

ACT GREENS POLICY PLATFORM

JULY 2016



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ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be recognised as Australia’s first people— traditional custodians of this country, who have a unique cultural and spiritual relationship with it
2. Australians have a moral obligation to recognise and enact the principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
3. recognition is important to the traditional custodians of the lands of the ACT and surrounding regions, while acknowledging the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right to equality with other Australians
5. the quality of the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and government bodies has a crucial impact on the effectiveness of government programs and the capacity of Indigenous people to achieve social equality and secure self-determination
6. recognition of Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development, and management of the environment¹
7. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be celebrated for their positive contribution to the ACT community.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a legislative and regulatory framework that values the role, culture and input of the traditional custodians and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT
2. all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, regardless of their connections to formal recognised bodies, welcomed by government and supported to have meaningful engagement in government decision-making processes
3. greater participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in local politics and the processes of government
4. ongoing commitment and funding to the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement, including appropriate funding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
5. greater recognition of, and respect for, the skills and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
6. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, and the Representative Aboriginal Organisations to continue to be recognised as the formal representative bodies of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
7. equality of outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with other Australians on all major indicators of health, education, training, housing, employment and living standards
8. evidence-based approaches to addressing the impacts of intergenerational social disadvantage and trauma, including more culturally appropriate initiatives that address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT justice system, the child protection system and homelessness services *[continues over the page]*

¹ Consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which recognises ‘that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment’.

9. initiatives that are more culturally appropriate, and an appropriate mix of targeted, needs-based and mainstream services to enhance access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to services across the education, health, justice and human service systems
10. increased opportunities for both mainstream services and targeted services to understand and build respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, leading to increased access to services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
11. to support greater participation of members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the development of programs, funding allocation and policies for their people
12. to support more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander micro and small business and self-employment initiatives in the ACT
13. increased consultation with traditional custodians of the ACT and surrounding regions on the care and management of nature parks and other public land in the ACT
14. increased awareness across the ACT community of the significant contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to the cultural, social and economic life of Canberra.

THE ACT ECONOMY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the economy is a tool for achieving our social and economic goals, not an end in itself
2. the pursuit of continuous material-based economic growth is incompatible with the planet's finite resources
3. economic management should prioritise improving quality of life rather than production and consumption of material goods, and economic indicators must include long-term social, environmental and cultural outcomes
4. greater democratisation of the economy is essential to social justice and the elimination of poverty
5. the ACT economy exists within the Territory's natural environment, and environmental stewardship is therefore central to good economic management
6. a shift to a low-carbon economy will deliver the greatest economic benefits to the ACT
7. ACT government decisions and activities should aim to create a diversified economy that capitalises on the ACT community's skills, assets and innovation
8. public finances, including fair and efficient taxes and charges, should sustainably fund government services
9. in a mixed economy, markets that function well and are fair, efficient and competitive have an important role in the allocation of resources
10. governments have an essential role in regulating markets and ensuring that any externalities are reflected in market prices of goods and services
11. investment, divestment and active ownership are all strategies for achieving positive environmental and social outcomes that should be used by the ACT Government in its role as an investor.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. to reduce poverty and inequalities of income and wealth
2. ACT Government decision-making to balance economic outcomes with other social, environmental and cultural outcomes, through a triple-bottom-line approach
3. the development and use of measures of genuine progress as complements to the Territory accounts
4. responsible management of the economy towards intergenerational equity and minimising intergenerational debt
5. the ACT community to have greater levels of participation and input into the budget process
6. a timely and just transition to a clean, green, strong, diverse, and sustainable economy, including through the creation of green jobs
7. collaboration of the public and private sectors to transition the ACT to a low-carbon economy
8. support for social enterprises, microcredit and cooperatives as sound economic investment
9. a more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable and diverse private sector in the ACT
10. a fair tax system that promotes equity, and ensures that the costs of social and environmental degradations are borne by those causing them
11. ACT Government support for Council of Australian Governments (COAG) processes that retain a fair distribution of taxation revenue and avoid interstate competition that weakens the overall taxation system
12. legislated standards for the ethical investment of public money that includes both positive and negative investment screening, and requires the government to engage with the companies it invests in when necessary
13. strategic planning and provision of training to promote full employment
14. full divestment of the ACT Government from fossil fuel industries and weapons manufacturers.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. illicit and licit drug use, including alcohol and tobacco, can have a wide range of adverse health, social and economic effects for individuals, their families and the community
2. the problems associated with drug use are best addressed within a health and social framework
3. the three pillars of harm minimisation – supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction – should be the foundation of government focus and expenditure
4. prevention of, and early intervention in, problematic drug use is the most effective way to minimise harm
5. imprisonment for the personal use of illicit drugs is not appropriate
6. policies and programs concerning drugs, drug users and their families should be evidence-based and subject to continual evaluation
7. understanding the effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs can help empower people to respond to and reduce their impacts on the community.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. to reduce harmful use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
2. to minimise death, disease, crime and corruption resulting from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
3. reduced rates of drug and alcohol related violence
4. effective and evidence-based management of drug use
5. increased effectiveness in the treatment and care of people experiencing comorbidity (substance use combined with a mental health diagnosis)
6. innovative and evidence-based justice and regulatory responses to drug use
7. civil rather than criminal sanctions in situations where personal drug use or possession is the sole criminal charge
8. to reduce the high rate of blood-borne diseases resulting from drug use in places of detention
9. adequate support and services for families with a member adversely affected by the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs
10. evidence-based use of currently illicit substances for regulated medical or therapeutic purposes
11. targeted strategies to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among identified population groups with higher rates of use, as well as broader strategies for the general population
12. government engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on the impacts on individuals and families, and increased community control over drug policies and programs that impact on these communities
13. information and education programs to inform public debate about the effects of all drugs, including prescription, non-prescription, licit and illicit drugs.

ANIMAL WELFARE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. as sentient beings, animals sense pleasure and pain and deserve our care and respect
2. where humans manage, interact and come into contact with animals, we should ensure the highest standards of care
3. the public has a right to know about the means of production of animal goods
4. animals should not be used for research or education without safeguards
5. bio-regional approaches based on habitat and other ecological criteria are required to manage native fauna, pests, domestic animals and production animals.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the adoption of a broad approach to tackle domestic animal neglect and cruelty, through rehabilitation, education and counselling as well as legislative solutions including both regulation and criminal justice
2. animal welfare laws that recognise animals' ability to sense pleasure and pain
3. an end to the greyhound racing industry in the ACT
4. strong, enforceable animal welfare laws that ensure humane treatment of animals in all situations
5. humane and evidence-based approaches to managing ecosystems, including the control of overpopulated and feral species
6. animal welfare standards to be enforced and animal welfare services to be well resourced
7. the codes and standards developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to be the starting point for development of similar codes and standards appropriate to the ACT
8. the responsible ownership of, care for and breeding of domestic pets
9. reduced road kill in 'black spot' areas by construction of mitigation measures such as wildlife underpasses and overpasses, barriers and signage
10. to better protect native habitats by mandating cat containment areas in new suburbs and retrofitting cat containment in other appropriate areas
11. better information for consumers to inform their choices when buying animal products, including through product labelling standards and education about alternatives
12. those using animals for research or educational purposes in the ACT to be required to demonstrate:
 - a) how the scientific/educational outcomes are valuable and cannot be accomplished through alternative methods, and
 - b) that animals will not experience physical or psychological suffering during any procedure
13. coordination of animal welfare and animal management policies and practices across jurisdictions.

ARTS AND CULTURE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the arts extend our ways of knowing and experiencing the world, and should be open and accessible to everyone to engage with, participate in and enjoy
2. arts and cultural activities make a vital contribution to our identity and help define our many communities
3. the arts play a significant role in all cultures, history and heritage, from time-honoured and ancient to contemporary and new media forms
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures make a vital and continuing contribution to arts and culture in the ACT
5. an active and diverse ACT arts sector enriches our community and strongly contributes to residents' quality of life and wellbeing
6. a diversity of arts practice, including both community and high-level professional arts practice, should be supported in the ACT.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. increased community-wide participation in arts and cultural activities, with well-frequented, accessible venues across the ACT
2. access to arts and cultural programs for our whole community irrespective of age and socioeconomic circumstances
3. opportunities for artists and musicians to develop their abilities to a high level
4. strong links between artists, workplaces, schools, institutions, urban designers and developers
5. increased financial engagement between ACT businesses and the arts
6. recognition of the important role played by private sponsorship and philanthropy in the arts
7. a vibrant and sustainable ACT-based professional arts industry, across diverse platforms including digital and new media
8. a thriving live music and events scene in Canberra
9. high-quality music and arts education at college, tertiary and specialist institutional levels in the ACT
10. recognition of and appreciation for the work of musicians and artists based in our region
11. a whole-of-government approach to developing and implementing arts policies
12. a regional approach to music, arts and cultural events and activities.

BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

8. biodiversity provides ecosystem services, such as water and air purification and erosion control, which maintain Earth's life support systems
9. protection and conservation of remaining biodiverse areas is essential for the wellbeing of all life on Earth, including human life
10. current generations have a responsibility to ensure that the environment is preserved and, where possible, enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations
11. maintaining, expanding and connecting protected areas is vital to preserving biodiversity
12. where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, the precautionary principle should be applied, ensuring that lack of full scientific certainty is not used as a reason for postponing measures to protect biodiversity
13. habitat loss and fragmentation caused by humans, and the spread of invasive species exacerbated by climate change, are major threats to biodiversity
14. biodiversity offsets should only be used as a last resort, after efforts to avoid impacts and mitigation. In some cases impacts cannot be offset and no-go areas should be identified
15. the ACT's unique grassland and woodland environments should be valued, restored and protected
16. local Indigenous knowledge should be integrated into sustainable natural resource management and conservation
17. government, the private sector, volunteer organisations and individuals must work together to achieve biodiversity improvement outcomes.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

15. to ensure that Canberra's native bushland, rivers and wild places and protected biodiversity areas are preserved and enhanced as our urban footprint grows and climate change requires adaptive measures
16. to maintain and enhance the resilience of local and regional ecosystems by increasing ecological connectivity
17. government-funded initiatives to monitor, evaluate, manage, repair and report on the status of the ACT's protected ecosystems and threatened species
18. government-funded programs that educate the ACT community and visitors about the importance of biodiversity and how to protect and enhance it
19. ACT planning and land maps to clearly display biodiversity data, including up-to-date information on biodiversity quality
20. biodiverse areas and key areas that link habitats to be protected before development proposals are considered for any area
21. integrated regional management of native habitats, including regional biodiversity corridors and buffer zones, and enhanced riparian and water management strategies
22. evidence-based management that is supported by rigorous scientific research
23. targeted education and management programs to address the negative impact of invasive species and pests in Canberra's conservation reserves and surrounding rural areas
24. ongoing recurrent funding for strategic weeds and pest management programs
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25. an offsets policy that doesn't perpetuate biodiversity loss. Offsets should:
 - result in net gain for the specific species or ecosystem within the local area
 - achieve benefits in perpetuity
 - include a monitoring and reporting system to assess effectiveness
 - be legally enforced
 - not include past conservation actions
 - be in place prior to development commencing
 - be supported by adequate funding (e.g. for research, restoration, monitoring)
26. updated and upgraded maps of the ACT's natural grassland and woodland assets to support improved biodiversity protection and conservation management
27. joint Aboriginal and government management of the ACT's protected areas, to demonstrate best practice and to provide opportunities for increased Aboriginal participation in the management and protection of these areas
28. greater public investment in the management of Canberra's natural areas, and enhanced support for continued volunteer effort in caring for these areas.

