

**Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction****RENEWABLE ENERGY AND STORAGE PROGRAMS****Talking points:**

- The ACT has reached 100% renewable electricity 'on and from' 2020, with eleven large feed-in tariff supported projects completed.
- The renewable auctions also leverage more than \$500 million over 20-years in local investment.
- The \$25 million Next Generation Energy Storage program has supported the installation of over 2,048 energy storage systems, or 9.6MW of sustained peak output, to date.

**Key Information:**

- Around 26,000 Canberra households and businesses have installed rooftop solar, totalling around 125 megawatts (MW). With our large-scale solar farms, there is already over 165 MW of solar capacity in the ACT.
- The renewable energy auction held in November 2019 will deliver new supply to cope with forecast future demand growth as our city's population increases. Two projects were secured through the auction to deliver 200MW of renewable electricity to the ACT – Global Power Generation's Berrybank wind farm in Victoria and Neoen's Goyder wind farm in South Australia. The Goyder wind farm and Berrybank 2 wind farm are both in construction stage.
- The Government has published a methodology on how the renewable electricity target will be measured over time. Progress was reported in December 2020 and will be reported every year following.
- The \$25 million Next Generation Energy Storage (Next Gen) program is supporting the installation of up to 36 MW of distributed energy storage in the ACT.
  - Eight installers have been accepted as providers under Round 5 Submission Period 2. Deeds have been finalised with Mondiaux, Stored Solar, Reposit Power, Sunbank Solar, Stag Electrical Solar & Refrigeration, Select Electrical & Solar Solutions, Lighting and Energy Conservation Australia and Photonic Solar Solutions.
  - They join the seven installers (Solar4Life, Solargain, ECG Electrical, Solarhub, Solahart Canberra, Ron Burrell Electrical and SunStak) that were successful under Round 5 Submission Period 1.
  - Photonic's deed has been terminated due to not meeting the terms in the deed. Discussions took place and the installer is understanding and comfortable with the steps taken.

- The panel now comprises of 14 installers which provides the ACT Community with a wide range of options.
- ANU's Battery Storage and Grid Integration Project (BSGIP) is supported by \$5 million from the ACT's Renewable Energy and Innovation Fund (REIF) and continues to deliver its milestones. The project has entered its 4th year.
- REIF Direct Grant Round 2 recipients who received in total \$1.1 million, continue to deliver upon their milestones. Two of the seven projects have been completed and the remaining projects continue to make progress.

### **Background Information:**

- The Next Generation Energy Storage Program was established to:
  - stimulate the rollout of distributed solar energy storage in the ACT;
  - assist the development of ACT-based energy storage industry, research and training; and,
  - extend ACT's national leadership position in renewables.
- The Next Generation Energy Storage program won the Cities Power Partnership Renewable Energy Achievement Award in August 2019.

## Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions

### ELECTRICITY AND GAS PRICES

#### Talking points:

- The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission's (ICRC) regulated retail electricity price decision for 2021-22 was a 11.95 per cent increase in ActewAGL Retail's regulated retail electricity tariffs.
- This translates to an annual electricity bill increase of \$195 for an average ACT residential household (\$3.76 per week). The annual impact for an average small business customer is \$751 (\$14.44 per week).
- A significant component of the price increase is due to increases in the cost of the Territory's large-scale feed-in tariff scheme. This is driven by a significant reduction in wholesale electricity prices, in part in response to COVID-19.
- Low wholesale electricity prices affect the costs of the Territory's large-scale feed-in tariff scheme, due to our 'contract for difference' arrangements. When wholesale prices increase the costs of the scheme reduce, and when wholesale prices decrease the cost of the scheme rises.
- We know this is a significant impact for households and businesses, but also note:
  - With this increase, ACT electricity prices will remain comparable with other jurisdictions, even while delivering 100% renewable electricity.
  - In recent years, the costs of meeting our 100% renewable electricity target have been lower than originally anticipated, due to higher wholesale electricity prices.
  - Households can save money through energy saving measures including insulation and draughtproofing that can also increase comfort. The Actsmart program offers free advice to households on energy savings.
  - Analysis by the Australian Energy Market Commission indicates households can save hundreds of dollars through switching to different pricing plans. So, shopping around for retailers and asking retailers for better deals is important.
  - The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission has recently published a new Code that requires retailers to notify customers when a better tariff is available. The Code commenced on 1 October 2021, with retailers being required to provide clear and transparent advice regarding offers to customers.
  - For those in particular need, a government Utilities Concession is available for \$750 per year. The Government is also providing an additional \$250 rebate to eligible households for 2021-22, taking the 2021-22 payment to \$1000.
  - In 2020-21, the ACT Government provided Utilities Hardship funding for \$100 vouchers to eligible customers with participating retailers. This program will be extended to 2021-22.

