

2030
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2000

ACT's
Strategic
Economic
Development
Framework



ACT
Government



Acknowledgement of Country

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We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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Contents

A message from the Chief Minister	4
From ambition to momentum	6
A city that gives you back time	8
Towards a net zero future	10
Growing Canberra's knowledge economy	12
Continuing the transformation	14
CBR 2030 at a glance.....	16
Mission 1	
A city that continues to give you back time.....	18
Mission 1 focus areas	20
Making everyday interactions seamless	20
Planning and designing connected town and group centres.....	21
City that works from anywhere	21
Celebrating culture, connection and experience	22
Mission 2	
A climate ready city, leading Australia's net zero future	24
Mission 2 focus areas	25
Resilient and adaptable systems	25
Turning climate ideas into impact.....	26
Growing talent for a net zero future	27
Electrifying Canberra's future	28
Mission 3	
Continued knowledge-based economic growth	30
Mission 3 focus areas	31
A destination for knowledge and learning	31
Scaling local ideas to make a global impact	33
Continuing diversification	34
Investing in future skills	36
Mission 4	
Building Canberra's future today.....	38
Mission 4 focus areas	39
Precincts that inspire	39
A city that delivers on experience	40
Designing communities for life	42
Connecting people to what matters	44

A message from the Chief Minister

Over the past decade, Canberra's economy has grown stronger, more diverse, and more resilient. By continuing to broaden our economic base beyond the public sector, we've seen consistent growth, record job creation, and a surge in new businesses choosing to call Canberra home.

This hasn't happened by accident. It's the result of sustained investment in education, innovation, and infrastructure. We've worked closely with our universities, research institutions and local industries to build a thriving knowledge economy. We've led the nation on climate action, we've backed our creative, visitor and tech sectors and we've invested in the once-in-a-generation infrastructure that a city of well over half a million people deserves.

There has never been a more exciting time to call Canberra home. And as we head towards 2030, we will continue to realise our city's potential. We will create new jobs, support local businesses, and attract investment in the industries that will shape our future.

CBR 2030 builds on the ambition we set out in 2016 and the direction we established through CBR Switched On. It's a strategy that will make sure that as our city grows, it remains inclusive, sustainable, and full of opportunity.

Andrew Barr MLA

Chief Minister
Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Tourism and Trade



● From ambition to momentum

Canberra's transformation over the past decade reflects deliberate planning and sustained commitment to long-term goals. Guided by strong economic stewardship and strategic and sustained investment, Canberra has evolved into a more liveable, sustainable and economically resilient city.

In 2016, Canberra: A Statement of Ambition set out a vision for a city that is liveable, attracts talent, fosters innovation and remains open and welcoming to all. Building from this, CBR Switched On: ACT's Economic Development Priorities (CBR Switched On) was released. CBR Switched On sought to build on strong economic and social foundations to drive economic growth and make Canberra an even more attractive place to live, work, study, invest in and do business.

Canberra's story is based on collaboration, connection and inclusion. Canberra is a place where people come for work, education and lifestyle. Our Nation's Capital has evolved into a place that is more than a public service town – our city has diversified with both public and private sectors expanding, we have an established and evolving innovation ecosystem, and our investment in city-shaping infrastructure and community services has transformed Canberra into one of the most liveable cities on earth.



Verity Lane Market



Fastest growing economy in Australia

The ACT's economy grew by 41.9% between 2015-16 to 2024-25, the highest growth rate of any state or territory in Australia over that period, well above the national growth rate of 22%. On average, ACT's economy grew by 4.0% per cent, outperforming all other jurisdictions and the national average.¹



Globally recognised for quality of life

In 2025, Canberra was rated as the Best City in the World for Quality of Life in the 2025 Oxford Economics Global Cities report. Also in 2025, the ACT has been rated as the most liveable metropolitan location in Australia. In 2024, Canberra ranked third in the 2024 Smart City Index.²



Since 2016, **83,359 more people** are calling Canberra their home.³



Since 2016, **10,813 businesses** have chosen to do business in Canberra.⁴



Home to a growing and mature innovation ecosystem

ACT is Australia's most patent and trademark intensive state or Territory.⁵



Highly skilled and engaged workforce

ACT's labour force participation rate remains consistently above national average reaching 72.6% in October 2025, compared to 67% nationally.⁶ ACT leads the nation in higher education attainment among people aged 15 and over.⁷

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2024-25, [Latest available](#).

² Oxford Economics, 2025, Global Cities Index 2025.

³ Estimated based on ACT Population Projections and ABS's Regional Population data. [Latest available](#).

⁴ ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, July 2016 – June 2025.

⁵ IP Australia, Australian IP Report 2025.

⁶ ABS, Labour force status by Sex, Australia and Australian Capital Territory - Seasonally adjusted, October 2025.

⁷ ABS, education and work, May 2025..

A city that gives you back time

Over the past decade, we have focused on making Canberra a city that gives people back time, by improving how we live, move and connect. This vision has guided our investment in urban renewal, cultural infrastructure and decision making, shaping a city that supports everyday ease and meaningful connection. The ACT Wellbeing Framework, launched in 2022, has guided government decision-making by embedding social, economic and environmental outcomes into policy and investment choices. This shift has helped ensure that growth is not just measured in economic terms, but in the quality of life it delivers for Canberrans.

Canberra's approach to urban renewal is guided by a long-term commitment to creating places that are inclusive, well-designed and connected to community life. This includes improving how people move through the city, enhancing access to services and amenities, and creating spaces that support social and economic activity. Urban renewal projects, such as those at the Kingston Foreshore, Braddon, City Centre, and Dickson have brought together housing, hospitality, creative industries and public space, offering more ways for people to connect and engage with Canberra's evolving cultural and social landscape.

Canberra's night-time economy is an inclusive and diverse part of city life, and is increasingly supported by reforms that make it easier for small venues to operate, host live music, and offer new experiences. The Liquor (Night-Time Economy) Amendment Bill 2024 introduced practical changes, lowering fees for small venues, removing outdated licensing requirements, and encouraging businesses to support live music and the arts through targeted incentives.

The establishment of the City Centre Entertainment Precinct through bespoke planning and noise-settings is helping shape a more dynamic and culturally rich city centre. These changes reflect a broader commitment to making Canberra a place that works for people, day and night.





We have supported the emergence of new communities through planning and housing reform, with Molonglo officially recognised as Canberra's sixth town centre. Designed to accommodate up to 70,000 residents by 2050, the Molonglo Valley district is being developed with a strong focus on connectivity, inclusion and sustainability, featuring a commercial precinct, amenities and community facilities.

To ensure that our growing communities are supported, we have invested in essential social infrastructure. The Canberra Hospital Expansion,

our largest healthcare infrastructure commitment to date, has delivered a new Critical Services Building with expanded treatment capacity and intensive care services. In education, new schools have opened in Throsby, Denman Prospect, and Whitlam, with Molonglo's third public school scheduled to open in 2025.

Together, these changes reflect a city that is increasingly designed around people, where liveability, access to services, culture and community connection are central to Canberra's future.