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. bushfire has been an integral part of the Australian ecosystem for thousands of years
2. the ACT will need to adapt to the changing climate, noting increases in both the severity and frequency of bushfire and floods in the ACT region
3. the risks associated with living in a bushfire-prone landscape need to be incorporated into urban planning and infrastructure decisions
4. the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for the ACT is a comprehensive document, which should guide the preparation of annual Operations Plans to reduce the risk of bushfire and its negative impacts, and balances protection of life and property with ecological impacts
5. fuel-reduction burns, slashing, mowing and grazing techniques are all appropriate parts of the suite of fire prevention and mitigation strategies, but should be applied judiciously
6. appropriately resourced and coordinated emergency services are essential to protect both human life and the natural environment
7. community awareness about bushfire hazard, fire risk and arson is an essential part of any fire management strategy.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT community to be prepared for the risks of living in a bushfire-prone landscape
2. the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and annual Operations Plans to combine the most recent long-term weather forecasts with the best possible scientific information, and to incorporate measures to protect biodiversity and be consistent with ecosystem maintenance
3. vegetation and plantation management to minimise the risk and impact of bushfire on residential land and ecological systems
4. emergency services to be constantly monitoring new developments in response techniques, and ensuring the ACT is adopting best-practice approaches
5. emergency services to be well resourced, coordinated and supported to meet the needs of the ACT community
6. continued strong collaboration between ACT and interstate volunteer and professional emergency services and personnel
7. full recognition of the importance of volunteer emergency services personnel
8. continued funding for ongoing community engagement and awareness programs on bushfire preparedness
9. continued refinement of new technologies, such as text messaging to mobile phones and use of digital media, as ways to assist in broadcasting emergency warnings and response.

BUSINESS

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the ACT needs a robust, diverse and sustainable private sector
2. that as part of a vision for a clean, green ACT economy, the government should foster innovative sustainable industries, building on the ACT's opportunities as the national capital, with research and innovation hubs
3. a diversified, resilient, dynamic and sustainable business sector will complement a strong public sector and community sector, and grow significant and meaningful employment
4. business, government and the community sector working together can best achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, significant innovation and more efficiency
5. ACT Government procurement decisions are an important way to support the local and regional economy
6. reducing unemployment and the reliance on the welfare system in the ACT can be driven by alternative business models, including micro and small business, member- and worker-owned cooperatives, and social enterprises
7. the ACT Government should work with the regional business sector to enable it to be responsive to economic challenges such as climate change and food security, and to improve environmental and social outcomes
8. the government should promote fair and vigorous competition between businesses
9. the government should have robust and ongoing consultations with the business sector on the development and implementation of ACT Government policy.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT Government to create conditions that empower private businesses to achieve positive economic, social and environmental outcomes in the ACT
2. a transition to a clean, green economy that helps achieve climate change targets
3. the ACT Government to create the settings for the private sector to be able to promote diverse, creative and vibrant industries in sectors such as arts, culture and entertainment; information and communications technology (ICT); energy efficiency and renewable energy; health; research and education; and tourism, retail and hospitality
4. ACT Government support for research and development to cultivate zero-carbon industries and processes
5. simpler government processes, charges and regulations to reduce compliance costs and administration, particularly for small business
6. local and small business to be able to compete fairly in providing goods and services to the ACT and federal governments
7. ACT Government procurement policies that give weighting to social enterprises and local companies
8. government financial support to business to be transparent
9. the government to facilitate access to finance and alternative business structures for small business to help them succeed
10. better use of local supply chains to support the regional community
11. ACT Government legislation and policies that ensure a diverse retail sector to operate fairly and competitively
12. additional retail spaces to be made available only when economic impact assessment shows there is sufficient demand.

CARERS

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. carers provide essential paid and unpaid care and support to family members, partners and friends who have needs associated with disability, ageing, physical or mental health issues, or substance use
2. carers make a substantial social and economic contribution to the ACT community
3. caring is a potentially rewarding role that should be undertaken by choice, and not as a result of inadequate social or health services
4. relationships involving the provision of care are a partnership in which both parties have the right to quality of life
5. carers have the right to equity in opportunity, particularly in relation to participation in education, employment and community activities
6. carers should be involved in decisions that have an impact on them as individuals
7. the knowledge and experience that carers have should be recognised
8. respite can be necessary for the health and wellbeing of carers and the person they are caring for
9. there are a wide variety of carers who each have different needs
10. a lack of secure, long-term supported accommodation for people with disabilities impacts adversely on carers, in particular older carers.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. increased recognition of and respect for carers
2. support for the health and wellbeing of carers
3. carers to receive adequate support before crises occur
4. stronger rights for carers, including the right to make choices and optimise their quality of life
5. a person-centred response to carers' needs
6. clear information to be available to carers about services that could be suitable for them and the person they are caring for
7. carers to receive adequate advice and assistance when needed about how to best care for their family members, partners and friends
8. carers to be able to access advocacy support, respite services and other supports
9. a coordinated, well-resourced and strategic response to meet the needs of carers and the person they are caring for
10. special consideration of the often unreported issues of young carers.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. we must provide a healthy, safe and sustainable environment for children and young people to live and thrive
2. children and young people must be respected and valued for who they are now, as well as who they may become in the future
3. children and young people are entitled to express their opinions and to have them taken into account by decision-makers
4. decisions that affect children and young people must be in their best interests
5. the rights of children and young people in the ACT must be protected and promoted, including the right to education and safety, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
6. children and young people have the right to relax and play, and to join in on a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities
7. children and young people have the right to live free of physical and emotional abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination
8. foster and kinship carers play an important role in the child protection system, and children benefit from having stable, long-term carers
9. children who are unable, for their best interests, to stay in their family are entitled to care and protection with respect for their individual rights, needs, beliefs, culture and language
10. children and young people who do not live with both of their parents have the right to know, and maintain meaningful relationships with, their non-resident parent and extended family, where this is practicable and safe
11. prevention and early intervention helps children and young people experience success later in life, and reduce future harm.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. children and young people to be valued as active citizens of the ACT
2. to eliminate neglect, abuse and disadvantage among children and young people in the ACT
3. continual review of ACT legislation to strengthen the human rights of children and young people
4. effective mechanisms for children and young people to express their needs, opinions and aspirations to the ACT Government, including through collaboration with representative and advocacy organisations and the broader community
5. people aged 16 and 17 years to have the option to vote in ACT elections
6. continual enhancement of Canberra's urban and non-urban environment as a child-friendly city
7. children and young people to have increased access to public spaces and community facilities throughout the ACT
8. children and young people to have transport options suitable to their needs and developed through effective engagement with government
9. the provision of youth services for all people aged 12–25 years in the ACT
10. enhanced early intervention and prevention services and resources for children and young people at risk
11. access to safe, affordable housing through public housing, community housing and supported accommodation *[continues over the page]*

12. programs that focus on identifying and assisting children and young people who are at risk of leaving the education system, with a focus on enhanced outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander students
13. high-quality and well-funded services for children who have suffered or are at risk of suffering abuse and neglect
14. services that recognise the importance of maintaining the positive relationships between children and their birth parents, and that seek to support reunification, where possible and appropriate
15. clear targets to drive improved outcomes for young people making the transition from out-of-home care to independent living.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the human-induced climate change emergency poses the greatest threat to human wellbeing and survival, and biodiversity on our planet
2. achieving a safer climate will require a return to an atmospheric concentration of 350 ppm or lower of greenhouse gases (CO₂ equivalents), and our global, national and local climate change strategies must reflect this
3. urgent action is required to end fossil fuel exploitation in Australia, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, and transition to 100% renewable energy
4. reducing pollution at its source should be our primary method of addressing climate change, rather than offsetting emissions
5. inadequate action on climate change will result in widespread negative social and economic impacts, through more extreme weather events, harm to public health, disruptions to food supply and production, and increased displacement of people
6. because the harshest impacts of climate change and decarbonisation will fall on people already experiencing disadvantage, the ACT Government has a responsibility to ensure the costs and benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions are distributed equitably across the community
7. gas can no longer be regarded as a transition fuel and the use of gas in the ACT will need to be addressed if we are to meet our carbon-neutral targets
8. the electrification, where possible, of transport services and heating will enable a quicker transition to a carbon-neutral city, and must be undertaken in an equitable way
9. in addition to reducing emissions, reduced deforestation, restoration of native forests and revegetation will need to be implemented to draw down existing greenhouse gas emissions
10. the longer we wait to act, the more expensive our attempts to repair the damage and reduce emissions will become
11. government, community and business must responsibly plan for the impacts of climate change
12. divestment from fossil fuels by governments, other institutions, and individuals is not only financially responsible but also sends a strong signal about action on climate change
13. the ACT should lead the world in cutting pollution through renewable energy generation, decentralised energy systems, energy efficiency, community ownership of energy, accessible public transport, sustainable construction, urban design, and good land management
14. addressing climate change requires significant investment in education and community engagement.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. an ACT climate change strategy to deliver greenhouse gas emissions reductions of at least 40% (on 1990 levels) by 2020 and net zero emissions by no later than 2030
2. the ACT's emissions reduction target to be regularly updated in accordance with scientific developments
3. federal climate policies to recognise ACT reductions that exceed the national target when national emissions caps are reintroduced
4. a local energy strategy to reduce the ACT's demand for energy, improve energy efficiency, and transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2020 [*continues over the page*]