- The government will also be funding an energy literacy program to fund community groups to help citizens better navigate the complex web of energy pricing.
- This year's energy price increase is in part due to historically low wholesale electricity prices.
- It is impossible to predict future prices with certainty. However, we have already seen a return to more "normal" wholesale electricity prices.
- If this trend continues, we could reasonably expect to see a reduction in electricity prices in future years.
- When the reverse auction approach was first agreed in 2012, the government indicated costs could rise to around \$5.50 per household per week, which is very close to expected impacts in 2021-22.
- At the time, the auctions were recognised as a key support for continued renewable energy investment.
- The government's approach to renewable electricity allows ACT consumers to benefit from electricity prices comparable with the rest of Australia, while making a real difference to greenhouse gas emissions.

## Gas prices

- On 30 April 2021 the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) released its final determination on Evoenergy's gas distribution network tariffs for 2021-2026.
- The new 5-year determination is expected to see an annual decrease in typical residential customer gas bills of \$10 in 2021-22, followed by an average increase of \$14 per year for the next 4 years.
- The ACT Government has supported the establishment of an Energy Consumer Advocacy Network, through the Energised Consumers Project, to ensure consumer impacts are considered in decisions such as the ICRC retail electricity price decision.

## **Key Information**

- Unlike retail electricity prices, retail gas prices are not regulated in the ACT. From 1 July 2021, ActewAGL Retail decreased both its supply and consumption charges by around 3.5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.
- Gas price increases in recent years have been driven by rising wholesale gas costs due to increased exports from the east coast of Australia, and as by a lack of competition between suppliers and pipeline operators. The Energy National Cabinet Reform Committee has initiated reforms to ensure efficient prices for customers.
- St Vincent de Paul also found that a typical consumption household can save \$550 per year, or 23%, on electricity costs by switching from the highest priced market offer to the lowest priced offer in the market (including discounts).

## **Background Information**

- ACT energy consumers can receive free advice through the [Actsmart Sustainable Home Advice](mailto:ActsmartAdvice@act.gov.au) line. Call 1300 141 777 or email [ActsmartAdvice@act.gov.au](mailto:ActsmartAdvice@act.gov.au)
- A range of rebates are also available for households and businesses to save on energy bills. Information is available at <https://www.actsmart.act.gov.au/>

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/01/2022  
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## Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

### ACT CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY – COSTS TO COMMUNITY AND CONSUMERS

#### Talking points:

- The ACT continues to have electricity prices that are comparable with other jurisdictions, while leading the world in climate change response.
- The ACT has reached its 100 per cent by 2020 renewable electricity target, one of the most ambitious targets globally. It has strong community support.
- ACT Government climate change mitigation policies are expected to contribute around \$358 per annum to the typical<sup>1</sup> annual electricity bill of an average household in the ACT in 2021-22 (\$6.89 per week) using 6,372kWh annually. These are the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) Schemes at approximately \$6.50 per week and the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) at around 40 cents per week per household.
- Pass-through costs of the EEIS are offset by reduced energy demand, placing downward pressure on electricity prices.
- From the inception of the EEIS in 2013 to 30 June 2021, over 78,500 households and businesses have benefited from the Scheme, including more than 20,400 priority households.
- Within the same timeframe, more than 40% of ACT households participated in the Scheme. For the 20,400 priority households, there are total lifetime bill savings of over \$100 million.
- Changes to wholesale electricity prices, in part in response to COVID-19, have seen the cost of the Territory's large-scale feed-in tariff scheme increase in 2021-22. In recent years, the costs of meeting our 100% renewable electricity target have been lower than originally anticipated, due to wholesale electricity prices.
- This year's energy price increase is in part due to historically low wholesale electricity prices.
- It is impossible to predict future prices with certainty. However, we have already seen a return to more "normal" wholesale electricity prices.
- If this trend continues, we could reasonably expect to see a reduction in electricity prices in future years.
- These jurisdictional costs were less than 10% of retail electricity costs in 2020-21, in 2021-22 they will rise to approximately 20%.
- The ACT Government is helping households and businesses to manage their energy costs through a variety of programs and services.