Towards a net zero future

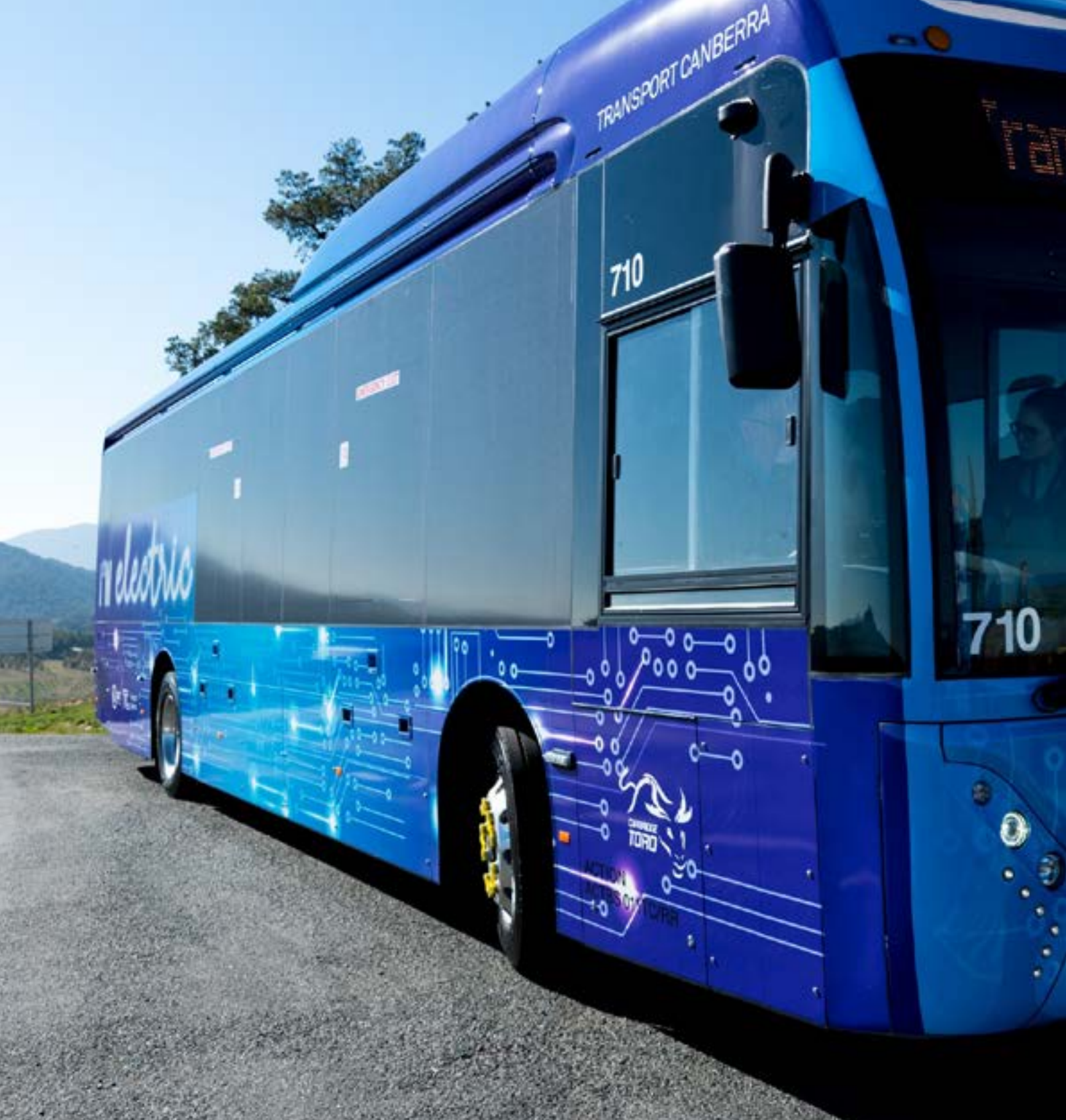
As Australia's climate policy landscape evolved, Canberra consistently led the way, setting ambitious targets backed with tangible action. Our commitment to climate leadership has been matched by sustained investment in clean infrastructure, positioning our city as a national exemplar in low emissions living.

In 2020, Canberra became the first Australian jurisdiction powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity. This milestone marked a turning point in our energy transition, demonstrating that bold ambition, backed by policy and investment, can deliver real outcomes for communities and the environment.

To support this transition, we launched the Big Canberra Battery project, one of the most significant energy storage initiatives in the country. Designed to enhance grid stability and accelerate the uptake of renewable energy, the project will play a critical role in ensuring Canberra's energy system remains reliable, resilient and future-ready.

We have reshaped how Canberrans move through their city. The completion of Light Rail Stage 1 and the development of the Woden Depot have laid the foundation for a more integrated and sustainable transport network. Our transition to an electric bus fleet is now well underway, reducing emissions and improving the reliability and accessibility of public transport.





These investments and initiatives are underpinned by a clear and enduring commitment to long-term climate action. The ACT's legislated net zero emissions target by 2045 provides certainty and direction, guiding government decisions and unlocking opportunities for innovation, resilience and economic growth.

Together, these actions reflect a city that is not only responding to climate challenges, but actively shaping a cleaner, more sustainable future. Through electrification, integrated transport and purposeful leadership, Canberra is building the systems and infrastructure needed to thrive in a climate ready and net zero world.

Growing Canberra's knowledge economy

Canberra's progress is being powered by its people, be it entrepreneurs, researchers, educators and students who are building a smarter, more connected future. By investing in talent, research and innovation, we are shaping an economy that is more diverse, resilient and globally competitive.

The Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) has played an integral role in the evolution of Canberra's innovation ecosystem. As a platform for collaboration between government, academia and industry, CBRIN has helped accelerate the growth of high potential business and foster a culture of entrepreneurship across the city. Our innovation ecosystem continues to mature, supporting local ideas to take root, scale and compete on the national and global stage.

We have also strengthened our position in critical and emerging knowledge-based industry sectors. The Canberra Cyber Hub has supported the ACT as being a centre for cyber security capability, creating new opportunities for investment, research and workforce development. The Canberra Cyber Hub is part of a broader effort to diversify Canberra's knowledge economy across advanced technology sectors.

Tertiary education remains one of Canberra's most significant economic and cultural assets. Our universities have expanded their global reach, attracting students from across Australia and the world. International education remains ACT's largest source of export income. Between 2015–16 and 2023–24, the ACT's export income from international education more than doubled, from \$633 million to \$1.541 billion, highlighting the sector's growing contribution to the local economy.¹

Growth in education exports and tertiary sector capacity has been supported by investment in physical and research infrastructure, student experience and international partnerships, reinforcing Canberra's reputation as a city of learning and opportunity. Major projects like the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Canberra City Campus and the new Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) Woden campus reflect this commitment, bringing together education, industry and community in precincts

¹ ABS, International Trade: Supplementary Information, Financial Year, 2023-24, Table 3.8



ANU Rockerty



designed to support innovation and lifelong learning. The Australian National University's Kambri precinct has reshaped the heart of its campus, delivering new cultural, learning and public spaces that connect students and the broader community. At the University of Canberra, the co-located UC Public Hospital and the campus master plan are strengthening the link between education, health and urban

renewal, creating a more integrated and inclusive environment for learning, research and community life.

Together, these developments reflect a city that is investing in its people and ideas. By building on our strengths in research, education and innovation, Canberra is growing a knowledge economy that is globally connected, locally grounded and ready for the future.

Continuing the transformation

Building on the strong foundations of the 2016 Statement of Ambition and CBR Switched On, CBR 2030 will guide the ACT's next phase of economic growth and transformation.

CBR 2030 continues the mission-led approach of CBR Switched On, underpinned by our economic strengths and advantages. The missions reflect the evolving economic landscape, emerging opportunities and the ACT Government's commitment to building a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready economy.

The introduction of a fourth mission – Building Canberra's future today - recognises the impact of the extensive city-shaping infrastructure projects that are transforming the city and supporting the growth of our city.



Artists impression



Convention Centre

● CBR 2030 at a glance

Actions in CBR 2030 build on the ambitions of CBR Switched On. The refreshed missions below reflect how far we have come and where we are headed, evolving our focus to meet the challenges and opportunities now and to 2030.

Mission 1

A city that continues to give you back time

- **Making everyday interactions seamless**
Transform how people interact with government through intuitive digital services, planning reform, and better regulation. By streamlining everyday interactions, give people back time and create a more responsive, connected city.
- **Planning and designing connected town and group centres**
Progress planning reform and urban design to create town and group centres that bring together job opportunities, housing, services, culture, and community life, giving people more time to live well locally.
- **City that works from anywhere**
Support flexible work through digital infrastructure, planning, and precinct design—enabling more Canberrans to work from home or close to home, reducing commute times and enhancing lifestyle.
- **Celebrating culture, connection and experience**
Showcase Canberra's cultural talent through events, festivals, and experiences that bring people together. Strengthen the city's identity as a destination of creativity and connection throughout the day and night.

- **What we will do:**
Town and group centre design, Public unleased land use reforms, Working from home opportunities, Phase 2 of Tourism 2030 Strategy, night-time economy reform and growth programs.