5. to build capacity within our communities and industries to develop and expand the local renewable energy sector, including through increasing community ownership of energy production and storage
6. consultation with the community sector in developing climate change and energy policies
7. a system of energy concessions and pricing that reduces fuel poverty in the ACT, while discouraging wasteful consumption
8. policies that reduce barriers for low-income households, renters, and people who live in apartments to utilise renewable energy, storage, and energy-efficient technologies
9. policies that support public housing stock conversion to low-carbon energy production and use
10. a transition of home heating in Canberra from gas to renewable energy
11. support for people on low incomes to shift from gas to renewables
12. any carbon offsets purchased to be high quality, verifiable and from socially and environmentally responsible sources
13. recognition of soil and vegetation sequestration in the ACT's greenhouse gas accounting scheme and a clear strategy to maximise sequestration programs and activities
14. implementation of an ACT-wide plan to ensure Canberra is prepared for the predicted impacts of climate change, including on health, urban infrastructure, emergency management, biodiversity conservation and water
15. an ACT Government investment policy that divests from all fossil fuel extraction, export and consumption by 2020
16. the ACT Government to become carbon neutral in its operations by 2020
17. climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies to be integrated into the ACT's urban planning policies and processes, waste disposal and recycling systems, and transportation infrastructure
18. solar systems on every suitable roof in the ACT, with householders and businesses to be paid fairly for the clean power they produce
19. laws to ensure that energy companies cannot unduly discourage people from generating and storing their own power
20. convenient transport options that allow every citizen in the ACT to reduce their travel pollution, including a light rail system run on 100% renewable energy, extensive provision for walking and cycling, car sharing networks, and infrastructure for electric vehicles
21. the best energy-efficiency standards for new residential and commercial buildings, and retrofitting of existing buildings to make them more efficient with lower running costs
22. comprehensive education and public engagement campaigns on energy use
23. ACT residents to be informed about the energy system and have the knowledge and the capacity to influence its future.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. meaningful community engagement is vital for democracy and a society that values inclusion
2. ACT Government decision-making, legislation, policies and programs should be informed by genuine, ongoing community engagement that is meaningful and transparent
3. the full range of informative, consultative, participatory and deliberative community engagement processes should be utilised, and the government should provide sufficient information to allow for real participation
4. effective and meaningful community engagement requires adequate, balanced and timely involvement of a diverse range of individuals and groups
5. to create realistic expectations of the outcomes, community engagement processes must be clear in purpose and provide accurate descriptions of the types of consultation to be used.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT Government to become a national leader in participatory governance
2. mutual trust, respect and increased cooperation in decision-making between the ACT Government and the ACT public
3. sufficient resourcing of a Community Engagement Unit to ensure comprehensive coordination with all ACT Government agencies
4. to ensure that community engagement processes are adequately and appropriately resourced and include appropriate timeframes for engagement
5. incentives for ACT Government agencies to demonstrate excellence in community engagement activities
6. to update the Community Engagement Manual to include deliberative democratic processes¹ and extend the training of ACT Government officers in its effective use
7. implementation of participatory democratic mechanisms for prioritising and spending of public funds
6. free, timely and accessible information to ACT residents and stakeholders about ACT Government activity, including objective background information
7. improved participation of community organisations and individuals in public debate without fear of negative repercussions from the ACT Government
8. genuine opportunities for all affected people to be provided in community engagement activities
9. the scale of community engagement processes to match the potential impact of ACT Government legislation, policies and programs, and to reach affected people
10. to keep the community informed about processes in which they participate, including the reasons for taking up or rejecting recommendations.

¹ Deliberative democratic processes can be large- or small-scale processes matched to significant, often contentious, government decisions. Processes can include deliberative conferences, citizens' juries, 21st Century town meetings, deliberative polls, liquid democracy, and participatory budgeting (as in Porto Alegre, Brazil). These processes are being adopted in many countries including Australia (mainly in Western Australia), Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, United Kingdom and United States.

COMMUNITY SECTOR

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. community sector organisations provide essential services for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Canberra, support social inclusion and contribute to the life of our city
2. the community sector has expertise and valuable insights to offer, and should be seen as active partners in policy development processes of government, as per the 2012 Social Compact
3. the community sector should be built on principles of human rights and social justice
4. paid staff and volunteers who are part of the sector bring a wide range of skills and experience, and should have their contributions valued and respected
5. the community sector plays an essential role in generating new ideas, evaluating research, highlighting structural issues and promoting public debate.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. increased viability and resilience in the ACT community sector, in terms of governance, career pathways, professional development and remuneration that further develops the diverse range of skills and knowledge in the ACT
2. a strong and sustainable peak body group infrastructure that can support citizen engagement in agenda-setting and decision-making, aggregate concerns and develop agreed priorities for action, and lead and facilitate sector development and renewal
3. a community sector that is adequately resourced to identify community needs and is able to respond to those needs in a timely and effective manner
4. a strategic plan for revenue generation, infrastructure development and accountability for community services
5. to maintain appropriate levels of accountability and transparency in the community sector, while reducing administrative burdens for community organisations
6. a community sector that provides evidence-based practice, delivered by appropriately skilled and fairly remunerated staff
7. a strong and relevant Social Compact that forms the basis of a mutually respectful relationship between government and non-government community services
8. protection and respect for the essential role played by community organisations in the development of public policy and advocacy, which is often based on frontline experience
9. to ensure that the experiences of consumers and community-based service users are heard and responded to in service development and evaluation processes
10. to create more opportunities for volunteers to receive subsidised training and other support as part of a comprehensive workforce strategy.

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. cultural and linguistic diversity in the ACT population greatly enriches our community, and should be embraced and celebrated
2. cultural and linguistic diversity should be promoted within the context of respecting democracy and universal human rights
3. people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds should be supported to fully participate in ACT society
4. people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds should be supported to actively engage in democratic processes and government decision-making
5. the ACT should be a safe and welcoming place for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. an ACT community that embraces and celebrates cultural and linguistic diversity
2. the elimination of discrimination, and equal opportunity for all people regardless of cultural, linguistic or religious background
3. culturally and linguistically diverse communities to be engaged and connected with the broader Canberra community, as well as supported to build networks within their own communities
4. a wide range of programs to support settlement and integration of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, including English language education
5. ACT Government policy processes to maximise the contribution of culturally and linguistically diverse communities
6. strengthening of the capacity and ability of government to work with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
7. adequately resourced support for asylum seekers and refugees who settle in the ACT, including housing, education, life skills and social connections
8. community programs to foster harmony and social cohesion, particularly for new and emerging communities.

DISABILITY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. all people have a right to independence, self-determination, choice and freedom from discrimination in their lives
2. governments hold primary responsibility to display ongoing leadership in fulfilling the obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
3. there are a variety of medical, societal and environmental reasons why people's individual abilities differ; disabilities arise when society fails to accommodate these differences, and creates, or fails to remove, barriers to equitable access for all
4. people with disabilities, and their families and carers, should have the opportunity to actively participate in policy and service planning and delivery
5. service provision should take a person-centred approach
6. education, training and employment for people with disabilities are key to positive social inclusion and wellbeing
7. people with disabilities should have access to a range of secure housing options
8. the adequate provision of transport options for people with disabilities is necessary for their full participation in society
9. people with disabilities are entitled to protection from abuse
10. the health and wellbeing of carers of people with disabilities is important.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. people with disabilities to be able to participate fully in all aspects of life, including in education, training and employment
2. access to facilities and support personnel, for people to be able to undertake their chosen activities
3. involvement of people with disabilities in all levels of decision-making and policy-making, including in their own service development and delivery
4. disability support services that meet service standards and are scrutinised to ensure quality services are provided
5. the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to fully meet its potential of providing adequate funding for individuals
6. funding for a disability commissioner to support engagement with the NDIS
7. people with disabilities to have access to a range of secure housing options
8. ongoing support provided for people with disabilities who will not be covered by the NDIS, but still require assistance and support to fully participate in the community
9. equal access to education, training, adult education and lifelong learning
10. better pathways for school leavers with disabilities to make the transition from school into meaningful employment, educational and vocational programs or other community-based activities
11. support for social enterprises employing people with disabilities operating in the ACT, and an increase in social procurement from the ACT Government
12. improved employment opportunities for people with disabilities
13. increased availability of secure, long-term supported accommodation for people with disabilities, operating under a range of models
14. the elimination of barriers to access to the ACT community and public transport systems, information and communication technologies, public facilities and services
15. appropriate responses to disproportionately high rates of violence against people with disabilities, particularly women
16. an increased range of services that support carers of people with disabilities
17. improved pay, conditions and career structures for the providers of disability services.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT OF THE ACT POPULATION

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the ACT's ecological footprint is determined by the number of people in the ACT, their per capita consumption of resources and energy, and factors such as urban design, transport and food production
2. economic growth driven by population growth and consumption is unsustainable, and alternative approaches to prosperity should be embraced
3. achieving an ecologically sustainable population in the ACT should take into account social justice, equity and economic considerations
4. the ACT should set an example to encourage other regions to also achieve a more sustainable footprint.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT to be a leader in informing and enabling a small-footprint way of life
2. reductions in the ACT's per capita ecological footprint
3. the ACT to play its part in stabilising the planet's population, in a way that is consistent with international human rights obligations
4. an ACT community that is aware of the impact its consumption has on the local, regional and global environments
5. a regional approach to address transport, urban development, water, food production, waste and other issues that are not constrained by state and territory borders
6. ACT greenhouse gas reductions targets consistent with the global science
7. an ACT and region-specific strategy for the predicted consequences of peak oil¹
8. ACT Government strategies that increase closed-loop cycles for the many streams of waste and related resources
9. the ACT Government to use the State of the Environment Report by the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment as a key benchmark for measuring progress towards sustainability.

¹ 'Peak oil' occurs when the maximum rate of global oil extraction is reached. After this time the rate of production enters terminal decline.

