The City Plan creates the direction and the impetus to bring new life to Canberra's city centre. The plan has been developed to guide a process of development which will see more people living in the city, less through-traffic, better connections across the city and to the lake, and a modern built environment which fosters a dynamic and vibrant city atmosphere.

Canberrans have shown a strong interest in the City Plan since we began consultations in March this year. From the feedback we received, it’s very clear that the city centre means different things to different people and in turn that they aspire to different things for it. It’s also clear that while Canberrans love parts of the city centre, there is an appetite for change which gives it a stronger identity – one that’s less about cars and more about people.

Canberrans feel the city centre should:

• be the cultural and economic focus of life in Canberra
• have clear, walkable connections across the city and to the lake
• be strongly identified as the regional and national capital, while staying true to its traditions and character
• respect Walter Burley Griffin’s planning visions, particularly through its views, vistas and tree-lined streets
• be home to innovative and well designed facilities which encourage people to spend time in the city
• be more alive, more active and attractive to both locals and visitors, and
• be serviced by better public transport systems.

One of the strongest messages we heard was ‘just get on with it’ – people want to see change. The City Plan indicates how change will be delivered to different areas of the city across six themes – growth, land use and development, transport and movement, community infrastructure, public realm and design, and strengthening character.

The ACT Government has agreed five priority projects which will begin our delivery under this plan and set a path for the future. These projects will target reducing traffic dominance to help people connect across the city, getting more people living in the city to add vibrancy and character, progressing proposals from our City to the Lake plan, and new incentives to promote investment and commercial activity.

I would like to thank the many people who took the time to talk to us and provide suggestions and feedback at our consultations and online. Your contributions have helped us find what I believe is the right balance between delivering change and keeping the elements of the city which Canberrans love.

Katy Gallagher
Chief Minister
the heart of our capital

Our city centre is a local, regional and national centre

One hundred years on, the city centre has grown from a village to a modern city that sits at the heart of the nation, our region and our local area. We’re growing and evolving — but we need to cater for that growth while remembering our planning heritage that started with the Griffins.

Over recent years, a lot of change has come from people choosing to live in the city centre. Its character is changing from a place of work and business to a place where people are seeking recreation and community life.

The city centre will house 10% of the Territory’s population growth over the next 20 years. To accommodate this growth, it needs housing, community and recreation facilities, together with the retail, lifestyle and other services that a local community seeks. But it also needs to maintain its core business and commercial focus.

The City Plan will provide a strategic framework for the functional expansion of the city centre as a place to live, work and recreate. The responses and actions identified in the City Plan will help inform government and private investment decision-making to support the city centre in realising its full potential as a vibrant, lively and attractive place to live, work and be.
**Vision**

**01 Growth**
A vibrant centre that stimulates business, education, living, entertaining and recreation

**02 Land use and development**
A prosperous and dynamic mix of uses and activities that builds character

**03 Transport and movement**
A connected place people can easily get to and get around in

**04 Public realm and design**
An attractive, diverse, high-quality urban environment

**05 Community infrastructure**
A culturally rich, accessible and active place for people

**06 Strengthening character**
A city whose character and identity is clear and enhanced through change

---

The city centre will strengthen its role and place as the primary centre of Canberra and the focus of business, entertainment and recreation for the community. Residential development will continue to increase and drive real change in the city centre as people are attracted to the liveability, connectivity and accessibility that it can provide.

Future development will maximise the opportunities to connect the city centre to the lake and provide high quality places and spaces for residents, workers and visitors to visit and enjoy. Existing areas of the city will build on and enhance their existing character through redevelopment and regeneration.

The city centre will be the central hub of a connected transport network that lets people easily access and connect to and through the wider city. Streets will be for people and will let people connect simply with services and facilities.

Our city spaces will be for people to connect, meet and enjoy. City Hill will be the centre of the city and people will move through the city and to the lake through walkable, attractive and connected spaces. Our buildings will be attractive, innovative and sustainable.

The city centre will have community facilities and services that meet the needs of its local, district, metropolitan and regional residents. The city will be a place where people gather and engage with each other and will be enhanced by a distinctive sense of community with services and facilities in key areas.