Mission 2

A climate ready city, leading Australia's net zero future

- **Resilient and adaptable systems**
Strengthen our ability to manage climate risks and protect our people, economy and the environment. Embed resilience into infrastructure and planning to reduce risk and support recovery. This focus area also recognises the opportunities to drive sustainable economic growth by becoming a climate ready city.
- **Turning climate ideas into impact**
Advance clean-tech innovation by leveraging Canberra's research strengths and supporting entrepreneurs. Through strategic partnerships with tertiary education institutions and industry, we are transforming climate solutions into scalable technologies and economic value.
- **Growing talent for a net zero future**
Equip Canberrans with the skills needed for a net zero economy through future-focused education, training, and inclusive access to sustainability careers.
- **Electrifying Canberra's future**
Accelerating the transition to clean energy and transport by electrifying systems across the city, laying the foundation for a net zero economy that is efficient, reliable and built for the future.

- **What we will do:**
Progress towards the 2030 emissions reduction target, CIT Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence, Energy Innovation Fund, Integrated Energy Plan 2024-2030, Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024-30, All electric suburbs.

Mission 3

Continued knowledge-based economic growth

- **A destination for knowledge and learning**
Partner with local tertiary education institutions to invest in infrastructure, talent attraction and research capabilities, positioning the city as a hub for education and lifelong learning. Focus on student attraction internationally, nationally and locally.
- **Scaling local ideas to make a global impact**
Support high growth potential businesses to scale and compete globally through access to capital, leadership development, and tailored business expansion support.
- **Continuing diversification**
Drive economic growth by accelerating industry diversification across priority sectors (e.g. knowledge industries, aviation and visitor economy, creative industries). Supporting business growth by targeted industry support and business advisory services.
- **Anchoring growth through strategic partnerships**
Attract investment and build strong industry partnerships to drive innovation, job creation, and precinct development, using priority sectors as anchors for place-based economic growth.
- **Investing in future skills**
Build a future-ready workforce by investing in skills development across AI, digital technologies, and knowledge industries, ensuring Canberrans are equipped for the jobs of tomorrow.
- **What we will do:**
Support greater tertiary harmonisation, UNSW Canberra Campus, Canberra Innovation Network, Cyber Security TAFE Centre of Excellence.

Mission 4

Building Canberra's future today

- **Precincts that inspire**
Deliver city-shaping infrastructure that brings together housing, jobs, education, and culture, creating precincts that are inclusive and anchored by civic and creative institutions. These places will reflect Canberra's identity and support a thriving, connected community.
- **A city that delivers on experience**
Invest in tourism infrastructure that invites both business and leisure visitors to experience Canberra's unique blend of nature, culture, and innovation. Shaping places that connect, inspire, and leave a lasting impression.
- **Designing communities for life**
Create inclusive, people-focused communities by delivering diverse and affordable housing through planning reform, strategic land release, and coordinated infrastructure. Invest in future-ready utilities and services to support connected, climate-resilient communities. This focus area also supports restoring and improving access to Canberra's natural environment.
- **Connecting people to what matters**
Invest in integrated transport infrastructure, light rail, active travel networks, and bus network upgrades to connect communities, reduce congestion, and support sustainable urban growth.
- **What we will do:**
Bruce Sports, Health and Education Precinct; planning and housing reform, Canberra Convention and Entertainment Centre Precinct, Canberra Theatre Centre transformation, Acton Waterfront development.



● Mission 1

A city that continues to give you back time

Canberra's strength lies in how we support people to live well. The way the city works for its people, through accessible services, connected neighbourhoods and thoughtful design, is central to how we grow as a community and economy.

As cities grow, the way we shape urban life matters more than ever. Our approach puts Canberrans and

their needs at the heart of planning and design. It is about creating places that are easy to navigate, enjoyable to live in and responsive to everyday needs. When urban development is guided by wellbeing and liveability, it becomes a source of opportunity and long-term prosperity.

Liveability and wellbeing are not just social goals. They shape how people experience daily life and influence their decision to visit, study, stay and invest in Canberra. When people have more time for what matters to them, they are more likely to participate in the economy and build their future here.

A city that supports wellbeing also supports productivity. It helps people stay healthy, engaged and active in their communities. It creates the conditions for innovation, inclusion and sustainable growth.

As Canberra continues to grow and mature, this mission ensures that development is inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to the diverse needs of our people.

Under Mission 1, we are focusing on the parts of city life that shape everyday experience. This includes improving how people interact with government, planning for and designing town centres that bring services and community life closer to home, and supporting flexible work through better planning and digital infrastructure. We are also investing in cultural experiences and events that help people feel connected to each other and to the city. It also strengthens Canberra's position as a city that attracts and retains talent, celebrates cultural diversity, and fosters a sense of belonging for all.



National Multicultural Festival

Mission 1 focus areas

Making everyday interactions seamless

We are transforming how people engage with government in their everyday lives. Whether it is applying for an approval, accessing services or finding information, we want these interactions to be simple, responsive and easy to navigate.

This means improving digital infrastructure, making services easier to use, and updating the rules that shape everyday interactions. These changes will help people spend less time navigating government processes and more time doing the things that matter to them.

This focus area supports the broader mission by making the city work better for people. When government services are easier to access and use, people save time and feel more confident in the systems that support them.

Public unleased land use reforms

Public spaces like footpaths, parks and nature strips are part of daily life in Canberra. They support everything from walking and cycling to events, outdoor dining and community gatherings. A review of the Public Unleased Land Act 2013 is now underway to simplify how public land is managed and accessed. The reforms aim to make it easier to apply for permits, reduce duplication, and provide clearer guidance for people planning events, construction or other activities that use public land.

The review is also looking at how to better balance the protection and use of public land, and how to align the system with broader planning and environmental goals.



Planning and designing connected town and group centres

We are creating town and group centres that bring everyday life closer to home. These places will bring together housing, jobs, government services, public spaces and community facilities in ways that make everyday life easier and more connected.

We are focusing on what makes town and group centres work well for the people who use them every day. That includes improving access to essential services, creating safe and welcoming public spaces, and designing places that support jobs and everyday life. The goal is to make town and group centres easier to use, more inclusive and better connected to the needs of the community.

This focus area supports the broader mission by helping people spend less time commuting and more time in their local communities. The ACT Planning Strategy 2018 and District Strategies 2023 outlines directions for employment locations and economic activity, with town and group centres playing a key role. Centres that offer a wide range of jobs close to where people live help reduce travel time, ease

congestion, and lower emissions. They also support local economies and make it easier for people to live and work in the same area.

Well planned and designed town and group centres strengthen local economies, support wellbeing and make it easier for people to live well.

City that works from anywhere

We are making it easier for people to work from home or close to home. This means investing in digital infrastructure, improving planning and design of town and group centres and designing precincts that support flexible work.

As the way people work continues to change, the city needs to keep pace. By supporting remote and hybrid work, we can help people reduce commute times, balance work and life more easily, and stay connected to their local communities.

This focus area supports the broader mission by giving people more control over their time and how they engage with work. When the city supports flexibility, it also supports wellbeing, productivity and a more inclusive economy.

Hybrid working

We have led the way in adopting flexible work arrangements across the ACT public service. Following the pandemic, we introduced hybrid working options that allow employees to work from home or from Flexispaces located in town centres, reducing commute times and supporting work-life balance.

Today, 75 per cent of ACT Public Service employees access hybrid work. This model has improved workforce participation, especially for carers, parents, and people managing health or study commitments. It has also strengthened inclusion, retention, and productivity, while supporting local economies and Canberra's reputation as a liveable city.



Celebrating culture, connection and experience

We are supporting the experiences that bring people together and help shape Canberra's identity. Events, festivals and cultural activities play a key role in how people connect with each other and with the city. These moments add meaning to everyday life and help build a sense of belonging.

We are investing in the spaces and programs that make these experiences possible, whether it is through public events, creative initiatives or inclusive community activities. This work also supports the city's visitor economy and strengthens Canberra's reputation as a place where people come to connect, learn and share.

What our events mean for Canberra's economy

Floriade

(including Night Fest)

No. of Visitors: 470,422
Economic impact: \$48.8 million

ENLIGHTEN

FESTIVAL

No. of Visitors: 247,839
Economic impact: \$3.18 million

CANBERRA Ballo'n

SPECTACULAR

No. of Visitors: 48,005
Economic impact: \$3.08 million

NYE

New Years Eve

No. of Visitors: 52,037
Economic impact: \$1.29 million

Source: Events ACT external event evaluation data, 2024-25.