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<sup>1</sup> Representative household consumption as defined by the AER's annual retailer markets report 2019-20 Jurisdictional snapshot. Anticipated cost of schemes as provided by ICRC Retail Electricity Price Recalibration 2021-22: standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers. Report 11 of 2021, June 2021.

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## Key Information

### Cost breakdown

- The annual costs expected for an average Canberra household using 6,372 kWh/yr in 2021-22<sup>2</sup> are:
  - large FiT component: \$300.95;
  - small-medium FiT component: \$36.83; and
  - Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme: \$20.33.

### Opportunities to mitigate costs

- ACT energy consumers can receive free advice through Actsmart Sustainable Home Advice line (phone: 1300 141 777 or email: [ActsmartAdvice@act.gov.au](mailto:ActsmartAdvice@act.gov.au)). A range of rebates are also available for households and businesses to save on energy bills. Information is available at [www.climatechoices.com.au](http://www.climatechoices.com.au).
- Analysis by the Australian Energy Market Commission indicates households can save hundreds of dollars through switching to different pricing plans. So, shopping around and asking retailers for better deals is important.
- For those in particular need, a government Utilities Concession is available for \$750 per year. The Government is also providing an additional \$250 rebate to eligible households for 2021-22, taking the 2021-22 payment to \$1000.
- In 2020-21, the ACT Government provided Utilities Hardship funding for \$100 vouchers to eligible customers with participating retailers. This program will be extended to 2021-22.
- The government will also be funding an energy literacy program to fund community groups to help citizens better navigate the complex web of energy pricing.

### Annual Reporting of Cost of Living Impacts from Climate Change Policies

- The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25 was released on 16 September 2019. Together with Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City, the Strategy sets out the next phase of the ACT Government's climate response.
- The Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction reports on the cost of living impacts of implementing the Strategy in the Minister's annual report under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*.

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## Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

### VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT SCHEME

#### Talking points:

- The ACT Government recognises the need for a just transition as part of its climate change response, ensuring all households are able to share the benefits of a shift to lower emissions homes.
- A key part of this is recognising that poor quality and energy inefficient housing contributes to high energy bills and poor thermal comfort, particularly for Canberra’s most vulnerable households.
- To address these issues, the ACT Government committed \$50 million to the Vulnerable Household Energy Support Scheme (VHESS) which will deliver a range of measures to reduce energy hardship for low-income homeowners, public, private, and social housing renters.
- Participating households will benefit from reduced energy costs and increased thermal comfort, with homes easier to heat and cool.
- Through increased thermal comfort, this initiative will offer improved health and wellbeing outcomes for vulnerable and low-income Canberrans.
- Phase One of the program was funded through the 2021-22 Budget and includes national scorecard energy assessments and insulations for Housing ACT properties.
- Phase Two will commence mid-year and will support insulation upgrades with the expected introduction of Minimum Energy Standards for Rental Properties.
- The VHESS complements the \$150 million Sustainable Household Scheme that supports households to invest in energy efficient appliance upgrades through zero-interest loans.

#### Key Information

- The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement action A1.iii calls for enacting “minimum energy efficiency standards regulations for rental properties in 2021 with progressive implementation over the coming years.”
- This reiterates measure 4.7 of the ACT Climate Change Strategy which called for standards to come into force in 2022-23.

**Portfolio/s:** Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Gaming

## **COMMUNITY CLUB UPGRADES**

### **Talking points:**

- The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement (PAGA) includes a commitment to a five year, \$5 million Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund, to be accessible to community clubs.
- The Community Clubs Program supports eligible ACT clubs to undertake energy efficiency upgrades, building envelope improvements and install rooftop solar and energy storage systems to reduce their energy use and bills. It will also support clubs with their transition from gas.
- Rebates of up to \$75,000 per eligible club are available for approved upgrades and installations.
- Clubs will be given the opportunity to provide their plan to become an extreme weather refuge site as part of the program.
- Registrations for the program opened Friday 29 October 2021. As at 25 January 2022, 13 clubs have registered for the program and five clubs have received energy assessments.
- Continued consultation will ensure the program is fit for purpose, meets the needs of the community clubs and meets the Government's expectation of PAGA action.

### **Key Information**

- This program was developed by EPSDD in cooperation with Justice and Community Safety (JACS).
- This program is PAGA measure E.9.
- PAGA measure E.10 also includes commitment to financial payments for venues designated as official extreme weather and smoke refuges. This element is being developed by JACS.