Over its 100 years the city centre has developed its own character in areas that people recognise and relate to. This character is a strong base on which we can build change and growth to deliver a stronger community, vitality, livability, and functionality.
community engagement
what we heard

“Bring markets into the City to increase vibrancy”

“In order for Canberra to become known as a great city, these ideas need to be put into place as soon as possible to encourage people to move to Canberra and want to stay in the city. Canberra has a lot of potential and as seen with the draft city plan can be implemented”

“All are excellent and innovative ideas. Canberra City needs work like this to commence quickly. What brilliant enhancements to the city”

“Good move, finally, need more of this, more light rail, no height limit”

“I still think that City Hill and Civic in general needs a tourist attraction. Now is the best time to make sure there is a landmark that it striking and timeless so Canberra has its own Opera House.”

“Connections north-south need to be maintained to ensure connection between the Triangle and the city..... Burying Parkes Way is a great idea but maintaining connectivity may be expensive”

“A fantastic overall strategy which really moves the city forward...”

Community engagement includes City Plan and City to the Lake activities
The City Plan

A city centre for people

A city’s lifestyle plays an ever-increasing role in creating a place where people want to live and work. Research indicates that while people move to new cities for employment, they decide to stay because of lifestyle. While Canberra is highly regarded by its residents, people who have not been to the city are not aware of the benefits it offers. This is an opportunity to position the city centre as a destination of choice for people, business and investment.

City connected with the lake

Lake Burley Griffin is a local and national icon that defines our city and the way it operates. We need to build on the key opportunity it presents to be a lifestyle and recreation focus and to make the best of the lake as an asset.

City living

The city can respond to peoples’ desire for inner city living by providing an attractive lifestyle, well connected to public transport, jobs, entertainment, recreation, community facilities and services, open space, views and vistas.

City at the centre

The city is at the heart of Canberra and the region. It is well connected to other parts of Canberra by roads and public transport, with these transport connections being further improved by the development of Capital Metro light rail.

Making the most of our opportunities
how we can grow building our future

Over the next 15+ years, the city centre population will grow, bringing great opportunities and great challenges at the same time. The City Plan will set a strategic path to how we make the most of that growth and change in our city centre.

1,800,000m² of CAPACITY

Maximise our available development capacity

The city centre has real capacity, within existing planning controls, to meet anticipated future residential, commercial, retail and community facility needs. This means there are real opportunities to revitalise and rejuvenate existing character areas and to provide new areas for growth and development that can shape the future of our city centre.

Most of the land suitable for new development in the city centre is focussed around City Hill in Vernon Circle and near the lake. This in itself presents real opportunities to enliven what has always been envisaged as the civic and community core of the city.

8000 more people living in the city centre

Bringing people and the City to the Lake

The City to the Lake project provides a framework for an urban extension of the city centre towards the lake. A vibrant public urban waterfront can be created, uniting Commonwealth Park and City Hill as integral parts of the city centre with enhanced public access. This will better connect the lake and major national and regional educational and cultural institutions such as the Australian National University and the National Museum of Australia with the everyday life of the City.

$2.34 return on every dollar spent on CAPITAL METRO

Connecting the City

Investment in the Capital Metro light rail transit system has clear economic benefits for Canberra and would be transformational in changing the way people move in and around the city centre. As an important first step in a city-wide rapid transit system, Capital Metro will ease congestion on the main approach route to and through the city centre and provide real opportunities for locating more people and employment around the city centre.

by 2030 we want to see...

doubling of residential population in the city centre

doubling of residential population in the city centre

EVERYONE IS A PEDESTRIAN at some stage in their journey

Getting around

Redirecting through traffic from the city centre will allow the centre to operate more easily as a destination – a place where people come to be rather than to travel through. Not only is walking the dominant mode of movement within the city centre, pedestrian traffic is also critical to business, retailing, social and recreation opportunities. We can look towards a pedestrian-friendly city centre that facilitates the movement of people and their access to services and employment and that connects the city centre to the lake.