Floriade



As part of this focus, we are also looking at how the city works after hours. A strong night-time economy can support jobs, attract visitors and create more opportunities for people to enjoy the city in different ways. Further work will explore how we make Canberra's evening and night-time experiences more dynamic, accessible and safe.

This focus area supports the broader mission by helping people feel connected to their city and each other.

Growing Canberra's Night Time Economy

We will continue to support the growth of Canberra's night-time economy as part of our commitment to a more dynamic, inclusive and liveable city. By encouraging a broader mix of evening activity across hospitality, culture and community life, we are creating more opportunities for people to engage with Canberra after dark. A well supported night-time economy enhances the visitor experience, supports local businesses and contributes to our city's overall liveability.

Tourism 2030 Strategy Phase 2

Growing Canberra's visitor economy is vital for building a more diverse and resilient economy. The second phase of the Tourism 2030 Strategy focuses on growing the visitor economy by \$1 billion by 2030. To support this, we are improving access through the Aviation Stimulus Fund, making it easier and more affordable for people to travel to Canberra. We are also strengthening our events calendar through the Major Events Fund, supporting flagship experiences and embedding event promotion into destination marketing. These initiatives will help attract visitors, support local businesses and create shared experiences that enrich life in our city.



CIT Electric Vehicle Training Lab

● Mission 2

A climate ready city, leading Australia's net zero future

Canberra is positioned to lead Australia's transition to a net zero economy through practical, long-term action. This mission builds on the ACT's longstanding leadership in clean energy and environmental stewardship, positioning us to lead in the national transition to net zero.

Strong government leadership continues to guide Canberra's transition, setting clear direction, backing it with investment and helping remove barriers to change. As we move forward, this leadership continues to underpin our efforts, ensuring that the transition to net zero is practical, inclusive, and delivers long-term benefits for our city.

We are strengthening our ability to manage climate risks by embedding resilience into infrastructure, planning and service delivery.

This includes supporting communities and businesses to adapt and remain prepared for future climate impacts.

We are advancing clean technology by drawing on Canberra's research strengths and supporting entrepreneurs to turn ideas into practical solutions. Through partnerships with industry and education providers, we are also investing in the skills needed for a low-emissions economy.

Electrification is a key part of this transition. We are accelerating the shift to clean energy and transport to build a reliable and efficient energy system.

Mission 2 reflects Canberra's commitment to practical leadership, using innovation, infrastructure and workforce development to shape a sustainable and competitive future.

Mission 2 focus areas

Resilient and adaptable systems

Under this focus area, we are strengthening our ability to manage climate risks and protect our people, places, environment and the economy. As we strengthen Canberra's resilience to climate change, it is vital to recognise that the health and adaptability of our natural environment are foundational to the wellbeing of people, places, and the economy.

We are investing in infrastructure and planning that can adapt to a changing climate. This includes designing systems that withstand extreme weather, support recovery after disruptions and reduce long-term risks. Improving disaster readiness and building climate-smart infrastructure will contribute to a more liveable and future-ready city.

We are supporting communities and businesses to adapt and build resilience, especially people with complex needs or limited resources. This may include practical support for disaster resilience planning and accessing cool and safe spaces during extreme heat. For businesses, we are providing targeted assistance to strengthen their ability to prepare for and recover from climate impacts. This includes access to advice, toolkits and resources to improve disaster and climate readiness. We are also backing innovation that helps businesses adjust their models in response to climate risks, creating new pathways for growth and competitiveness.

Adaptation also brings economic and social opportunity. By improving access to cool and safe public spaces, enhancing liveability and supporting inclusive planning, we are creating healthier communities and attracting investment.

By strengthening Canberra's resilience, we are creating the conditions for economic growth that is more sustainable, enduring and inclusive.



Mugga Lane Solar Farm

Turning climate ideas into impact

We are advancing climate innovation by building on Canberra's research strengths and supporting entrepreneurs to turn ideas into practical solutions. Through strong partnerships with universities, research institutions and industry, we are helping transform climate solutions into technologies that deliver real economic value.

Canberra is well placed to lead in emerging climate services, risk modelling and resilience technologies. These innovations are already reshaping sectors such as construction, insurance, health and emergency management. Our skilled workforce and strong research base give us a competitive advantage in developing and applying these solutions.

Government has a key role to play in accelerating this transition. We are supporting the trial and testing of new ideas through pilot programs and demonstration projects. We are also helping commercialise research by connecting innovators with funding, infrastructure and business support.

By backing climate innovation, we are not only reducing emissions and building resilience, we are also creating new industries, jobs and opportunities for long-term economic growth.

ACT Energy Innovation Fund

The ACT Energy Innovation Fund supports Canberra's transition to clean energy by backing early-stage technologies and solutions. It provides grants for technology trials, policy innovation and commercialisation. The ACT Government plays an active role by funding pilot projects and helping researchers and businesses bring ideas to market. Through this fund, Canberra is building capability and creating new opportunities in clean energy.



Big Canberra Battery project

Growing talent for a net zero future

We are building the skills Canberra needs to support a more sustainable economy. This includes expanding access to training in clean energy, construction, and climate adaptation, and supporting people to build new skills or shift careers as industries change.

We are working with industry and training providers to grow the local workforce in areas critical to the net zero transition. This includes investing in practical learning, supporting apprenticeships and traineeships, and creating clear pathways into sustainability careers for people of all backgrounds.

Our goal is to ensure that skills essential to the transition, such as electrical trades, construction and engineering, are available when Canberrans need them. We are also supporting workers facing disruption by helping them diversify their skills and access new training opportunities.

By strengthening our training system and making it more inclusive and responsive, we are building a workforce that is ready for the future and able to support Canberra's transition to net zero.

ACT's Electric Vehicle Centre of Excellence

Canberra is home to Australia's first TAFE Centre of Excellence, focused on electric vehicle skills and training. Based at the Canberra Institute of Technology, the Centre is part of the Fyshwick Future Energy Skills Hub and delivers hands-on training for mechanics, technicians and manufacturers working with both light and heavy vehicles. It also supports skills in related areas like charging infrastructure and maintenance.

The Centre plays a national leadership role by sharing best practice, developing resources and building partnerships across industry, training providers and universities. It is helping to grow the skilled workforce needed to support the uptake of electric vehicles and the broader transition to net zero.



Electrifying Canberra's future

Canberra is leading the shift to clean energy by electrifying homes, businesses, transport and public infrastructure. This transformation is central to achieving net zero emissions and building a modern, reliable energy system that meets the needs of a growing city.

We are delivering a long-term plan to phase out fossil fuels and expand access to renewable electricity. This includes upgrading the electricity network, supporting the rollout of electric appliances and vehicles, and ensuring our energy systems remain secure and responsive.

We are taking a practical, Territory-wide approach to net zero by electrifying energy and transport systems. By making it easier to switch, we are creating a future where energy is cleaner, smarter and built to support Canberra's continued growth and sustainability.





Canberra's All-Electric Suburbs

Canberra is leading the way in electrification by designing new suburbs that operate entirely on renewable electricity. Strathnairn, one of Canberra's newest communities, was the first suburb in the ACT to be planned as all-electric. Building on this success, the new suburbs of Bandler and Molonglo are being developed with the same commitment to electrification.

Planned without gas connections, these all-electric communities use efficient appliances and renewable electricity to reduce emissions and support healthier, more sustainable living. They show how electrification can be embedded into urban design to deliver long-term benefits for residents and the environment.



Australian National Concurrent Design Facility at UNSW Canberra

● Mission 3

Continued knowledge-based economic growth

Canberra's economic future is shaped by how well we continue to grow our innovation, talent and creativity. Investing in education, research and skills helps people and businesses adapt, work more efficiently, and create new opportunities.

A more diverse economy makes Canberra stronger, supporting a wider range of jobs, building resilience, and helping us respond to change. With a highly educated population, strong research and tertiary education institutions and proximity to national decision-makers, Canberra is well-positioned to drive

innovation and progress across a range of fields. These strengths support our long-term goals for employment, wellbeing and inclusive growth.