EDUCATION

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. high-quality, free and equitable education is a cornerstone of a healthy democracy, and is fundamental to Australia's continued prosperity
2. everyone should have equitable access to education that meets their needs and aspirations, and gives them the skills and capacity to meaningfully participate in society
3. learning is a lifelong process, from early childhood through adult life, fostered in both formal and informal settings
4. vocational and other future training needs in the ACT must consider the contexts of a changing labour market, gender equity and development of new skills for a green economy
5. it is the responsibility of government to ensure the provision of high-quality, well-resourced and safe learning environments that are open to all students
6. a responsive and relevant education system is underpinned by community involvement, and recognises that parents and carers play a critical role in the education of their children
7. teaching is a highly respected profession that needs quality training
8. we should continue to develop the ACT as a university city as part of the knowledge economy.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a vibrant public education system that attains world-class standards of excellence and is built on an evolving and evidence-based curriculum and pedagogy
2. a well-funded public, secular education system that meets the needs of the ACT's students in all their diversity
3. the full implementation of government and non-government education funding based on a formula that supports equity of educational outcomes, and that is allocated in a transparent, accountable and needs-based manner such as outlined in Gonski principles
4. a range of accessible education and training programs, including literacy and numeracy, offering new opportunities to adults at all stages of their life, including those re-entering the workforce and adjusting to changed circumstances
5. improved transitions between early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education, and greater coordination across those sectors
6. to ensure that all students are supported to achieve the same high standards, including those with culturally, socially and physically diverse backgrounds
7. improved educational and training outcomes for young people with a disability or a learning difficulty
8. education curricula and teaching across all ages to include education on, and respect for, diversity in all its forms, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, ethnicity, linguistic or cultural background, ability or disability, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, intersex status and religious beliefs
9. improved student support services, ranging from learning assistance to health and welfare needs
10. a safe, student-centred, healthy and high-quality school environment for all students, teachers and other staff
11. culturally appropriate learning methods and resources, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
12. the active engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members in school and other educational environments *[continues over the page]*

13. all children and young people to have age-appropriate, inclusive and comprehensive social and emotional education to build skills for respectful relationships, compassion, cooperation and resilience
14. specialised support for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, including ongoing access to English as an additional language or dialect
15. affordable and suitable housing for all students in the ACT
16. to strengthen the links between schools and their communities, facilitate greater parent and carer involvement in student learning and increase access to community services
17. all students to have equality of access to digital technology
18. an education system uncompromised by corporate influence on teaching and learning
19. children and young people to have direct educational experience with nature, the environment and agricultural systems

EARLY CHILDHOOD

20. child care, early childhood and preschool education policy and planning that improves access, affordability and high-quality education
21. a continued commitment to the national quality framework, including at least 15 hours per week of preschool, delivered by teachers with early childhood qualifications

HIGHER EDUCATION and VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

22. a strategic approach to identifying emerging training needs for the ACT, with genuine community input
23. a high-quality and accessible vocational education and training (VET) system that offers new skills and re-skilling for future occupations, including those industries emerging in the green economy
24. the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) to remain in majority public ownership and to be funded at levels that allow it to meet the VET needs of the ACT community
25. continued prioritisation of government VET funding to go to CIT
26. a continued joint ACT–federal funding agreement for VET
27. higher education in the ACT that is accessible and affordable, and meets the needs of students
28. to ensure opportunities for partnerships for commercialisation do not undermine academic autonomy and quality of research

WORKFORCE

29. a professional and well-supported education workforce, with access to relevant and innovative professional development opportunities
30. greater support for education staff to effectively teach children and young people with diverse needs, including students experiencing a disability or a learning difficulty, gifted and talented students, and students at risk
31. to maintain and improve the remuneration, conditions and career opportunities of all ACT education professionals to increase the recruitment and retention of a high-quality teaching force.

EMPLOYMENT, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS & WORKPLACE WELLBEING

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. all people have the right to meaningful and secure paid employment
2. workplaces must be non-discriminatory, providing opportunity for all workers and equal pay for equal work
3. all workers should have access to a fair and equitable industrial relations system, including accessible independent systems for conciliation and arbitration of workplace disputes
4. workers have the right to organise, collectively bargain and be represented
5. unions play an important role in advocacy for workers
6. workers have the right to a safe and healthy workplace where they are treated with dignity and respect, and can achieve work–life balance
7. effective work health and safety strategies promote worker wellbeing in addition to hazard reduction
8. there are inherent benefits in business models that foster greater worker participation in decision-making.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT public service to set an example of good industrial relations policies and practices that respect staff, and offer conditions that attract and retain quality staff
2. the ACT Government to maintain workplace laws of the highest standards
3. to ensure that harmonisation processes do not weaken workplace protections
4. transparent implementation of equitable industrial relations standards in ACT Government contracts
5. to end all forms of unlawful discrimination in the workplace, including in regards to recruitment, promotion and pay
6. to eliminate the gender pay gap
7. people employed in industries of high social and environmental value to be adequately remunerated
8. the ACT Government to support processes for people who wish to pursue collective negotiations
9. measures to reduce bullying and harassment in ACT workplaces
10. a balance between paid work and personal time, with fair pay for overtime and unsociable hours
11. innovative and flexible working arrangements to be offered to employees, subject to ‘no disadvantage’ tests
12. increased protection for workers reporting unsafe work practices or environments
13. unions to have reasonable rights of entry to workplaces and the right to prosecute for breaches of work health and safety laws
14. workers to have access to clear and comprehensive information about their legal rights
15. appropriate compensation in work health and safety cases
16. protections for casual and non-secure employees
17. adequate resourcing for WorkSafe ACT
18. to promote effective management models that encourage worker representation in decision-making.

FAMILIES

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. families are essential to the wellbeing and strength of our community
2. supportive relationships enhance individual wellbeing and resilience
3. family structures are increasingly diverse and should be valued in all their forms
4. long-term public investment in quality health, education and family support services, particularly in the early years of childhood (0–8 years), is a sound investment in the future
5. parents and carers are entitled to choice and support to balance their family commitments with their involvement in the workforce and community life
6. some families may require support or intervention to help them realise their potential and reduce the risks of harm.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. meaningful engagement with families and local communities for the evaluation and development of ACT Government policies and services
2. targeted initiatives to ameliorate living costs for low-income families and families who are vulnerable and facing disadvantage
3. policies that support and acknowledge the specific needs of separated families, sole-parent families, step and blended families, families with parents with disabilities, families with adolescent parents, families with same-sex parents and families in which children are cared for by grandparents or extended family members, or who are carers themselves
4. effective, responsive, accountable, transparent, safe and high-quality services
5. accessible and affordable high-quality early education and child care services for all ACT families
6. family-friendly work policies, including parental leave and flexible working arrangements for all parents and carers
7. increased investment from both the ACT Government and the Australian Government in family support services, including intensive and coordinated support
8. family-centred services, to ensure the safety of families, and prevent and respond to the serious issues of abuse, neglect and domestic violence
9. access to food relief, meal services and practical assistance for low-income families.

FOOD SECURITY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has the right to a sufficient supply of nutritious, affordable and safe food to lead a healthy life
2. given the need for global food security, that agricultural production, processing and distribution must:
 - a. be ecologically sustainable and climate appropriate
 - b. provide nutritious and healthy food
 - c. support diverse and local fresh produce
 - d. be fair to farmers, distributors and consumers
 - e. respect animal welfare
3. food should be sourced as locally as possible, to build community resilience and familiarity with natural systems, and to minimise the costs and pollution associated with transport
4. we need to support our local and regional food production businesses to be viable and sustainable
5. the skills of our food growers and researchers are to be valued
6. significantly increased food production can occur within our urban environment community
7. food production plays an important role in community building and food and agriculture education
8. food and organic waste is a valuable resource that should be utilised
9. bee pollination plays an important role in food production
10. urban sprawl and extractive industries, especially fossil fuel mining, pose serious threats to the scarce land and water resources needed to produce our food
11. genetically modified organisms (GMOs), their products, and the chemicals used to manage them may pose serious risks to natural and agricultural ecosystems and to farmer autonomy.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT to become a place of local and regional food production, where all residents have access to affordable and healthy food and can take part in food production in their community
2. a diverse, independent and resilient food retail and distribution system, with a thriving and diverse community of local small and medium food businesses, including cottage producers, farm gate sales, and fresh produce markets
3. food production to become a more significant part of the ACT economy
4. cooperation between governments, food producers, distributors and retailers in neighbouring regions to improve our regional food systems
5. the ACT to maintain its leadership in animal welfare in food production
6. policies that facilitate the use of private land and public open space for food production
7. agricultural production zoning in the Territory Plan and appropriate productive agricultural areas to be zoned for food production
8. producers and agricultural workers to be paid fairly
9. to foster communication and networking between local and regional growers, so they can share ideas, livestock and produce, particularly in poor food production years
10. more community use of public land for food production
11. stronger government support for city farms, community gardens, market gardens, commercial gardens, aquaponics and community orchards
12. an end to food wastage
13. increased use of local organic waste for fertilisers *[continues over the page]*

14. education on minimising pesticide use and creating bee-friendly gardens
15. urban planning and government landscape planning to factor in bee habitat
16. to protect our land and water resources from inappropriate development and use
17. master plans for rural areas to understand the ACT landscape, and plan food production accordingly
18. the ACT to prioritise food production over biofuel production when considering land use
19. to protect the natural ecosystems that underpin the production of food in the ACT, including grasslands and woodlands that provide for pollinators, clean air and water sources, and nutrients
20. water security for sustainable agricultural production
21. ACT agriculture to remain GMO-free
22. children in the ACT to be exposed to growing and preparing food through the school system
23. broader education and awareness programs on food production and preparation
24. clear and honest food labelling.

GAMBLING

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. people who choose to gamble are entitled to an environment that minimises their risk of developing gambling problems
2. gambling can have serious social and economic impacts that affect individuals, families and communities
3. because gambling technologies are highly addictive, gambling-related harm is not solely the responsibility of individual gamblers
4. strategies to reduce risky gambling behaviours must focus on more than just the individual gamblers, and should follow an evidence-based, public health approach
5. government action on gambling must prioritise the health and social wellbeing of the people, ahead of gambling industry interests
6. government and community organisations should not be dependent on gambling as a source of revenue
7. different forms of gambling have different social and economic impacts, with gambling machines and wagering having greater adverse impacts than some other forms of gambling such as lotteries
8. the prevention of gambling problems is preferable to their treatment. An evidenced-based holistic public health approach will seek to address both
9. gambling activities should not be promoted, especially to children. Current trends around normalising and integrating gambling activity into recreational activities such as sport and computer games should be reversed
10. gambling regulation must be independent of industry bias, evidence-based and subject to ongoing evaluation
11. the accessibility of gambling opportunities should be reduced, not increased
12. access to gambling should not be disproportionately concentrated in areas with disadvantage.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. to minimise the harms from gambling
2. increased regulatory efforts that focus on reducing gambling-related harms, for individuals, their families and communities
3. communities to be made aware of the impact of gambling harm
4. strategies that reduce risky gambling behaviours that focus on more than just the individual gamblers, and follow an evidence-based, public health approach
5. a reduction in the operating hours and number of gambling machines
6. evidence-based measures to make gambling activities less dangerous, especially in the case of electronic gaming machines
7. governments and community organisations to be supported to phase out their reliance on gambling revenues
8. adequate support and services for individuals and their families adversely affected by gambling that are delivered by professional organisations, follow an evidence-based, public health approach, and do not further stigmatise those experiencing gambling harm
9. adequate early intervention and prevention measures to minimise gambling harm
10. the ACT to advocate for national action to address the integration of gambling activities into recreational activities, particularly in areas such as gambling advertisements (or integrated gambling content) during sporting broadcasts and when children are watching television
11. independent statutory oversight of gaming and racing
12. the ACT to advocate for national action to address the rise of online gambling
13. policy evaluation and research, funded by the government or by statutory levies, to be commissioned and conducted free from industry influence, and planned over a longer, more stable funding cycle
14. greater access to industry data sets and personnel, through the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, for researchers and service providers, to facilitate greater harm reduction.

