



KEEPING CANBERRA GREEN

Enhancing Our Bush Capital

The Greens will keep our city green and liveable

The ACT Greens believe we must protect our environment and provide opportunities for everyone to connect with Canberra's beautiful natural places

Canberrans are proud of our beautiful bush capital. As our city grows, we not only need to invest in convenient, fast public transport so we can get around the city; but we must protect our environment and provide opportunities for everyone to connect with Canberra's beautiful natural places.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Invest \$16.8 million in planting an additional 7,000 new trees each year to address the heat island effect over and above current tree replacement program
- » Establish a tree canopy target of at least 40% summer shade on Canberra streets
- » Invest \$20 million to improve waterways and urban lakes and support roof top gardens
- » Invest approximately \$7million in two new Community Irrigated Recreation Parks (CRIP) in West Belconnen and one in the south of Canberra
- » Invest \$300,000 per year to employ community co-ordinators to support volunteers in urban areas such as Park Care, Water Watch, and community garden volunteers
- » Promote local food production including community gardens and better use of verges, and increase funding for community grants program.

> Thousands of New Trees

Trees don't only make our city a more pleasant place to live, they also help cool our city in summer by reducing the 'heat island effect' that buildings and paved surfaces create. To keep our city green and liveable, the ACT Greens will:

- » Invest an additional \$5.6 million annually to plant and maintain approximately 7,000 additional new trees each year;
- » Establish a canopy target of at least 40% summer shade in all Canberra streets, with priority on treeless streets in town centre and suburbs with small blocks and narrow streets;
- » Review tree standards so that species we plant today are adapted to a hotter drier climate; and
- » Require light-coloured roofs and pavements to reduce the heat island effect across the city and conduct trials on lighter coloured roads.

> Better Water Management

Our green spaces are coming under more pressure as our population grows. The ACT Greens have a plan to use water efficiently and well to keep our city green, sustainably.

The ACT Greens will invest \$20 million to:

- » Construct and maintain wetlands and ponds along key water courses - for example Yarralumla Creek in Woden. This will help reduce runoff and improve water quality and improve the health of our lakes and waterways;
- » Provide higher level of maintenance and irrigation for high use parks in group and town centres and near higher density developments;
- » Promote co-investment arrangements for the development and upgrade of parks with developers and local businesses;
- » Establish a Ministerial Water Forum to help develop Canberra as a centre of excellence for Water Sensitive Urban Design in collaboration with experts and industry bodies such as the Landscape Architects Institute, Urban Planners and academics. The Forum would promote information sharing, peer review of standards and guide policy development.
- » Provide incentives for excellence in Water Sensitive Urban Design, such as for developers credits based on expert review.

> **Better Community Facilities**

People in our city are often disappointed with the outcomes of new developments and the impact on our public spaces. Too often developments are established without the community in mind.

The ACT Greens believe that our city should serve the community. That means pedestrian scale, active street frontage in our city and town centres with sunny plazas and good cycling links. We want to see lively streets with sunshine and foliage, and active reuse of older buildings to retain character and sense of place.

We want diverse dwellings of different sizes and types in our town centres that are able to cater for the different stages of people's lives – young families, down-sizers as well as young couples and singles trying to get a foothold in the market.

We should have public, open space areas surrounded by high density residential developments so that people can easily use and enjoy them.

The ACT Greens will invest \$8.5 million to:

- » Develop public domain strategies for key public spaces, particularly those subject to significant development pressure.
- » Ensure that the Planning Authority require that individual developments are consistent with a public domain strategy and local centre Master Plans
- » Establish a peer review panel in consultation with the Institute of Landscape Architects to provide rigorous assessment by professional landscape architects and planners.
- » Fund the development of two Community Recreation Irrigated Parks in existing suburbs (one in western Belconnen and one in the south of Canberra).

Development should contribute to our public spaces - not take away from it. That's why the Greens will ensure that individual developments are consistent with a public domain strategy that could include things like including verges with paving, bike racks, street furniture and canopy.

> More Community Coordinators

All over our city, hundreds of volunteers commit time and skills to managing our parks, waterways and community gardens. The ACT Greens will support and build on this work by:

» Invest \$300,000 every year employing two additional Community Co-ordinators to assist volunteers in management of our urban spaces and community gardens.

> Support for Local Food Production

To plan for the future challenges of global warming and peak oil, the ACT must take steps toward greater self-sufficiency by increasing local food production. The Greens want to encourage more people to grow and share fresh food, building on Canberra's strong tradition of community gardening.

The ACT Greens will support local food production by allowing community groups to grow food on underutilized open space areas, building on the experience of the City Farm and Lyneham Commons. This will include:

» Increasing funding for the Community Gardens Grants by \$50, 000 each year;

Invest \$100,000 to launch a local CBR food label and marketing campaign;

» Reserving appropriate agricultural areas for food production in our planning framework;

» Expanding the role of Volunteer Coordinators to include providing additional support for community gardens;

» Implementation of the Guide for Residential Nature Strips to assist in small scale food production as a priority.