To build on this foundation, we will focus on growing Canberra's talent pipeline, strengthening industry capability, and supporting innovation that drives industry growth. Mission 3 focus areas aim to grow Canberra's reputation as a centre for learning and ideas, support globally competitive businesses, and anchor economic growth in places that benefit local communities.

Mission 3 focus areas

A destination for knowledge and learning

Canberra's identity as a centre for education and research is one of its greatest strengths. By deepening partnerships with local tertiary education institutions, we can grow our reputation as a hub for learning, innovation and talent development. This includes investing in education infrastructure, attracting and retaining skilled students and researchers, and strengthening research capabilities.

We will support efforts to harmonise tertiary education offerings across institutions to improve student pathways and collaboration. We will also seek opportunities to partner with the sector to grow its reach through investment, strategic partnerships with industry, and initiatives to attract international talent. Together, these efforts will help strengthen Canberra's reputation as a leading destination for education and lifelong learning.

University of New South Wales (UNSW) Canberra City Campus

The UNSW Canberra City Campus represents a major investment in Canberra's future as a centre for education, research and innovation.

Located within the national defence and security corridor, the campus is being developed across Reid and Parkes, with Stage 1 expected to open in 2026. Once complete, the precinct will support up to 6,000 students and bring together teaching, research, retail and community spaces in the heart of the city.

The campus is designed to foster collaboration between universities, industry and government, particularly in high-growth sectors such as defence, cyber security, and space. It will also support flexible learning pathways, professional education, and attract international talent to Canberra.



—Artists impression

University of Canberra's Campus Master Plan

The University of Canberra is delivering a \$5 billion transformation of its Bruce campus into a vibrant, mixed use precinct. Its Campus Master Plan will support a daily population of up to 45,000, including students, residents and workers, and feature significant health and sporting facilities.

A recent land sale enables the construction of up to 1,600 new student residences, with potential for further housing in future stages. The development will include sustainable design, new retail and hospitality offerings, and enhanced public spaces.

This project is designed to strengthen connections between the University and the Belconnen region and the town centre, creating a more inclusive and connected community in the Canberra's north.



Scaling local ideas to make a global impact

Canberra has a strong pipeline of ideas and early-stage ventures and is home to a robust innovation ecosystem. Canberra has consistently placed in the top five most innovative cities globally and Canberra is often chosen as a testing ground for new ideas and technologies. Our focus now is on supporting more of them to grow into successful, high-impact businesses. While early-stage ventures play a vital role in sparking new ideas, it is during the growth phase that businesses make their most significant economic contributions, creating high-value jobs, expanding their market reach, and delivering products and services that benefit the community.

We will explore opportunities to support high growth potential businesses overcome the challenges of scaling up. We will support access to capital, leadership development, and tailored business advice to help local enterprises mature

and compete globally. By backing Canberra-grown ideas and enabling them to grow, we strengthen our economy and reinforce our position as a hub for knowledge, innovation and impact.

ACTivate Capital Fund

The ACTivate Capital Fund is a new ACT Government initiative designed to boost Canberra's innovation ecosystem by providing early-stage venture capital to high growth potential local businesses.

The Fund pairs investments with strategic guidance, industry connections, and mentoring, giving businesses not just capital, but the tools needed to succeed. By unlocking private investment and supporting commercialisation, the Fund is helping position Canberra as a leading innovation-driven economy.



Continuing diversification

As a city recognised for its innovation, leading tertiary education and research institutions, Canberra is well positioned to seize new economic opportunities. Supported by a highly skilled workforce and a mature entrepreneurial ecosystem, we are building on these foundations to ensure Canberra remains resilient, competitive, and ready to lead in a rapidly changing world.

To build on this momentum, we are accelerating diversification across priority sectors such as advanced technology, aviation, tourism, and the creative industries, by providing targeted support where it matters most. This includes tailored business advisory services, workforce development programs, and industry-specific support to help businesses scale, innovate and compete. We are also attracting investment and strengthening partnerships to unlock new opportunities and grow Canberra's reputation as a centre for ideas, culture and innovation.

By broadening our economic base, we are creating more jobs, building resilience to future shocks, and positioning Canberra to lead in industries that reflect our strengths and aspirations.

Anchoring growth through strategic partnerships

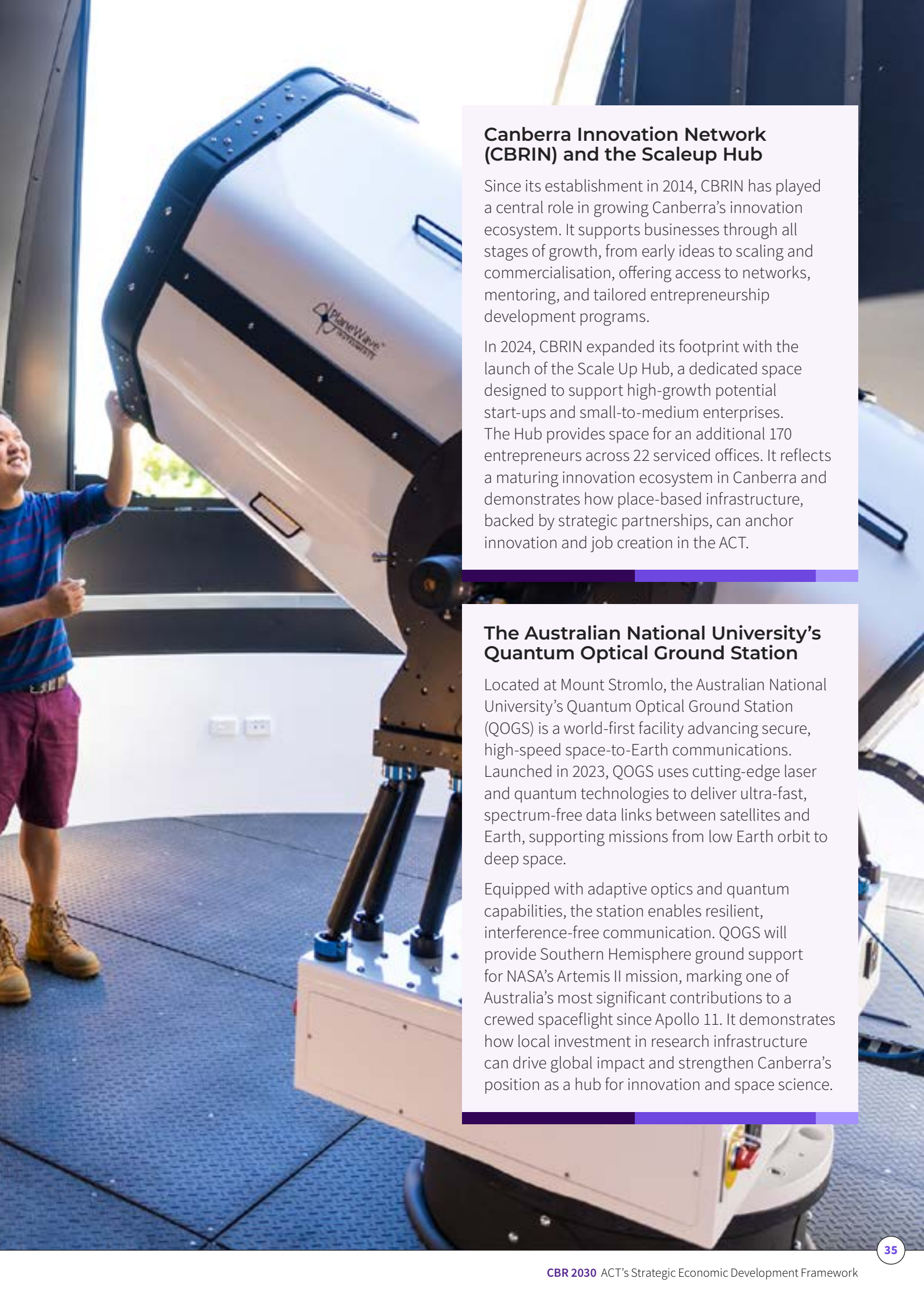
We are partnering with industry, universities and enabling institutions to create places that support innovation, business growth and investment. These precincts bring together the right mix of infrastructure, talent and collaboration, making it easier for businesses to test ideas, access support and grow.