HEALTH

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. fair, equitable and universal access to quality health services is a basic human right
2. health is a state of physical, mental and social wellbeing with outcomes influenced by the inter-relationship of biological, social, economic and environmental factors
3. an effective health system must be based on primary health care and preventive health care, including health promotion, disease prevention and early intervention
4. reducing barriers to access to primary and preventive health care wherever possible will encourage people to interact with health services before they become unwell
5. the burden of chronic disease is growing and will impact on individuals, their families, communities and the health system
6. the social determinants of health¹ approach should underpin government decision-making across all portfolios
7. vulnerable communities should be a particular focus of preventive health measures and campaigns
8. health service providers should be accountable for their funding and service provision
9. strategic decision-making and resource allocation in the health sector to deliver long-term sustainable funding should involve a partnership between the local and federal governments, community, carers, health care consumers and health service providers
10. a well-resourced public sector is an integral part of the delivery of health services
11. the health system should be based on existing evidence and be responsive to new and emerging research
12. people have the right to be fully informed about an illness they may be suffering and the options for treatment, and to fully participate in decision-making about which treatment to pursue
13. all health workers should be valued for their training, skills and abilities
14. peer support and advocacy programs are a valuable tool to assist a person who is experiencing or has experienced an illness
15. carers need to be supported in their role
16. mental health is a growing issue in our community that requires a whole-of-government coordinated response.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a physical environment that promotes health and wellbeing
2. all people to be able to access sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food
3. government to address the factors that are driving higher levels of obesity in the community
4. planned and resourced services to prevent the burden of chronic disease where possible
5. government to prepare services for the regional health impacts of climate change
6. a whole-of-government approach to achieve improved health outcomes for individuals and communities
7. community health concerns to be identified and targeted before they have significant negative impacts [*continues over the page*]

¹ 'Social determinants of health' are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the health system. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels, which are themselves influenced by policy choices. Social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities—the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries. (World Health Organization, available at http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/)

8. a health system which has strong, well-funded primary care and prevention services as well as acute, hospital-based care
9. to eliminate the health inequities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
10. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to be involved in the design and delivery of health services
11. ACT detainees in the criminal justice system to have access to health services of an acceptable community standard, recognising the particular needs of women
12. an efficient, cost-effective and responsive health system
13. a health system that is responsive to feedback from the community and health workers
14. an increased accountability from the ACT Government on consumer outcome measures as compared to the current sole focus on output measures
15. evidence-based and innovative approaches to managing emergency, critical and tertiary care pressures
16. people to have access to reliable, up-to-date, impartial information about health and treatment options, including their own records
17. vulnerable communities to be a particular focus of preventive health measures and campaigns
18. improved access to bulk-billing general practitioners and primary dental care, particularly for vulnerable people
19. waiting periods for surgery (including elective surgery) equal to or less than the national average
20. ACT women to have access to impartial, high-quality information and services in the areas of reproductive health, pregnancy termination, antenatal and postnatal care and childbirth
21. people with a terminal illness to be respected in their choices regarding their treatment
22. high-risk communities to be involved in the design of prevention programs for blood-borne viruses
23. effectively funded peer support groups, programs and initiatives that are matched to identified community needs
24. people experiencing a chronic illness to be supported in self-managing their illness
25. to improve the quality of life for those people living with or affected by mental illness
26. a decrease in stigma around mental illness and suicide
27. an adequate level of supported accommodation for people experiencing a mental illness, living in the community, and requiring assistance
28. a high-quality professional health workforce with the capacity to meet current and projected needs of the community.

A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the separation of powers between the executive, legislature and the judiciary as set out in the Australian Constitution is critical to good governance
2. a healthy democracy requires frank, transparent and accountable practices in all aspects of government
3. a culture of honest and dedicated service to the community is as important to good governance as official rules and procedures
4. legislated integrity and oversight agencies play an essential role in our democracy
5. government strategies and decisions must seek to balance social, environmental and economic impacts
6. the negative social and environmental impacts of ACT Government decisions and activities must be identified, accounted for and ameliorated
7. ACT residents are best represented in the ACT Legislative Assembly using a Hare-Clark electoral system with multi-member electorates
8. meaningful community engagement is vital for democracy and a society that values inclusion
9. the ACT Government should be a leader and innovator in good governance
10. parliamentary rules, conventions and structures must keep pace with changing community expectations
11. public servants should have the resources and support they need to provide accurate and thorough advice to the governments they serve, without fear or favour
12. a whole-of-government approach enhances the implementation of government policies and helps to break down 'silos'.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. open and transparent access to government information, including a clear presumption in favour of document disclosure as part of a robust freedom-of-information system
2. increased capacity for ACT Government agencies to release data, analysis, research and other information of public interest
3. improved promotion of existing open government information channels and cabinet outcomes
4. powers and resources for all integrity agencies to monitor the implementation of their recommendations by the ACT Government
5. oversight Commissioners to be Officers of the Parliament
6. a triple-bottom-line approach to government decision-making and reporting, including consistent, meaningful and measurable strategic and accountability indicators
7. high-quality environmental research, informed by the precautionary principle, to underpin ACT Government decision-making where there is a substantial environmental impact, and to be reflected in environmental management plans
8. measurable goals, performance indicators and strategies to avoid any adverse ecological, economic and social impacts of ACT legislation, policies and programs
9. ethical investment of all public funds
10. ACT Government procurement decisions to be made using triple-bottom-line assessments
11. ACT Government decision-making, legislation, policies and programs to be informed by genuine, ongoing community engagement that is meaningful and transparent *[continues over the page]*

12. all government projects to have exemplary community consultation and pre-project consultation
13. all government legislation and explanatory information to be clearly written, consistent and made available to the public
14. all explanatory statements accompanying legislation to contain human rights impact analyses and community consultation summaries
15. implementation plans and adequate resourcing to accompany all major strategies and policies with online reporting of progress
16. key government strategies to be reviewed every 5–10 years
17. government economic management and budget processes to account for economic, social and environmental aspects.

HERITAGE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. heritage is a reflection of our Territory's history from Aboriginal occupation to today
2. cultural, natural and built heritage in the ACT is a precious asset to be respected and protected for current and future generations
3. it is in the public interest for the government, non-government bodies, the private sector and private individuals to fund developments and projects that involve our shared heritage
4. there needs to be a careful balance between the protection of heritage places and allowing our city to meet the demands of growth and sustainability
5. it is important that built heritage that is used for residential purposes is well maintained and retrofitted for energy efficiency where possible
6. heritage protection is not limited to the preservation of buildings and other places and objects; it also includes preservation of cultural and natural heritage, such as the memories and stories of Aboriginal elders
7. it is essential the government ensures that heritage repositories are available for libraries, museums and other institutions with collections.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. an overall vision and rolling 10-year plan for the protection of natural, cultural and built heritage sites, including Aboriginal and 19th and 20th Century European sites
2. integration of heritage vision and values into all urban planning policy for new developments and in existing suburbs
3. increased community consultation in relation to identifying what is considered a heritage place and what should constitute its protection
4. resourcing of government and non-government peak bodies to fulfil their obligations and strategic directions, including timely consideration of nominations
5. heritage and other community groups to have legal standing and capacity to provide input into relevant development proposals
6. alignment, where practicable, of ACT and federal heritage protection laws to overcome the present jurisdictional complexity which risks some sites falling between the cracks and not being protected
7. an ACT heritage and history impact study to be undertaken to guide planning decisions and help develop business cases for heritage site investment
8. greater recognition and improved coordination across government regarding heritage matters in the consultation, planning and delivery of projects
9. incentives to be created for investment in privately owned heritage places
10. a history and heritage tourism strategy developed to capitalise on our heritage, as part of the broader Tourism strategy for the ACT and region
11. inclusion of Canberra on Australia's national heritage list, to protect key elements of the central national area and inner hills, while providing a framework for future development
12. conservation management plans prepared and implemented for all heritage housing precincts
13. in certain situations, where previous buildings are not able to be preserved, architecture of new buildings on the site to be designed to reflect what was there before, or to suit the surrounding buildings, through building materials or form
14. retention of representative buildings and landscapes that contribute to the character of the city and provide a sense of place and evidence of a former era *[continues over the page]*