### **Background Information**

- This program builds on the experience of the Actsmart Business Energy and Water program which currently provides energy efficient upgrades, solar advice and rebates to small businesses. It also complements the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EIS) which requires electricity retailers to achieve energy savings in small-to-medium businesses and households.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	27/01/2022	
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**Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction****ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

*\*Note: Figures provided in this QTB incorporate reported 2020/21 data that is currently undergoing compliance verification; figures are expected to marginally change following final data validation \**

**Talking points:**

- In 2020-21, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) delivered energy and bill savings for close to 2,700 participating ACT households that received energy efficiency upgrades under the Scheme.
- The Energy Savings Target (EST) is set at 12.5% for the 2022 compliance period (calendar year).
- The EST represents the total energy savings to be achieved by retailers in each compliance period. It is expressed as a percentage of their total sales in the ACT.
  - Larger electricity retailers (Tier 1) must meet this target by undertaking eligible energy saving activities.
  - Smaller electricity retailers (Tier 2) can meet the target by undertaking eligible energy saving activities, but have the option to pay an Energy Savings Contribution (ESC) of 12.5% of their electricity sales.
- The EST has increased from 8.6% in 2021 to 12.5% for the 2022 compliance period.
  - This adjustment reflects the transition of the Scheme from a greenhouse gas emissions to an energy savings metric since the ACT achieved its 100% renewable electricity commitment.
  - The increase in the EST is to maintain the intended ambition of the Scheme.
- The Priority Household Target (PHT) has increased from 30% to 40% for the 2022 compliance period. This will help to expand opportunities for low-income priority households in the Territory to reduce their energy use and costs.

**Key Information**

From the Scheme's commencement in 2013 up to 30 June 2021:

- Over 78,500 households and businesses have benefited from the Scheme, including more than 20,400 priority households.
- 20,400 priority households, which includes rental properties, have experienced lifetime bill savings of over \$100 million.
- Over 4,300 small- and medium-sized businesses have received commercial LED lighting upgrades worth over \$200 million in lifetime energy bill savings. Average lifetime energy bill savings for businesses is approximately \$50,000. This equates to just under \$100 per week in bill savings.
- More than 40% of ACT households have participated in the Scheme.

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## Background Information

- The EEIS was established under the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012* (the Act). The scheme aims to encourage the efficient use of energy; reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use; reduce energy costs; and assist priority households to reduce energy use and associated costs.
- The EEIS requires electricity retailers to make energy savings in households and small-to-medium businesses. Electricity retailers achieve this by either undertaking eligible activities that deliver energy efficient appliance upgrades (e.g. installation of efficient heating, insulation, lighting etc.), or by making a financial contribution to the scheme.
- The EEIS adds an average of 40c per week to ACT household electricity bills (for an average household that uses 6,372kWh<sub>1</sub>) in pass-through costs (*note: pass-through costs are calculated on standing offer contracts*).
- The EEIS is legislated to 2030 and is a key mechanism for delivering on the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025.
- On 1 January 2021, the EEIS transitioned from a greenhouse gas emissions to an energy metric in response to the Territory meeting the 100% renewable electricity target.
  - The 2020 compliance year (1 January - 31 December 2020) was therefore the final year to report abatement in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e).
  - Energy savings of the scheme measured are in megawatt-hours (MWh).

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<sup>1</sup> Representative household consumption as defined by the AER's annual retailer markets report 2019-20 Jurisdictional snapshot. Anticipated cost of schemes as provided by ICRC Retail Electricity Price Recalibration 2021-22: standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers. Report 11 of 2021, June 2021.

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## Portfolio/s: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

### CESSATION OF THE SOLAR FOR BUSINESS TRIAL

#### Talking points:

- The Solar for Business Trial Program was designed to assess barriers to business uptake of solar panels. Surveys had indicated that lack of information and up front financial costs were the main potential barriers.
- 93 small businesses and community organisations claimed a \$5,000 rebate to install rooftop solar systems under the trial. Most of these systems are under 15 kilowatts (kW) in size.
  - These 93 organisations received \$459,690 in rebates and installed 1402 kW of solar capacity.
  - These organisations saved a combined 1540 MWh in annual electricity consumption equating to around \$470,300 in annual electricity bill savings.
- A further 101 larger businesses received support with information and technical assistance only, often in relation to much larger solar systems. A number of these businesses have gone on to install solar systems, although we do not have detailed information on these outcomes.
- Evaluation of the program is currently being finalised and will assist with identifying potential ways to support solar uptake in future.
- Anecdotal feedback is that information and advice is extremely valuable; coupled with the rapid payback from solar panels, this provides strong support for business uptake.
- The experiences of businesses involved in the program provide the basis for case studies to encourage other businesses to take up solar. This experience is also integrated into advice provided to businesses under the Actsmart Business Energy and Water Program.