When innovative businesses cluster together, it boosts research and development, increases access to finance and drives collaboration. This is why we are focusing on industry-led precinct development, where sectors like advanced technology, education and creative industries can anchor local growth.

By investing in innovation infrastructure and supporting strategic partnerships, we are helping Canberra become a place where ideas turn into impact, and where collaboration leads to long-term economic opportunity.



Quantum Optical Ground Station at ANU



Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) and the Scaleup Hub

Since its establishment in 2014, CBRIN has played a central role in growing Canberra's innovation ecosystem. It supports businesses through all stages of growth, from early ideas to scaling and commercialisation, offering access to networks, mentoring, and tailored entrepreneurship development programs.

In 2024, CBRIN expanded its footprint with the launch of the Scale Up Hub, a dedicated space designed to support high-growth potential start-ups and small-to-medium enterprises. The Hub provides space for an additional 170 entrepreneurs across 22 serviced offices. It reflects a maturing innovation ecosystem in Canberra and demonstrates how place-based infrastructure, backed by strategic partnerships, can anchor innovation and job creation in the ACT.

The Australian National University's Quantum Optical Ground Station

Located at Mount Stromlo, the Australian National University's Quantum Optical Ground Station (QOGS) is a world-first facility advancing secure, high-speed space-to-Earth communications. Launched in 2023, QOGS uses cutting-edge laser and quantum technologies to deliver ultra-fast, spectrum-free data links between satellites and Earth, supporting missions from low Earth orbit to deep space.

Equipped with adaptive optics and quantum capabilities, the station enables resilient, interference-free communication. QOGS will provide Southern Hemisphere ground support for NASA's Artemis II mission, marking one of Australia's most significant contributions to a crewed spaceflight since Apollo 11. It demonstrates how local investment in research infrastructure can drive global impact and strengthen Canberra's position as a hub for innovation and space science.

Investing in future skills

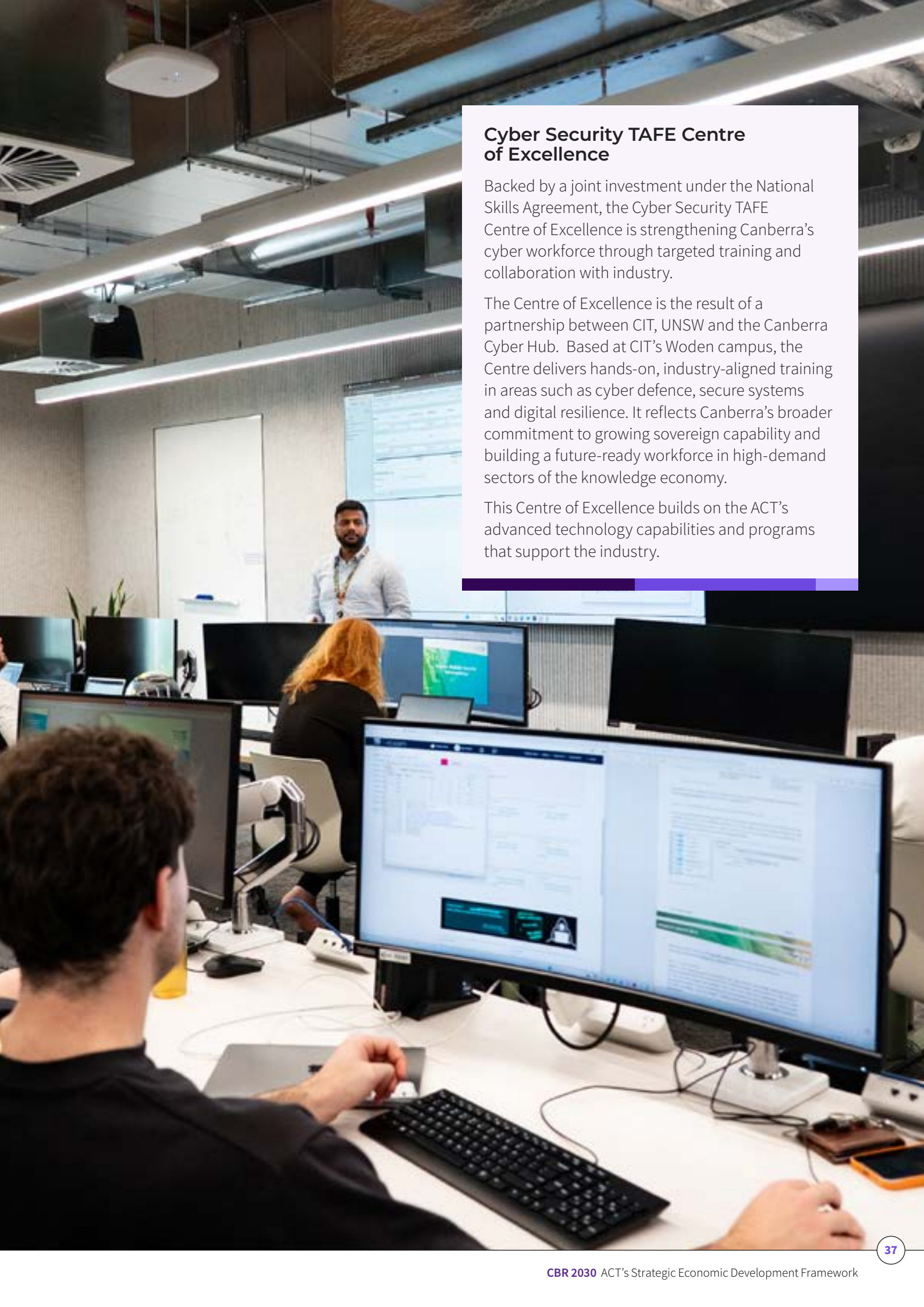
We are working to make tertiary education more flexible and more joined up across the vocational education and higher education sectors, ensuring that it meets the needs of learners, employers and the economy.

A key part of this is tertiary harmonisation, a national effort to improve how vocational and higher education work together. This includes better credit recognition, clearer pathways between qualifications, and stronger collaboration between providers. In the ACT, this means supporting more coordinated course design, improving recognition of prior learning, and helping students move more easily between institutions and sectors. It is not about merging systems but making them work better together.

Tertiary harmonisation creates a more flexible and connected approach to learning, making it easier for people to build skills, change careers and stay engaged in the workforce. By improving how vocational and higher education work together, harmonisation supports broader economic participation and helps people adapt to future changes in the labour market. This creates a stronger foundation for innovation, productivity and growth across Canberra.



Cyber Security TAFE Centre of Excellence



Cyber Security TAFE Centre of Excellence

Backed by a joint investment under the National Skills Agreement, the Cyber Security TAFE Centre of Excellence is strengthening Canberra's cyber workforce through targeted training and collaboration with industry.

The Centre of Excellence is the result of a partnership between CIT, UNSW and the Canberra Cyber Hub. Based at CIT's Woden campus, the Centre delivers hands-on, industry-aligned training in areas such as cyber defence, secure systems and digital resilience. It reflects Canberra's broader commitment to growing sovereign capability and building a future-ready workforce in high-demand sectors of the knowledge economy.

This Centre of Excellence builds on the ACT's advanced technology capabilities and programs that support the industry.



● Mission 4

Building Canberra's future today

The way we plan and invest today will shape how Canberra grows and how people live, work and connect in the future. These decisions shape how we build our communities, improve access to opportunities, and create places where daily life happens. Infrastructure plays a key role in this as it supports inclusive economic growth and boost productivity.

We are investing in transport, housing, precincts and visitor infrastructure to support long-term outcomes for the city. These investments help meet the needs of a growing population, improve access to services, and support the way people live and work. They also

create jobs and economic activity during construction and operation, while laying the groundwork for future growth by improving how people and businesses connect across Canberra.

We are building Canberra's future today, improving how people move around Canberra, creating precincts that bring together housing, jobs and culture, and designing communities that are inclusive, connected and climate resilient. We are also investing in tourism infrastructure to support the visitor economy and creating experiences that strengthen Canberra's identity and sense of place.

Mission 4 focus areas

Precincts that inspire

Precincts play a key role in shaping how people live, work and connect. We are investing in places that bring together housing, jobs, education and culture, creating environments that support everyday life and reflect Canberra's identity.