15. conservation of places that reflect Canberra's heritage significance in a way that enables their long-term usability
16. a holistic heritage plan that maps out representative buildings of the various phases of significant architecture in Canberra, and a strategy to ensure that sufficient representative buildings are protected
17. protection of our heritage areas, the unique character of villages, and creative, arts and entertainment precincts
18. government-owned heritage-listed properties to be audited in respect of energy efficiency and carbon emissions to allow for adaptive re-use and environmentally sustainable design in their refurbishment and maintenance
19. recognition of and respect for traditional custodians and representatives of other Aboriginal peoples in relation to their skills and knowledge of conservation and heritage places
20. a safe and centralised repository to store objects, ACT publications and records
21. to investigate the feasibility and options for a history and heritage display centre.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. equitable access to safe, secure, appropriate and affordable housing is a human right and an essential prerequisite to good health and social inclusion
2. the provision of affordable housing requires a whole-of-community approach and needs to address issues of land release, rates, land rent schemes, funding models and planning policy
3. appropriate, affordable and adequate housing should be delivered through partnership between governments, private sector and community-based housing providers
4. the ACT Government has a duty to ensure sufficient public housing, community housing, crisis accommodation, supported accommodation and longer-term social housing to meet current and projected demand for lower-income households and people in need
5. housing affordability is defined not only by the price to buy or rent a house, but also the costs associated with running a household, including energy, services and transport
6. the regulation of the private rental market and basic security of tenure, including occupancy agreements, enhances quality of life and is integral to the provision of social housing
7. the housing needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be addressed in consultation with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
8. older people should be supported to access housing options that facilitate their ongoing connections to their community
9. housing design should facilitate social inclusion
10. suburbs should contain a mix of housing options that cater for diverse needs
11. lessors play an important role in the provision of housing in the rental sector and should be included in conversations about tenancy reform
12. the role of social housing as a community good should be prioritised over the role of housing as an economic asset.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. all ACT residents to have safe, secure and affordable housing
2. a diversity of housing, including social housing, in suburbs and regions
3. a review of all of the relevant ACT Government housing frameworks and strategies to ensure they are meeting their stated and desired outcomes
4. housing supply that delivers affordable and adequate housing options across the life cycle, rather than resulting in speculative investment in housing as a vehicle for capital gains growth
5. to encourage innovative community and cooperative housing in the ACT by removing regulatory obstacles to innovative models of home ownership, stable tenure, and tenant management
6. incentives that encourage lessors and property investors to provide housing models to people on low incomes or facing homelessness
7. stable, secure and adequate funding to homelessness services to enable them to respond to increasingly complex needs
8. crisis and stable accommodation for those experiencing homelessness, including necessary support services, to be delivered in an environment of funding certainty, with the ability to offer long-term service provision
9. people who have experienced, or are at risk of, homelessness to have support to access secure ongoing housing *[continues over the page]*

10. reduced waiting times for people trying to access emergency accommodation or on the public housing waiting list
11. public housing options that cater to the diverse needs of tenants and provide adequate support to people with special housing needs
12. the needs of current and future tenants to be the primary consideration when undertaking public housing redevelopment programs
13. adequate funding for Housing ACT to meet operational needs, and a move away from a business model that requires asset sales to fund ongoing operating costs
14. social housing to reach 10% of all housing in the ACT
15. a dedicated and long-term funding stream for specialist crisis accommodation and support services, including for people impacted by domestic and family violence
16. sufficient levels of long-term and secure supported accommodation options for people with disabilities or mental illness
17. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have access to adequate, secure, well-maintained, safe and culturally appropriate housing
18. access to transport routes and essential services to be a primary consideration when developing social housing stock
19. improved utilisation of the existing housing stock in response to changing demographics and tenants' needs
20. environmentally sustainable housing construction and operation that contributes to a healthy environment and eases the cost of living
21. the promotion of housing construction and refurbishment that considers changing needs and accessibility over time, responding to the specific needs of demographic groups.

HUMAN RIGHTS

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. economic, social, cultural, environmental, civil and political rights are interdependent and must be respected and protected
2. cultural, religious, gender and other differences need to be taken into account to ensure human rights are enjoyed by all
3. where a balance must be struck between competing individual and community rights, careful, transparent deliberation is necessary
4. the concept of human rights is dynamic and can evolve to cover new ground through ongoing public discussion.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. protection of, and respect for, Australia's human rights obligations in government decisions and policies
2. continued scrutiny and review of ACT Government decisions and policies through a human rights framework
3. full implementation of the ACT Human Rights Act
4. human rights concepts to be progressively translated into effective local laws and policies
5. promotion of a shared understanding of human rights obligations and ongoing and active community discussions about human rights and their application in the ACT
6. the ACT to continue its role as a leader among Australian jurisdictions in fulfilling human rights obligations and as a key participant in discussions on evolving human rights
7. a culture of human rights to be cultivated across the government, non-government and private sectors.

ICT AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. all Canberrans should have equitable access to digital communications so that they can fully participate in community life
2. technological developments are disrupting how activities traditionally occur and government has a role both to facilitate positive change and ensure that existing rights and protections remain in place
3. the digital economy can be an enabler of significant reductions in environmental impact, such as building-energy management systems, online meetings, flexible working locations and the 'sharing economy'
4. government data and information should be freely available to the community, while ensuring that individuals' privacy is protected
5. information and communications technology (ICT) equipment has considerable, but often unnoticed, environment impacts, including energy and materials for equipment and networks, and disposal of equipment.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. Canberra to have fast internet connections, including public access connections, through the fastest available broadband internet rollout
2. the ACT Government to be an innovator and leader in adopting digital technologies to reduce its environmental impact
3. community education about data sovereignty and privacy
4. ACT school students to be literate in data sovereignty and privacy issues
5. people to have reasonable access to digital information held about them by the ACT Government and its agencies
6. ACT Government prioritisation of ICT vendors and service providers who demonstrate a commitment to the community, such as by providing local employment or training opportunities
7. all ACT Government publications to be published using creative commons licensing. Where possible, government should make the underlying data sets available
8. the government to encourage small businesses in the ICT sector as a way of increasing innovation, local employment opportunities, and partnership with tertiary education providers in the ACT
9. the government to minimise the environmental impact of ICT equipment by incorporating life-cycle analyses of its ICT infrastructure.

INFRASTRUCTURE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the ACT economy requires public investment in public infrastructure that delivers long-term economic, social and environmental benefits
2. large infrastructure projects can be funded through responsible government borrowing
3. public–private partnership arrangements for infrastructure projects should only be entered when it is of social and economic benefit to the public
4. proposed major infrastructure projects should be subject to quality public consultation, including the publication of associated documents
5. the construction of quality and appropriate infrastructure is important for the ongoing sustainability, liveability and prosperity of the ACT
6. infrastructure projects must take into account long-term challenges and opportunities such as addressing climate change and improving social equity.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. infrastructure projects to be financially responsible, accountable and transparent
2. infrastructure projects to be designed to meet long-term needs of the community, while carefully balancing the immediate affordability
3. infrastructure projects to be subject to thorough triple-bottom-line analyses
4. infrastructure projects to be weighed carefully to ensure they do not undermine the adequate financing of important public sector services
5. tenders to be conducted in a way that is open and competitive, and requires tenderers to meet high environmental, employment and consultation standards
6. project benefits to be assessed through a triple-bottom-line framework and reflect a long-term commitment to an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable future, while also being economically responsible
7. cost–benefit analyses should include social and environmental benefits, not just revenue generated
8. public–private partnership tenderers to meet the high environmental, employment and consultation standards
9. adequate community consultation in both decision and design phases, and the publication of environmental impact statements, business cases, comprehensive triple-bottom-line analyses and cost–benefit analyses
10. infrastructure grounded in scientific and urban planning principles, with particular attention to recognising the future challenges of climate impacts and the opportunities of transitioning to renewable energies.

JUSTICE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has the right to live in a safe and peaceful community, free from crime and fear of violence
2. judicial independence is fundamental to a democratic society
3. all elements of the justice system should be transparent to ensure accountability and consistency
4. the legal and justice systems must not unfairly entrench privilege or disadvantage, or hinder reforms that would advance ecological sustainability, social equality, democracy or peace
5. fundamental principles of criminal law, including innocence until proven guilty, open courts, habeas corpus, equality and the right to remain silent, should be preserved and upheld
6. community engagement with the justice system is important to foster understanding and respect for the principles and practices of the justice system
7. the ACT Government should pursue preventive approaches to address the systemic causes of crime
8. the criminal justice system should recognise and respond to the issues faced by victims of criminal and civil wrongs
9. incarceration is only appropriate as a sentencing option of last resort and remandees should not be detained longer than necessary
10. justice reinvestment approaches to criminal justice spending provide a benefit to the whole community
11. the health and rehabilitation of offenders, and the reduction of recidivism and trauma, are important outcomes of the justice system
12. to ensure equality before the law, the justice system must be responsive to those experiencing disadvantage
13. early access to dispute resolution mechanisms or legal advice can be beneficial in resolving issues before they escalate and need adjudication by a court
14. the ACT should have a 'police service' rather than a 'police force', to underline the role of police in serving the community.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a criminal justice system that respects the human rights of victims, alleged and convicted offenders, witnesses and others affected by crime
2. an end to politically motivated law-and-order campaigns and the threat of terrorism being used to undermine or discard basic principles of law
3. commitment to an evidence-based approach to addressing crime that recognises the value of crime prevention
4. inter-agency coordination to address the social and economic circumstances that increase individuals' risk of both committing and becoming a victim of crime
5. victims of both civil and criminal wrongs to receive the necessary social and professional support to facilitate their recovery
6. the exploration and trial of alternatives to incarceration, particularly for offenders convicted of less serious crimes
7. a significant reduction in rates of incarceration in the ACT, including a reduction in the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody in the ACT
8. people held in correctional facilities to be provided with a standard of care that ensures they exit detention in good health and with a reduced likelihood of re-offending
9. acknowledgement that mental health and drug and alcohol addiction are contributing factors for many who come into contact with the legal system
10. further development of, and adequate funding for, both detention-based and diversionary treatment options
11. to address unmet legal need by improving access to private lawyers, Legal Aid and community legal centres
12. an ACT police service that is well resourced, has close relationships with the ACT's diverse community, and is able to respond to the community's different needs.

