

Environment, Transport and Planning Quarterly Bulletin

March 2026

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Message from Dave Peffer

Yuma

There has been encouraging progress on housing, with new national reporting highlighting the impact of work already underway.

The National Housing Supply and Affordability Council has released its first Quarterly Report, giving a national snapshot of how we're tracking against the National Housing Accord. Under the accord, all levels of government agreed to an ambitious target to build 1.2 million new homes over 5 years to June 2029. For the ACT, the report highlights the practical steps already underway. We're growing the supply of affordable housing through the Affordable Housing Project Fund and the Lease Variation Charge Reduction Framework, boosting density through Missing Middle Housing reforms, and unlocking land by updating the housing supply and land release pipeline.

We've also reached a landmark agreement with the Australia Government to support first home buyers and accelerate housing delivery across Canberra. This \$250 million partnership will help deliver more than 1,700 homes for first home buyers by 2034 and unlock over 4,000 new homes by funding essential enabling infrastructure.

We know it's a tough time for many people as fuel prices continue to put pressure on household budgets. While prices are being driven by global factors, fuel is continuing to arrive as expected nationally and there is enough for normal use for the weeks ahead. To help ease some of that price pressure, the ACT Government has reduced public transport monthly fare caps so people can reach free travel sooner each month and have a more affordable option to get around.

Thanks,
Dave



Acknowledgement of Country.

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

News and events

Dickson neighbourhood battery is now online

A new neighbourhood battery is now operational in Dickson. Unlike home batteries, neighbourhood batteries connect to the local electricity network to benefit multiple homes in an area. Neighbourhood batteries capture excess solar energy during the day and release it when demand peaks - enhancing power quality, expanding rooftop solar potential, and creating a smarter, more resilient energy system. The Dickson neighbourhood battery joins others in Casey and Fadden as part of the Big Canberra Battery project, delivered in partnership with Evoenergy and supported by the Australian Government's Community Batteries for Household Solar Program.

For more information about neighbourhood-scale batteries in the ACT, visit the [Everyday Climate Choices website](#).



Have your say on trade licensing in the ACT

The ACT Government is seeking feedback from local businesses on proposed extensions to trade licensing. These reforms aim to improve building quality, strengthen consumer protections and support a skilled, safe construction workforce.

We're inviting Canberra tradies, employers and industry stakeholders to share insights on how a practical, proportionate licensing model can best support industry need while maintaining high standards. Your input will help shape a system that increases accountability, improves safety and supports cross-border mobility.

Complete the survey on the Extension of trade licensing webpage [here](#). Consultation closes 21 April 2026.



The 2025 National Construction Code (NCC) is set to further strengthen building quality and performance across the ACT

As Australia's primary framework for building design and construction, the NCC ensures new buildings reflect modern standards for safety, health, amenity, accessibility, and sustainability. The 2025 edition will apply in the ACT from 1 May 2026, with a transition period until 1 May 2027.

Key updates include improved energy efficiency standards for commercial buildings to reduce energy consumption, improved water management requirements to reduce leaks and defects, and enhanced measures to prevent condensation and mould. The code will help to deliver safer, healthier, and more resilient homes and buildings, supporting a strong and capable industry as the ACT works towards delivering 30,000 new homes by 2030.

For more information visit the [planning website](#).



News and events



Timetable improvements for selected bus services

Transport Canberra will introduce targeted timetable improvements to selected school services and regular bus routes from Tuesday 7 April, following a review of real-world network performance.

Monitoring since the revised network commenced in February 2026 shows services operating south of the city, including across Commonwealth Avenue Bridge are operating faster than anticipated, resulting in some early running. Updated timetables will better align scheduled run times with current operating conditions and improve reliability.

All services using Commonwealth Avenue Bridge will have timetable adjustments. Changes are improvements only and do not represent a new network design.

Updated timetables and school service information and available now at [Transport.act.gov.au](https://transport.act.gov.au).

Timetable improvements

From 7 April 2026

An updated bus timetable will impact the following services:

Rapids: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10

Regular services: 56, 57, 58, 59 and 66

School services: 1022, 2012 and 2015

Plan ahead

Achievements

More social and affordable homes coming to Belconnen

Construction is underway on a new 420-home build-to-rent development in Belconnen, with a sod-turning marking a key milestone for the project. The development will deliver 315 social and affordable homes through a mixed-tenure, tenure-blind model, supported by Australian Government HAFF funding and ACT Government lease variation charge relief, and contributes to the goal of delivering 5,000 additional affordable and social rental homes by 2030.

Engagements open for comment

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to engage on the draft Nature Conservation Strategy 2026–2036 and the ACT Climate Change Strategy. Your insights and feedback are invaluable in shaping strategies that protect our natural environment and support a strong, climate-resilient future for the ACT.

Reduction of single-use plastics: Next steps



ACT
Government

Key dates for 2026

Mark your calendars! Here are our confirmed dates for our 2026 face-to-face meetings.

- Thursday 30 April 2026
- Thursday 25 June 2026
- Thursday 27 August 2026
- Thursday 22 October 2026
- Thursday 17 December 2026

January and February development applications



135 Development Applications (DAs) Lodged



55 Development Applications (DAs) Single Residential



10 Development Applications (DAs) Secondary Residential



0 Development Applications (DAs) Community Facilities



1 Development Application (DA) Mixed Use

Development Applications

Major Plan Amendments

Minor Plan Amendments

Heritage - Provisional Registrations