These precincts are designed to be inclusive and well-connected, with access to services, public spaces and transport. They support economic activity by creating spaces where businesses, institutions and communities can grow together. Locating jobs, learning and cultural experiences close to where people live helps reduce travel time, improve access and strengthen local economies.

Precincts also support industry development by creating hubs of activity that attract investment, encourage collaboration and drive innovation. By planning and delivering infrastructure in a coordinated way, we are building places that support long-term growth and reinforce Canberra's role as a centre for learning, creativity and community life.

Bruce Sports, Health and Education Precinct

This Precinct is being designed as a mixed-use area that brings together health, education, sport and housing. Located in Canberra's north, it will support the development of new facilities and services while creating opportunities for urban renewal.

Bruce has been identified as an initial precinct for targeted government coordination. With the proximity of health, sports and education providers, Bruce presents a unique opportunity to attract and retain investment and industry partners.

By clustering major institutions and infrastructure in one location, the precinct will improve access to essential services, support job creation and attract investment. It reflects a coordinated approach to planning that delivers long-term benefits for the community and the broader economy.



Artists impression

A city that delivers on experience

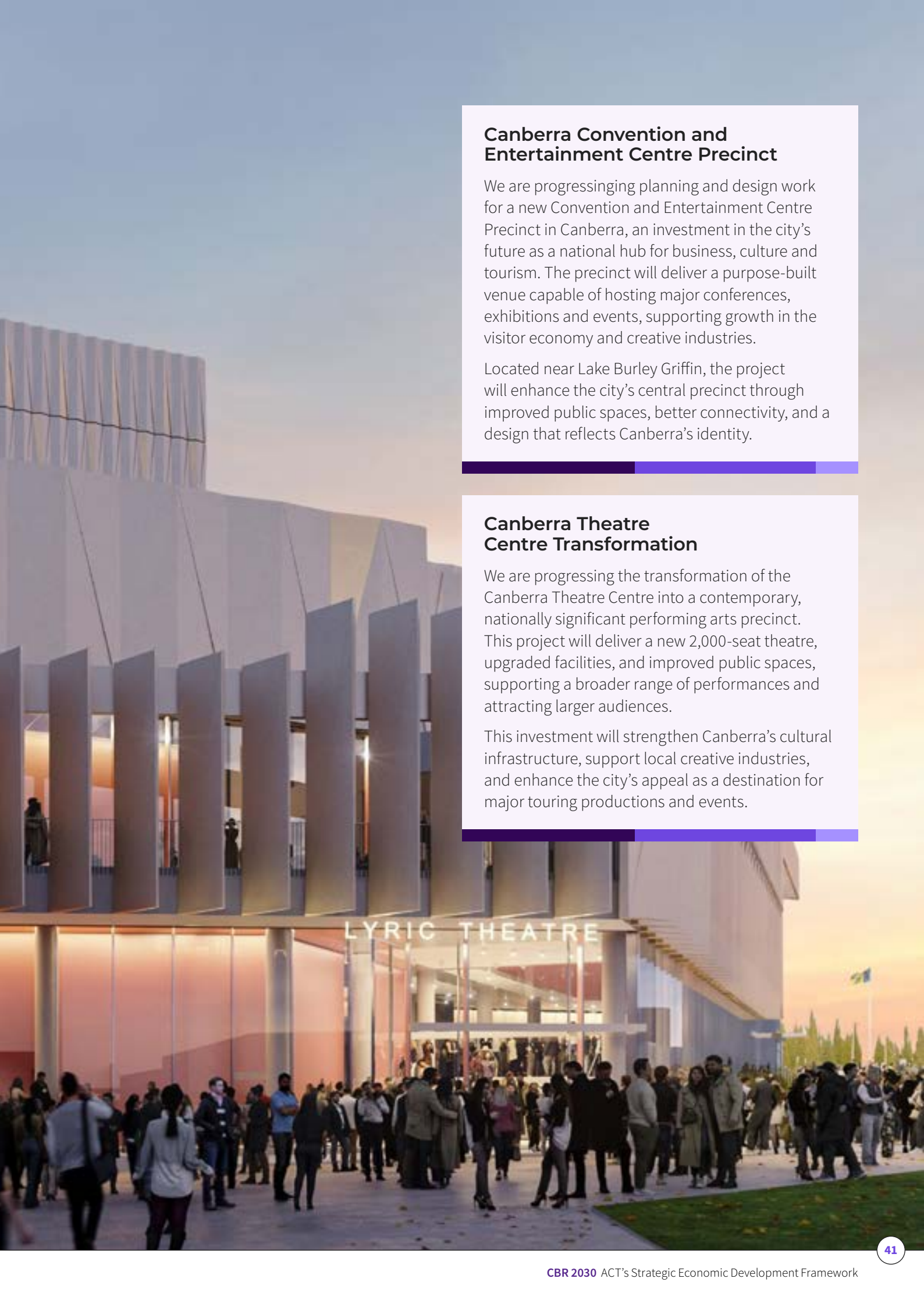
Canberra's visitor economy is an important part of our efforts to diversify the economy and grow new opportunities. As the city's profile continues to rise, we are investing in infrastructure that supports tourism and strengthens Canberra's role as a destination for both business and leisure.

Improving aviation connectivity is a key part of this effort. Expanding domestic routes and increasing the frequency of flights make it easier and more affordable to visit Canberra. Greater international connectivity will accelerate visitor numbers and boost economic activity. These improvements, alongside advocacy for better road and rail access will help connect more people to Canberra and support the growth of our visitor economy. Infrastructure investments play a critical role in shaping Canberra's experience economy. From cultural and entertainment assets to transport and public space upgrades, these projects will enhance the city's appeal, support major events, and attract private sector investment.

These investment may help attract more visitors, support local businesses and showcase what Canberra has to offer. They also improve liveability for Canberrans by creating better public spaces, supporting local jobs and expanding access to cultural and recreational experiences. A stronger visitor economy contributes to broader economic growth by increasing demand across hospitality, retail, transport and events, generating employment and supporting a more dynamic and resilient local economy.



Artists impression



Canberra Convention and Entertainment Centre Precinct

We are progressing planning and design work for a new Convention and Entertainment Centre Precinct in Canberra, an investment in the city's future as a national hub for business, culture and tourism. The precinct will deliver a purpose-built venue capable of hosting major conferences, exhibitions and events, supporting growth in the visitor economy and creative industries.

Located near Lake Burley Griffin, the project will enhance the city's central precinct through improved public spaces, better connectivity, and a design that reflects Canberra's identity.

Canberra Theatre Centre Transformation

We are progressing the transformation of the Canberra Theatre Centre into a contemporary, nationally significant performing arts precinct. This project will deliver a new 2,000-seat theatre, upgraded facilities, and improved public spaces, supporting a broader range of performances and attracting larger audiences.

This investment will strengthen Canberra's cultural infrastructure, support local creative industries, and enhance the city's appeal as a destination for major touring productions and events.

LYRIC THEATRE

Designing communities for life

As Canberra grows, we are making sure new neighbourhoods are well-designed, inclusive and supported by the services people need. That means planning for more homes, better access to schools, health care, transport and open space, and access to the natural environment.

The ACT's new planning system sets a clearer direction for how the city will grow. It includes a refreshed Territory Plan and District Strategies that guide where and how new housing, jobs and infrastructure will be delivered. We are also aligning land release with these priorities to make sure land is available when and where it is needed.

To support more housing choice, we are making it easier to build medium-density homes in established suburbs through the Missing Middle reforms. These changes are part of a broader effort to deliver 30,000 new homes by 2030, supported by planning reforms, land release and investment in infrastructure.

These changes are backed by a stronger focus on social infrastructure, like schools, community facilities and green space, so that as our city grows, our neighbourhoods remain connected, liveable and ready for the future.





North Curtin Residential Precinct

The North Curtin Residential Precinct is a flagship example of how Canberra is shaping new neighbourhoods to meet the needs of a growing city. Located in the heart of South Canberra, this precinct will deliver up to 1,300 new homes, offering a diverse mix of housing types to support a vibrant and inclusive community.