OLDER PEOPLE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. a well-functioning society values all of its members, recognises the contributions that older people make and celebrates intergenerational leadership
2. in a society that maximises the social, economic and political participation of older people, and places older people as an important part of the broader community they live in
3. in promoting positive views of ageing, rejecting ageism and challenging negative stereotypes
4. older people have the right to high-quality health and aged-care services regardless of their income, status, background or location
5. older people have the right to live with dignity, feel safe, and live free of abuse, neglect and violence
6. older people have particular housing needs, and options should be available for them that suits their circumstances and respects their wishes, including ageing in place.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. protection of the rights of older people, including freedom from discrimination based on age and safety from elder abuse
2. older people to be consulted and engaged in the formulation and implementation of policies that affect their wellbeing and the community they are part of
3. accessible information for older people about ACT Government services and community services, and the provision of information and services in a manner that is appropriate and respectful of different levels of skills in and exposure to digital technology
4. older people to be supported and encouraged to be part of the community, socially included and involved in community activities
5. to promote 'positive ageing' and to facilitate the community benefiting from older people's wisdom, experience and perspectives
6. acknowledgement of and respect for the diversity of older people
7. policies and strategies that assist older people to determine the timing and pace of their withdrawal from paid employment, including in the public service, and support as they enter retirement
8. to end age discrimination in the workforce
9. the federal and ACT governments to assess, and respond to, current and future demand for aged-care services, with a focus on person-centred care that gives older people more choice and control over the care they receive, including as they move towards end-of-life care
10. more awareness and services to support the growing number of older people affected by dementia, including supporting mainstream organisations and the community to become dementia friendly
11. the ACT Government to respond to the changing needs of older people and the ageing of the population in a coordinated, well-resourced and sustainable way
12. government and community organisations to review and improve the safety of older people in their homes, in service settings and in the broader community, including appropriately funded advocacy services
13. housing designed to meet the needs of older people in all their diversity, including a recognition that a growing number of people will be ageing without being able to draw on financial assets including their own home
14. the provision of a range of housing options for older people with low levels of assets and those who have faced lifetime disadvantage, particularly focusing on the growing group of older women at risk of homelessness
15. downsizing options for older people in their local area and support to age in place where suitable.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND INTERSEX

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity are fundamental human rights
2. all people have the right to assume and express their self-identified gender
3. acceptance, celebration and representation of diversity are essential for genuine social justice and equality
4. discrimination on the basis of sex, sexuality and/or gender identity is unacceptable.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. an end to all discrimination against people who are, or who are perceived to be, sex, sexuality or gender diverse
2. the removal of all discrimination on the basis of sex, sexuality, gender identity or intersex status from ACT legislation, regulation and government policy
3. an ACT community that celebrates diversity of sex, sexuality and gender identity
4. an end to the disproportionate representation of sex, sexuality and gender diverse people in experiencing homelessness, poverty, hate-based violence and other 'at risk' circumstances
5. fair and timely access for people with needs related to their sex, sexuality and gender identity to the health and support services they require
6. funding of consensual medical treatment for gender assignment and re-assignment services in the ACT, including mental health consultations and associated expenses
7. equitable, respectful and sensitive provision of all health and mental health services in the ACT to address the specific needs of sex, sexuality and gender diverse people
8. equal opportunity for sex, sexuality and gender diverse people in all private and public employment, including in ACT Government workplaces
9. schools and other education services that respect and support sex, sexuality and gender diverse students, through peer support, anti-bullying policies and programs, youth services, and age-appropriate education about sex, sexuality, gender identity and intersex status
10. all consenting adult relationships, regardless of the sex, gender or intersex status of the partners, being recognised as equal under the law, including through civil unions and marriages
11. the views of sex, sexuality and gender diverse communities to be taken into account in decisions that affect them made by the ACT Government and others in the community.

SOCIAL EQUITY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. a fair and democratic society relies upon equity of opportunity, respect for diversity, and social inclusion
2. inequality is damaging to a democratic society
3. structural inequity in society can lead to gaps in educational achievements, increased contact with the criminal justice system, social conflict, and poor physical and mental health
4. systemic poverty, violence and social disadvantage is not inevitable and should be eliminated
5. poverty, violence and systemic disadvantage disproportionately affects particular people within our community; this can be due to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, race, cultural background, gender, sexuality, disability, religion, educational background and employment status.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. an end to structural and systemic discrimination and an inclusive respectful society
2. support for people to live fulfilling lives and have the opportunities to reach their full potential
3. a society in which people have self-determination, can live fulfilling lives and have the opportunities to reach their full potential
4. an end to disadvantages stemming from structural inequity
5. a commitment to universal service delivery in health and education, a strong social welfare safety net, and provision of income-based concessions
6. coordinated, well-resourced, short-term and long-term government responses to poverty and social disadvantage
7. better-integrated services for people affected by poverty, including those who are homeless and those who are impacted by intergenerational inequality
8. targeted measures and assistance to address the drivers of poverty and disadvantage
9. respectful partnerships between government, community and business in an effort to prevent and respond to violence, poverty, social exclusion and homelessness
10. long-term whole-of-community approaches to preventing and alleviating social inequity.

SPORT AND RECREATION

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. sport and active recreation are an essential part of physical and mental wellbeing
2. participation in sport and active recreation should be accessible to all Canberrans
3. community sporting clubs play a vital role in building stronger and better communities
4. the contribution of volunteers to sport and recreational activities is significant and should be further encouraged
5. sport and recreation are important sources of employment, and of economic and social activity
6. sporting excellence should be encouraged and recognised, and opportunities for improvement and competition provided
7. sporting events and activities should be undertaken in a way that is cognisant of the environment.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. Canberra to be recognised as a world-class sport and recreation city that offers a diverse range of urban and nature-based activities
2. improvements in public health through increased participation in sport and recreational activities
3. a strong relationship between the ACT Government and sports stakeholders to deliver progress on ACTIVE 2020 – the long-term strategic plan for sport and active recreation in the ACT and region
4. targeted assistance to support vulnerable and disadvantaged Canberrans to overcome barriers to involvement
5. equity of access to sporting venues for people with disabilities
6. provision of sporting and recreation infrastructure to be considered in response to changing demographics, the development of the city, benefits to the broader community and the level of participation
7. a strong role for the community in the planning, control and management of sporting and recreation facilities
8. reduced insurance costs and financial and administrative burdens on sports organisations, including simple and transparent funding processes
9. a culture of equity, fairness, inclusiveness, non-violence and freedom from harassment, particularly in junior sport
10. improved regulatory support for volunteers and community groups to reduce barriers to involvement
11. to facilitate major sporting events in the ACT, without entering into unaffordable bidding wars with other states and territories
12. to attract mass-participation sporting events to the ACT, recognising that there are benefits to the ACT through tourism, employment and volunteering
13. greater recognition of women's sport and improved gender equity in sports funding allocations
14. the staging of sporting events and the building of facilities to have minimal environmental impacts
15. the impacts of climate change on facilities and participants to be considered when planning sporting events
16. well-maintained facilities to support safe sport and recreational activities in parks, lakes and natural areas.

TRANSPORT

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. Canberra's transport network should be highly connected, and accessible, and serve everyone in the community
2. improving public transport is crucial to responding to the challenges posed by congestion, pollution, affordability, social exclusion, climate change and energy security
3. public and active transport are essential to creating a sustainable, liveable and affordable city
4. innovation in transport planning and technology can help mitigate the ACT's social and environmental challenges
5. transport in and around the ACT, whether it is private, public or freight, should be as environmentally sustainable as possible, and utilise low and zero emission technologies
6. public transport should be provided and managed in a way that ensures the maximum public benefit
7. active transport, including walking and cycling, should be a convenient and safe option
8. planning and infrastructure policies should emphasise road safety, prioritise human life, and recognise the greater vulnerability of certain road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists, children, elderly people and motorcyclists
9. regional and interstate cooperation is necessary for building sustainable and effective transport networks.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a high-quality and convenient Canberra-wide public transport network that seamlessly integrates light rail, buses and other transport modes
2. urban planning policies to develop quality transport corridors in new and established areas
3. funding to prioritise active transport and public transport, reflecting the ACT's commitment to a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels by 2020
4. the ACT Government to support policies and infrastructure that will make Canberra a global leader in clean electric vehicle technology
5. the ACT Government to support positive innovation in transport technology
6. the ACT Government to operate a low-carbon vehicle fleet (taking into account a whole-of-life assessment), including public transport
7. the ACT to significantly increase the proportion of its freight travelling by sustainable means, such as by rail
8. ACT public transport operations and service delivery to meet world's best-practice standards
9. all ACT developments to have excellent active transport facilities and access to public transport
10. high-quality transport services – including regular public transport and tailored services – to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities and other people with a transport disadvantage
11. to encourage public and private sector organisations in the ACT to support their workforce to use sustainable transport
12. the ACT to be a leading jurisdiction in active transport through policies and funding that promotes walking and cycling in the ACT
13. best-practice road safety solutions that are consistent with the latest research
14. zero fatalities in the transport system, in line with the 'Vision Zero' philosophy
15. improved personal security for people travelling in the ACT, including via public and active transport
16. the ACT Government to actively support the creation of a national high-speed rail network that incorporates Canberra
17. improved integration and connections to interstate transport hubs, improved services to regional heavy rail passenger stations, and proactive engagement with other jurisdictions to improve the sustainability and affordability outcomes of regional transport.

URBAN OPEN SPACE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. our urban environment should be underpinned by ecologically sustainable development principles. The ACT Government should protect and build quality urban open space
2. planning and development of the city's urban environment and landscape should reflect its national role as the 'bush capital', its character and heritage, and the significance of the local environment
3. the city should reflect the historic and current values and character of the community, and provide for activities that reflect our diversity
4. the ACT Government should facilitate high-quality and aesthetic urban design that contributes to quality of life, the environment and biodiversity
5. urban planning in the ACT should facilitate our transition to a sustainable, green city
6. Canberra's urban environment and landscape should be developed in a way that minimises the heat island effect
7. Canberra should be a child-friendly and age-friendly city
8. the urban environment and landscape should promote healthy lifestyles by providing access to active transport modes and recreational facilities
9. community partnerships can play an important role in the management of public open space; for example, urban ParkCare groups and community gardeners.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. regular review of planning and management of urban open space in response to challenges associated with population growth, climate change, water and food security, bushfire risk and biodiversity conservation
2. Canberra to be a world leader in ecologically sustainable and community-oriented open space planning and design
3. urban planning to ensure protection of open space areas, and appropriate agricultural areas to be set aside for food production
4. to ensure high-quality public open space and facilities for all residential areas, including playgrounds, sports fields and passive recreation spaces. Infill developments in particular should include high-quality open spaces and streetscapes that help us promote active living while adapting to climate change, with trees, green spaces and water-sensitive urban design
5. well-designed urban development, properly integrated with sustainable transport infrastructure, community facilities and open space
6. continued restrictions on outdoor advertising
7. Canberra to become a carbon sink, by increasing our urban trees and vegetation
8. planning for urban trees in new suburbs to reduce urban heat and prepare for climate change. An active tree planting program should be implemented to fill the gaps in existing suburbs, town centres and the city centre
9. tree species selection should be based on summer shade provision, be non-invasive species and be resilient to a changing climate
10. Canberra to be a people-friendly city designed for children, older people and people with disabilities to easily and safely get around
11. to connect existing green spaces via shared paths with supportive infrastructure such as benches and water fountains
12. more areas of public land to be under joint management between the government and the community
13. increased support for the development of Canberra's community gardens, City Farm and food forests
14. recreation and fitness facilities in public spaces.