5.2ha of urban OPEN SPACE

Making the most of our public realm

The city centre has a good mix of soft and hard spaces from small pocket parks through to the larger Glebe and Commonwealth Parks all of which add character, amenity and recreation opportunities for residents, workers and visitors. While City to the Lake proposes to enliven and provide opportunities at the lake foreshore, there are real opportunities to make better use of City Hill Park with the redirection of traffic from the city centre, to connect our spaces and to ensure our streets and spaces provide a safe and attractive environment for people as they move through the city centre.
building on our existing character

WEST BASIN
- An accessible and active waterfront
- A neighbourhood with local amenity and services
- Recreation facilities for a range of needs
- Focus on educational, residential and suitable retail uses
- Connected with the city, ANU and the Lake

CITY HILL
- Cultural and civic life focused toward City Hill Park
- The transport and pedestrian hub for the whole city
- Through traffic redirected away from Vernon Circle
- An active precinct with a mix of residential, retail, commercial and community uses
- The centre for ACT Government administration

CITY NORTH-WEST
- Mix of business, commercial and residential uses to link with ANU
- Strengthen the legal/justice focus with courts redevelopment
- Create areas of public realm to serve business and local residential needs
- Accommodating traffic redirection to the west and south-west

CITY SOUTH-EAST
- A leisure, recreation and education destination
- Quality public transit connections between City Hill and the National Triangle
- New residential opportunities
- Transition a mix of uses connected with City North-East

CITY NORTH-EAST
- The retail core surrounded by a mix of uses, public places and spaces
- Enhanced heritage and public realm values
- Active uses and frontages along key pedestrian routes
- Greater mixed uses to increase 24/7 vitality - people living, shopping and working
### Planning for delivery

- Feasibility and design studies for urban improvements and major development projects, including City to the Lake
- Community facilities analysis to support growth
- Improved city connectivity
- Strengthening links and relationships with key city centre organisations
- Fewer cars and less traffic in the city centre
- Multi-modal transport hub
- Economic development analysis
- Retail strategy
- City centre urban design framework
- City Hill and gateway sites design guidelines
- Walking network expansion
- Public realm upgrades

### Project delivery

- More residents in the city centre
  - City Hill Park
  - Transport and movement phase 1
  - Transport and movement phase 2
  - Cultural facilities redevelopment
  - Possible community facility upgrades and development
  - Supreme Courts redevelopment
  - Expansion of cultural, recreation and entertainment activities
  - Parkes Way investigation
  - City to the Lake
  - Lake edge works investigation
  - Residential land release - West Basin
  - Mixed use land release - City Hill
  - Sports Stadium
  - Convention Centre, Aquatic Centre, Theatre investigation

### Projects underway

- Capital Metro stage 1
  - Constitution Avenue upgrade
  - Bunda Street upgrade
  - City cycle loop
  - City bus layover
  - Real-time bus information
  - User friendly parking meters
  - Redevelopment of the ABC Flats
  - ANU Exchange
  - Parking plans
  - Tax reform implementation
  - Walking network expansion

### Timeframe

- **Now**
- **5 years**
- **10 years**
- **15+ years**

### Notes

- NB. Initiatives will be subject to Government agreement.
City Centre Priority Projects

Transport and Movement (phase 1)
This project will develop options to lessen the impacts of through-traffic in the city centre. The project will examine public and private transport and parking at both overall system and local levels.

City to the Lake
The government will progress site investigations, feasibility studies and business case development on the West Basin lake foreshore, Parkes Way 'smart boulevard', convention centre, aquatic centre and Canberra theatre and stadium projects to support future government decisions.

Economic development analysis
New policy will work to encourage development, redevelopment and re-use in the city centre.

Redevelopment of the ABC Flats
The redevelopment will build more than 1,000 new residential units in the city centre, offering better amenity and public facilities while maintaining pedestrian connections to transport networks and the CBD.

City Centre Urban Design Framework
An urban design framework will guide high-quality building and capital works across the city, particularly for 'gateway' sites around City Hill and the Sydney and Melbourne buildings.