The planning process has prioritised sustainability, climate resilience, and high-quality urban design, with strong connections to local amenities, open spaces, and public transport. Community input has been central to shaping the draft planning and design conditions, ensuring the precinct reflects local aspirations and delivers lasting benefits for both new and existing residents. The North Curtin project demonstrates Canberra's commitment to delivering well-designed, connected, and sustainable neighbourhoods that support the city's future growth.

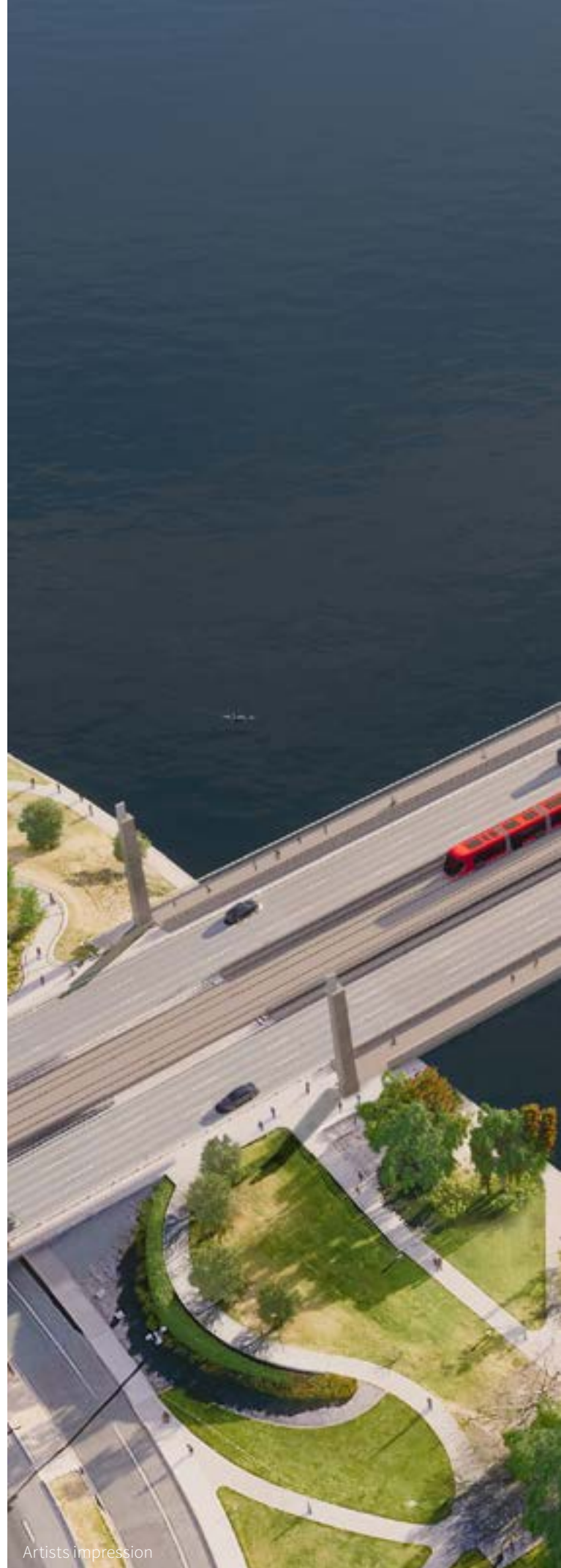
Connecting people to what matters

As Canberra grows, so does the need for a transport system that keeps pace with the city's evolving needs and supports everyday life. This focus area supports the development of a transport system that reduces congestion, improves access, and strengthens connections between people and the places they value.

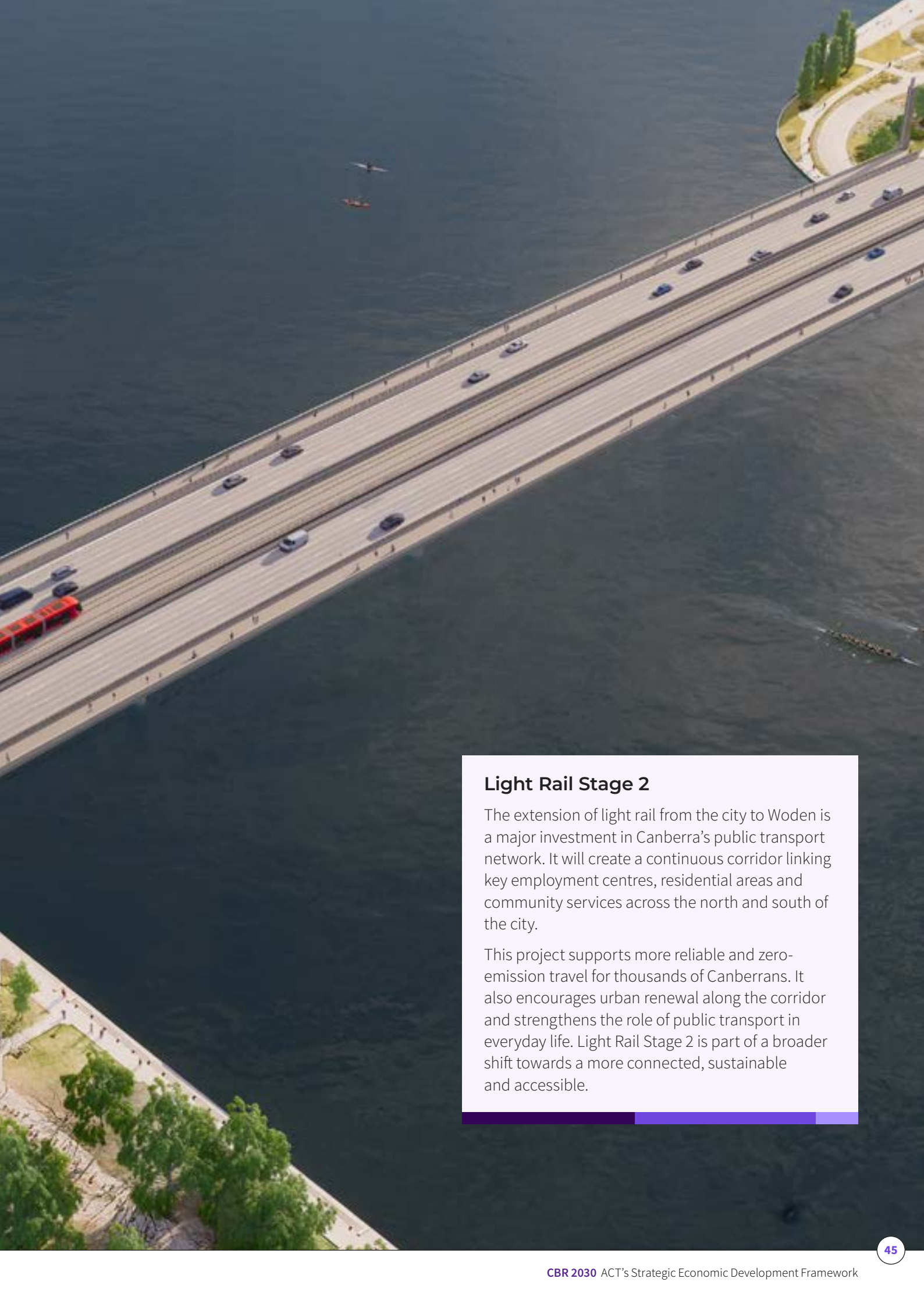
Canberra's transport system is evolving to meet the needs of a growing city. We are investing in infrastructure that makes it easier for people to move around, improves access to services and supports more sustainable travel choices.

This includes expanding the light rail network, upgrading the bus network, and improving walking and cycling routes. These changes are designed to reduce congestion, improve convenience and help people get to where they need to go, whether it is work, education, healthcare or community activities.

By building a more integrated and reliable transport system, we are supporting long-term economic growth and helping people stay connected to the places that matter most in their daily lives.



Artists impression



Light Rail Stage 2

The extension of light rail from the city to Woden is a major investment in Canberra's public transport network. It will create a continuous corridor linking key employment centres, residential areas and community services across the north and south of the city.

This project supports more reliable and zero-emission travel for thousands of Canberrans. It also encourages urban renewal along the corridor and strengthens the role of public transport in everyday life. Light Rail Stage 2 is part of a broader shift towards a more connected, sustainable and accessible.

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