URBAN PLANNING AND BUILT FORM

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. urban planning and development in the ACT should be based on ecologically sustainable development principles
2. Canberra should be recognised as a model low-carbon city in its planning, development and ongoing operation
3. Canberra must adapt to the expected climate of the future with global warming and more extreme weather events, including in our housing and infrastructure and tree planting and maintenance (also see Urban Open Space policy)
4. Canberra should be a more compact, liveable, sustainable and greener city that incorporates public transport, walking and cycling, and people-friendly neighbourhoods
5. excellence at all levels of urban design and construction contributes to quality of life, aesthetics and sustainability
6. high-quality infill development can bring many benefits, and is a positive alternative to suburban sprawl on the city's perimeter
7. Canberra should be valued as the national capital of Australia, including its existing character and heritage (also see Heritage policy)
8. urban planning should promote inclusiveness, equity and diversity, as well as a sense of community, safety and place
9. health and social inclusion can be promoted by providing access to public and active transport and high-quality recreational infrastructure
10. planning and development must include appropriate, timely and meaningful community consultation.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT to be a world leader in ecologically sustainable and community-oriented urban planning and design
2. a planning system that is responsive to community needs and encourages innovation and sustainability
3. urban planning to support the ACT's commitment to a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels by 2020, and ACT carbon neutrality by 2060
4. demonstration projects and incentives for new buildings to be zero carbon in operation by 2020, allowing for renewable energy production to contribute to the energy balance
5. a low-carbon city with energy efficiency in new and retrofitted buildings, reduced embodied carbon in construction and carbon sequestration
6. a reduction in the urban impacts of heat islands including through water-sensitive urban design and restricting the creation of hard surfaces such as buildings, paving, concrete and roads, thereby increasing biodiversity in our city and reducing water run-off
7. infill developments to demonstrate excellence in urban design through providing energy-efficient buildings that help us adapt to climate change, and high-quality public parks and streetscapes, with trees and green spaces
8. better integration of rooftop and vertical gardens into Canberra's urban design
9. increased housing density in areas with strong public transport routes
10. transport corridors clearly designated in the Territory Plan to drive transport-oriented development
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11. high-quality and energy-efficient higher density residential development around town, commercial and group centres, serviced by an effective network of active and public transport, community facilities, urban open space, and government and commercial activities
12. good public and alternative transport solutions that reduce the need for car park spaces in multi-unit developments
13. legislated bike storage and visitor facilities for new residential and commercial developments
14. high-quality building construction standards that ensure a long low-maintenance lifespan for building
15. consideration of the full life-cycle costs of development
16. codes and guidelines for apartment designs that are equivalent to best practice in Australia, ensuring solar access, cross ventilation and a sense of place
17. developments that provide high-quality streetscapes with trees and public space, are attractive from the street and have active street frontages
18. developments to be of a human scale, and permeable, providing for open pedestrian and cyclist access into and within the site
19. dynamic and vibrant city, town and group centres that meet the needs of community
20. our town and group centres to be retained and developed as important places for commercial and community activity for each region of Canberra. Commercial developments should be of a human scale and encourage life in the streets
21. our local shops to be the hub of our neighbourhoods – they are important meeting places and are vital for building community. Maintenance and upgrade programs could include co-funding models
22. redevelopment of areas to be done in a way that increases social, economic and environmental sustainability, rather than current trends
23. to promote and demonstrate smaller houses, as Australia now has on average the largest new houses in the world
24. to leverage the ACT Government's extensive portfolio of older, poorly maintained single residential houses to showcase innovative medium density developments that can be replicated throughout Canberra
25. suburban growth limited on Canberra's perimeter
26. incentives for adaptive reuse of existing structures, rather than demolition and new construction
27. housing projects that enable Canberra to be a people-friendly city that is liveable for all, including children, older people and people with disabilities
28. a diversity of housing choices to improve affordability and enable residents to find homes to suit the different stages of their life
29. a range of affordable housing types so that no Canberra residents are homeless
30. a meaningful and genuine well-resourced, consultative planning process that resolves planning issues fairly and in a timely manner
31. relevant community organisations to be appropriately informed and resourced to respond to planning issues.

WASTE AND POLLUTION

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. waste management should be based on the hierarchy of avoiding consumption, and reusing and recycling residual waste into beneficial products
2. management of waste and resources is important for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving scarce resources
3. all waste should be treated as a resource and processed in a way that achieves the maximum economic and environmental benefit, taking into account a full life-cycle analysis
4. the private sector should be supported to provide sustainable solutions and market creation with the various streams of waste produced in the ACT
5. regional and interstate coordination is important to ensure that waste and resource recovery markets are financially viable
high resource-recovery rates will bring long-term environmental, social and economic benefits to the ACT, and these benefits must be considered in decisions about the creation, management and any ultimate disposal of waste
6. investment in waste management solutions should not depend upon a high level of waste production to ensure financial viability
7. product designers and manufacturers should design their products so as to minimise their impact over the product's lifetime
8. the use of toxic chemicals and the generation of polluting substances should be phased out
9. it is important to educate the community about waste, its impact and how to reduce it.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT to become a leader in waste reduction and resource recovery, and internationally showcase its strategies
2. a holistic waste strategy that includes the waste hierarchy of 'avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle'
3. the impact of greenhouse gases such as methane to be minimised, including through generation of electricity
4. sustainable options for food and green waste recovery
5. wood waste from native forest operations to not be considered within the renewable energy target
6. government policies and programs to foster the resource recovery industry in the ACT as part of growing our green economy
7. strategies and technologies that divert waste from landfill to be recycled, repurposed and reused to their highest value
8. rigorous waste reduction strategies for the ACT's business sector and industry, including the provision of adequate waste drop-off centres and an inventory of key waste components in waste streams through corporate environmental plans
9. regional coordination on waste management, including collaboration with jurisdictions on packaging reduction and producer responsibility programs
10. a coordinated approach to e-waste management in the ACT, consistent with the federal government's national product stewardship legislation
11. introduction of container deposit legislation for the ACT in conjunction with other states, particularly NSW
12. all ACT Government agencies to adopt sustainable waste management systems and procurement policies *[continues over the page]*

13. an expanded approach to the collection and recycling of materials from public places
14. a review of existing regional sewerage plants to ensure best-practice tertiary treatment is achieved and clean sludge reused to improve agricultural soils
15. detailed life-cycle analysis of any waste management investment before it is made
16. closed-loop cycles of production and to emphasise principles of recovery, remanufacture and generation of minimal waste
17. the elimination of hazardous and retractable wastes. Any historic stockpiles or existing sources need to be dealt with using the most internationally advanced technology
18. environmental degradation resulting from poor waste management to be reversed through clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation programs
19. government funding to educate and resource the community on waste avoidance, minimisation and recycling.

WATER

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. water is vital to all life, and its management must be fully integrated with wider social, economic and ecological policies
2. water should be managed in a way that maintains and improves ecological health
3. water should be managed to safeguard human health and wellbeing in the long term
4. water can only be effectively, efficiently and equitably managed in partnership with the community, scientists, industry, agriculture and government
5. water is best managed at the catchment scale, recognising the linkages between land use, surface water and groundwater, and vegetation
6. the ACT has an obligation to contribute to reforms in the wider Murray–Darling Basin
7. water is a scarce resource and all sectors of the ACT community have an obligation to use water wisely
8. investment in water infrastructure must be based on long-term sustainability of water supplies and ecosystem health
9. while recognising a basic human right to a minimum supply of water for personal hygiene, cooking and growing food, water pricing should incorporate the full social and environmental costs of extraction, transport and use
10. water systems have an important role in production, storage and management of renewable energy
11. vegetation has a vital role in the water system and in influencing microclimate, particularly with a warming climate.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a comprehensive water management strategy based on a vision for long-term ecological health and water security. This must be responsive to Canberra’s changing demographics and the challenges of climate change, including addressing the heat island effect
2. environmental flows necessary to improve the health of ecological systems and biodiversity
3. drinking water in the ACT that meets or is a higher quality than national and international standards
4. a shift from centralised government-based management to distributed systems of community and industry partnerships, such as Landcare, catchment management, and local water management and recycling
5. adoption of water-sensitive management practices, such as:
 - ponds and wetlands, to intercept pollutants in stormwater, and to protect the ecological and recreational values of downstream lakes and streams
 - promotion of mulching, vegetation and tree cover, to enhance local surface water retention and recycling, and hydration of soils and groundwater recharge
6. continued interjurisdictional and regional collaboration and coordination to improve water quality and environmental flows in the Murray–Darling Basin
7. education programs and financial incentives to encourage water efficiency in homes, offices, industry and agriculture
8. water treatment and storage options that are appropriately scaled and matched to water use, energy efficiency and public health
9. continued public ownership and control of ACT water resources, to ensure an equitable pricing structure and integration of environmental objectives
10. exploration of hydro energy storage and production in existing water infrastructure where it does not have additional ecological impacts
11. integration of the role of trees and other vegetation in managing microclimate and urban amenity.

WOMEN

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the historical and contemporary contribution of women to the ACT, Australia and the world should be recognised and celebrated
2. full and supported access to education and economic opportunities for girls and women provides benefits for the whole community
3. all barriers to women achieving full equality must be removed
4. gender inequality, stereotyping and discrimination lead to violence against women, which is a whole-of-community issue that must be eliminated
5. the long-term structural and continuing disadvantages facing women must be acknowledged and eliminated
6. women are not a homogenous group; some women experience multiple disadvantages, and the intersection of disadvantages and increased vulnerabilities requires a coordinated and multidisciplinary response.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. respect for the human rights of women and girls locally, nationally and internationally
2. to encourage and facilitate the meaningful participation, engagement and leadership of women in all areas of public and community life
3. educational institutions and workplaces to understand and respond to the gender inequities that exist within them
4. all disparities in social and economic independence and wellbeing for women to end, including the gender pay gap and inequities that accumulate across the life cycle
5. full and equitable participation of women in public life, leadership and decision-making
6. an end to discrimination, harassment and violence against women
7. whole-of-government strategies to address discrimination against women, recognising that specific groups of women experience multiple disadvantage
8. a comprehensive approach to the elimination of violence against women and their children, that is evidence-based and well-resourced to address primary prevention, crisis responses, overlapping vulnerability and intersectionality, justice responses and long-term support
9. community education programs that aim to improve attitudes to women, challenge gender stereotypes and require the use of inclusive language
10. adequate, coordinated and well-resourced community services to provide care and support for all women and their children impacted by violence, to ensure their immediate safety and long-term security
11. workplaces to take an active role in eliminating and responding to violence and sexual harassment against women
12. a gendered lens to be applied to all ACT Government policies and practices.