#### Background Information

- The Solar for Business Trial commenced in February 2019 and provided independent, tailored advice on the installation of rooftop solar to all businesses in the ACT.
- The Solar for Business Trial ended on 31 December 2020 with rebates ceasing 30 June 2021 to allow time for businesses to complete installations.

## Portfolio/s: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

### ZERO EMISSIONS GOVERNMENT

#### Talking points:

- In September 2019, the Government released 'The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25' (the Strategy) which outlined the Government's commitment to reduce emissions, setting targets of 33% reduction in Government emissions against 2020 levels by 2025 and net zero by 2040.
  - These targets demonstrate leadership in reaching targets earlier than the community as a whole.
- The two largest sources of ACT Government emissions are transport fuel use (60% of Government emissions) and gas use (40% of Government emissions). The Strategy set out to achieve these targets by establishing actions including:
  - transitioning the leased passenger fleet to zero emissions (where fit for purpose);
  - ensuring the social cost of carbon is integrated into government decision making;
  - developing a roadmap for transitioning Transport Canberra buses to zero emissions and a pathway to a zero-emissions health sector by 2040; and
  - ensuring new government buildings and leases are all-electric and replacing space and water heating at the end of their economic lives with electric systems (where fit for purpose).
- The 2020 Parliamentary and Governing Agreement set out to reaffirm and expand on the commitments of the Strategy, including actions such as:
  - ensuring all new Government buildings (including leases) are fossil-fuel free;
  - all retrofits will have an aim of net-zero emissions post retrofit; and
  - implementing a pathway for the ACT to use only zero emissions public transport and garbage trucks by the mid-2030s, with no further purchase of non-zero emissions buses.
- Emissions reduction activities reporting as required in the Zero Emissions Government (ZEG) Framework provides annual reporting of each Directorate's emissions against a five-year target. This provides accountability and transparency of Government progress towards the set targets. 2020-21 will be the first reporting period in which Directorates report progress towards their five-year targets.
- To support progress toward the targets, the Government has implemented a Social Cost of Carbon at an interim price of \$20 per tonne of emissions to apply to Government operations. These funds are used to implement emissions reducing capital projects. This price will not be applied outside of Government, to business or to the community.

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- Key successes to date include:
  - Agreement to the Canberra Hospital Expansion being all-electric, a first for a major hospital facility in a cold climate.
  - Agreeing that all future schools will be all-electric including our first two all-electric schools.
  - Opening the Dickson Office Block, Canberra's first all-electric major office block.
  - 100% of new fit-for-purpose vehicle leases in 2020-21 were zero emissions. The ACT fleet now has more than 150 zero emissions vehicles and 100 electric vehicle charging points.
  - Committing to the purchase of a hybrid electric fire truck, a first in Australia.
  - Releasing the Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra and starting the process of purchasing zero emissions buses.

## Key Information

- The Zero Emissions Government Fund is a no interest loan fund for Government agencies to finance emissions reduction activities. Loans are repaid using operational savings generated by the project. The loan fund has implemented 36 projects to the value of \$17 million since its creation.
- JACS with support of the ZEG Fund is piloting a hybrid fire truck that will be based at an all-electric depot. The truck will be operational from the second half of 2022.
- Key Directorates have developed pathways to reach the 2025 emissions reduction targets. The Canberra Health Services pathway is currently under development.

## Background Information

- The Social Cost of Carbon measure will make funding available from the Better Infrastructure Fund to ACT Government agencies to undertake emissions reduction projects, such as the replacement of gas heating systems and a transition of the Government fleet to zero emission vehicles.
- The ACT Government saw a significant drop in emissions prior to the setting of the 2020 baseline with the successful implementation of 100% renewable electricity.
- Transport is now the largest source of emissions for the ACT Government, and this is primarily from the Transport Canberra bus fleet which represents over 50% of all Government emissions.

