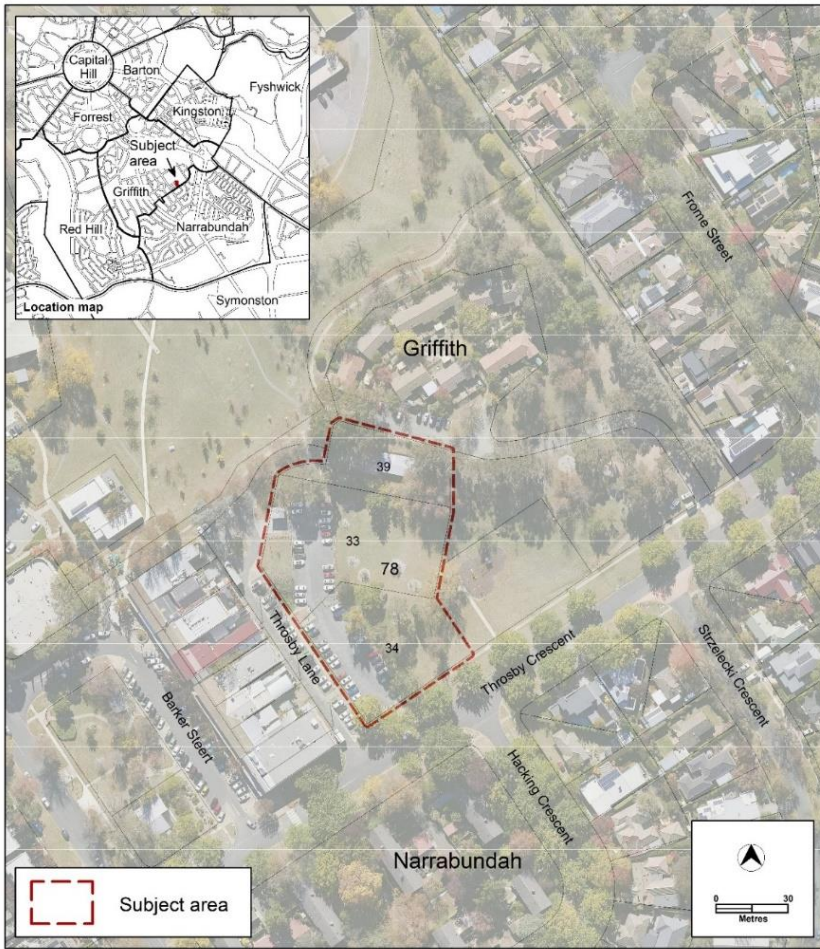


Figure 1 – Location of proposed Inner South Health Centre, Griffith



Figure 2 – Location and indicative site plan – Inner South Health Centre

Assessment against Territory Priority Project declaration criteria and statement of reasons

The proposal has been assessed against the criteria for a TPP declaration criteria contained in s218(1) of the Act. Per s219(1)(b) of the Act, the statement of reasons for making the declaration is presented in [Table 1](#).

Table 1 – Assessment against TPP declaration criteria - s218(1); and statement of reasons for the declaration - s219(b) of the Act

Criteria contained in s218(1) of the <i>Planning Act 2023</i>	Assessment and statement of reasons for making the declaration s219(b)
(a)(i) The proposal would achieve a major government policy outcome that is of significant benefit to the people of the ACT	<p>The proposal will support care closer to home, improve access to healthcare for vulnerable populations, and align with ACT Government commitments to decentralised, preventative health care.</p> <p>The proposed Inner South Health Centre is one of four new health centres committed to by the ACT Government. Investment for construction of the Inner South Health Centre was included in the ACT Budget 2025-26.</p> <p>The proposal aligns with key ACT Government health policy objectives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our 2024 election commitments • ACT Health Services Plan 2022–2030 • Canberra Health Services Strategic Plan 2024–2029 • ACT Health Infrastructure Plan • ACT Wellbeing Framework • iCBR infrastructure Strategic Plan 2025-27
(a)(ii) The proposal would substantially facilitate the achievement of the desired future planning outcomes set out in the planning strategy, a relevant district strategy, the territory plan or any relevant zone	<p>The proposed Inner South Health Centre strongly aligns with the strategic directions contained in the ACT Planning Strategy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compact and Efficient City: Utilises existing urban land near rapid transit routes. • Diverse Canberra: Enhances inclusive access to health services and supports local employment. • Sustainable & Resilient Territory: Delivery of essential health infrastructure on central, well-located urban land within close proximity to active travel and public transport networks. • Liveable Canberra: Provides essential health infrastructure in a walkable, well-connected location. • Accessible Canberra: Located on a rapid transit route, promoting active and public transport use. <p>The proposal is consistent with the desired future planning outcomes contained in the Inner South District Strategy, including delivering a new Inner South Health Centre by the middle of the</p>

