



TRANSFORMING CANBERRA

Into the Active Travel Capital

Everyone benefits from better, safer bike infrastructure

Canberra could become a world leading city for active travel, encouraging people to walk and cycle to and from work and social activities.

Canberra could become a world leading city for active travel and encouraging people to walk and cycle to and from work and social activities. Active travel is key to creating a sustainable, healthy city that prioritises people and the environment. Part of living in a modern, connected city is being able to get around quickly, easily and affordably - and being able to walk, cycle and take public transport is a big part of that.

The ACT Greens will ensure best practice planning and transport policies to prioritise active travel and establish Canberra as the active travel capital.

To transform Canberra into the national Active Travel Capital, the ACT Greens will:

- » Create a well-resourced Active Travel Office and employ an Active Travel Coordinator;
- » Legislate and implement new, best practice active travel design standards;
- » Establish a cross-city, business and community active transport association;
- » Improve active travel project assessment by implementing the HEAT system.

> **An active travel office and coordinator**

Active travel in the ACT needs a specific, well-resourced Active Travel Office and Active Travel Coordinator to promote active travel and make sure every member of our community benefits from the way we design and built our city.

In particular, that means women and children who are often less likely to cycle to and from work, social activities or school. A key priority for the Active Travel Office will be engaging with these groups to work out how we can make our city work for them.

The ACT Greens will provide an extra \$1.1M over the next four years to establish a better-resourced Active Travel Office, headed by a Walking and Cycling Coordinator.

The Coordinator will be tasked with a special role of engaging groups that are less likely to engage with active travel and develop and promote the kinds of solutions that will meet their needs.

> **Best practice active travel design standards and policy**

The ACT Greens will implement modern, best practice design and policy standards for walking and cycling infrastructure to ensure the highest quality walking and cycling outcomes in Canberra. The new policy standards will ensure the ACT Government follows world-leading standards for new and retrofitted active travel infrastructure. They will allow the Government to roll out improved infrastructure such as:

- » Bicycle boulevards and separated cycling facilities;
- » Protected intersections;
- » Pedestrian crossings and 'shareways' or 'shared spaces'.

The best practice policy and design standards will also guide active travel policy decisions by Government and ensure outcomes such as:

- » The positive provision of active travel upgrades and network improvements whenever new roads, road upgrades, road maintenance or other related projects are delivered.
- » The use of a 'transportation mode hierarchy', which prioritises sustainable transport, to guide transport investments and designs.
- » Ensuring improved and high quality active travel networks in new estates.

> **Cross-city collaboration**

When progressive cities work together they can achieve better outcomes; this has been shown to be the case with active travel design standards. The ACT Greens will invite progressive Australian cities to form a 'cross city active travel' association,

similar to the 'NACTO group' established in North America.

The intent of the group is to share experiences, lessons learnt, and best practices in active travel and active street projects. Ultimately the collaborative group will develop best practice infrastructure standards that it collectively adopts where generic active travel standards are substandard or lagging. Canberra will host the first meeting of this Active Travel forum.

The Greens also recognise the importance of community and business support for, and involvement in, the implementation of innovative infrastructure and street designs. The Greens will fund community and business consultative panels to facilitate collaboration between Government, community and business on active travel and street improvements.

> **A new way of assessing active transport projects**

The process used by Governments and Treasuries to allocate funding to infrastructure often does not adequately take into account the benefits of sustainable transport projects, such as walking and cycling. The result is that funding continues to be given disproportionately to projects such as roads, while the community misses out on the extensive benefits of having high quality walking and cycling infrastructure.

The ACT Greens will introduce a new assessment tool for the ACT Government to use in its assessment of active travel projects, called HEAT (the "Health Economic Assessment Tool").

HEAT has been developed by the World Health Organisation and it allows a sophisticated and evidence based assessment of walking and cycling projects, especially useful for determining their value more accurately in budget processes. The tool will help the ACT Government to see the real value of active travel developments, and to support their funding in Budgets.