**Portfolio/s:** Sustainable Building and Construction  
Planning and Land Management  
Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

## **LIVING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (including DV 369)**

### **Talking points:**

- The ACT Government is committed to achieving sustainable development outcomes that meet the needs of the growing population, while retaining the values, features and landscape setting that make Canberra unique.
- We recognise that population growth, urban densification and climate change pose challenges for how we achieve this outcome.
  - Continued urban expansion puts pressure on the valued natural resources that surround the city such as our bushland and grasslands, landscape setting and connectivity of ecosystems.
- Urban densification introduces new challenges for which innovative and ecologically sustainable urban development solutions will need to be considered and adopted.
- The Government is committed to planning for connected open space networks and sufficient tree canopy cover for public spaces and to mitigate against the loss of tree canopy cover, permeable surfaces and planting area as a result of urban intensification.
- *Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City* outlines the ACT Government's commitment to addressing urban heat, primarily by protecting and improving living infrastructure within urban Canberra.
- Living Infrastructure helps to make our city 'climate-wise', enhancing its capacity to cope with the impacts of urban densification and climate change by reducing urban heat island effects, increasing access to shade, and safeguarding urban landscape function and health.
- The Living Infrastructure Plan has established targets of 30% tree canopy cover (or equivalent) and 30% permeable surfaces by 2045 within the built environment footprint. They are an important element of achieving the sustainability and resilience objectives for our city set out in the *ACT Planning Strategy 2018*.
- Achieving the Plan will rely on collective and collaborative efforts across Government, community and the business sector.
- Current action being undertaken by the ACT Government includes:
  - Planting of 54,000 trees in Canberra between 2020-21 and 2023-24 to contribute to the 30% canopy cover (or equivalent) target for Canberra's urban footprint.

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- The Development of an Urban Forest Strategy to support the long term strategic management and growth of the urban forest. The final Strategy was released on 30 March 2021.
- Demonstration projects such as the Whitlam Display Village which trials innovative living infrastructure solutions such as passive irrigation, permeable driveway surfaces and advanced street tree planting.
- Introducing changes to the Territory Plan requirements, notably draft Territory Plan Variation 369 – Living Infrastructure in Residential Zones.
  - These requirements don't go all the way to achieving the Plan's targets, but they significantly strengthen the contribution that residential developments make to tree canopy and green infrastructure.
  - Further amendments to planning processes in the future will be introduced to support the ACT reaching its targets by 2045.

### DV369 – Living Infrastructure in Residential Zones

- This draft Variation proposes higher requirements for minimum planting area, along with new requirements for planting of trees for blocks with a residential zoning.
- DV369 also introduces new site coverage requirements for different sized residential blocks, introduces a new definition for deep soil zone and strengthens the definitions for site coverage and planting areas.
- Changes to the recommended version respond to community feedback that living infrastructure should be embedded across private and public land. These included adjustments for small blocks to enable an appropriately sized home to be built while providing planting area on the site.
- The recommended version of DV369 and associated consultation report were made available to the public on Friday 29 October 2021 on the Legislation Register and EPSDD website.
- The Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services advised that an inquiry into DV369 will not be conducted at this time.
- Industry information sessions on the changes proposed with DV369 are anticipated to be held during the week of 21 February 2022.

### 2020 Tree Canopy Cover Estimate

- Updated Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) analysis has allowed us to more accurately estimate current tree canopy coverage and provides us with a better picture of our living infrastructure in Canberra.
- Canberra's Total Canopy Cover (TCC) in 2020 was estimated to be 22.5% of Canberra's urban footprint.
- This provides a new baseline and helps identify areas where canopy cover is low so planting efforts can be prioritised.

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## Key Information

- In 2017, the ACT Government commissioned CSIRO to study Canberra's urban heat island effect. The research found that Canberra's summer land surface temperatures can be up to 10°C hotter than surrounding rural areas.
- Common measures to reduce urban heat include trees, watered grass, shading structures, wetlands, green walls and appropriate building and surface materials.

## Background Information

- The Plan was released in September 2019. Canberra currently has an estimated 22.5% TCC, although this is not evenly distributed across the city.
  - This latest estimate has been prepared using LiDAR data captured in 2020 and represents the most recent analysis of TCC in urban Canberra.
- The urban heat island effect occurs when urban areas are warmer than surrounding rural areas. This is often due to buildings, roads and pavements (built environment) absorbing heat, which is then slowly released, leading to higher temperatures at both day and night.

## 2020 Tree Canopy Cover Estimate

- On 28 October 2021, the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA, released new estimates for tree canopy cover in Canberra.
- The estimates were prepared by staff in both EPSDD and TCCS using an updated methodology and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data collected in April 2020.
- The new estimate replaces the previous estimate using 2015 LiDAR data that was found to be unreliable due to inaccuracies in the data and the time of year the data was collected. Consequently, direct comparisons between the current 2020 estimate and the previous 2015 estimate should not be made.