	<p>decade and increasing the availability of accessible public health care in the district.</p> <p>The proposal is consistent with policy outcomes contained in relevant sections of the <i>Territory Plan 2023</i> (the Territory Plan), including the Inner South District Policy Outcome 9 to deliver new community infrastructure to meet district demand.</p> <p>The proposal also aligns with the Territory Plan’s Community Facility Zones Policy including policy outcome 1 to facilitate social sustainability and inclusion through providing accessible sites for key government and non-government facilities and services for individuals, families and communities.</p>
<p>(a)(iii) The proposal is for significant infrastructure, or significant facilities, that are of significant benefit to the people of the ACT</p>	<p>The proposed Inner South Health Centre is considered to be a significant health infrastructure project that will offer a wide range of health services tailored to community needs. The 9,157m² site will accommodate approximately 50 staff and provide 119 car parking spaces.</p> <p>Additional benefits to the people of the ACT include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction in wait times for appointments at Community Health Centres or home-based visits; • efficient staff rations and skill mix for high quality and safe service provision; • increased staff sustainability, retention and training opportunities; and • enhanced consumer and staff safety.
<p>(b) The proposal has been the subject of sufficient consultation under s218(3)</p>	<p>In accordance with s218(3)(b) of the Act, the proposed TPP declaration proceeded to public consultation from 7 October 2025 to 19 November 2025; late comments were accepted until 10 December 2025.</p> <p>As the proposal requires a major plan amendment to the Territory Plan to proceed, the proposed TPP declaration was released concurrently with the associated Draft Major Plan Amendment (DPA-06). Details of public consultation were published on the Authority’s website along with the proposed declaration, DPA-06, the supporting report and background paper.</p> <p>Further details about public consultation on this proposal is available here and more information about the associated draft major plan amendment (DPA-06) is available here.</p> <p>In accordance with s218(3)(b)(iii) of the Act, the National Capital Authority (NCA) were consulted on the proposed declaration during the public consultation period.</p> <p>A total of ten (10) written comments were received during the consultation period and have been considered prior to this TPP declaration being made.</p>

In December 2025, subsequent to the request for a TPP declaration being received, section 218 of the Act was amended by the *Planning (Territory Priority Projects) Amendment Act 2025*. The amendments introduced new requirements at s218(3A) to consult with the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (the Conservator) and the ACT Heritage Council (the Heritage Council) in certain cases.

The Territory Planning Authority (the Authority) consulted with the Conservator on the proposed TPP declaration in line with the requirements under s218 of the Act.

Comments from the Conservator noted any impacts to ecological matters or protected trees can be considered during other statutory processes (being environmental significance or development application processes).

Per s218(3A)(b) of the Act, the Authority did not consult with Heritage Council as the Authority does not consider the proposed declaration relates to a place or object registered, or nominated for provisional registration, under the *Heritage Act 2004*, or would impact an Aboriginal object or place.

Therefore, the proposal is considered to have been the subject of sufficient consultation under s218(3) of the Act.

Declaration as a Territory Priority Project

The Chief Minister and I are satisfied that the proposed Inner South Health Centre development proposal meets the criteria contained in s218(1) of the Act.

Therefore, under s218(1) of the Act, the Chief Minister and I jointly declare that the Inner South Health Centre development proposal is a Territory Priority Project.



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

19 February 2026



Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

20 February 2026

Next Steps

I will present this TPP declaration to the Legislative Assembly. Following this, the Legislative Assembly may, within two (2) sitting days, approve or refuse the TPP declaration. If the Assembly does not pass a resolution in that timeframe, the declaration is taken to be approved.

The TPP declaration will commence only after it is approved by the Legislative Assembly and publicly notified. Subsequent Development Applications can only be submitted for the TPP after the declaration commences.