Did you know about 10 million plastic straws are used in Australia every day and then thrown away? The rise of plastic consumption is an increasing threat to our environment.

Sunday In Canberra and Frankie’s at Forde are among numerous businesses reducing the amount of plastic straws used by replacing them with paper ones. Organisations can take the pledge at actsmart.act.gov.au

Have your say on how we can continue to reduce our plastic use in the ACT. More at yoursay.act.gov.au

More first home buyers in Gungahlin won’t have to pay stamp duty from 1 July 2019.

People with a household income below $160,000 won’t have to pay stamp duty on their first home whether it’s newly built or existing.

More at act.gov.au/our-canberra

Message from the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr

The ACT is in the final stages of reaching our target of powering the city by 100% renewable energy by 2020. I’m proud that the Territory is demonstrating national leadership in taking action to become more sustainable.

However, there is more that we can do to become a sustainable city for future generations. In Canberra, approximately 160,000 straws are used and discarded every day. Many Canberra businesses are already encouraging their customers to consider alternates to single use plastics and the Government wants to work with the community on how we can continue this trend.
Looking after cats in Canberra

One in four households in Canberra owns a cat.

The Draft ACT Cat Plan allows Canberrans to have their say on how to better manage cats in the ACT for their health, welfare and safety, and to protect our local wildlife.

More at yoursay.act.gov.au

Illegal dumpers beware

A new compliance team will soon be visible around Canberra.

The team may issue fines to people seen doing the wrong thing, including illegal dumping, misuse of public land and irresponsible pet ownership.

They will be identifiable in ACT Government uniforms and marked vehicles.

More at tccs.act.gov.au

2019-20 ACT Budget on 4 June

Keep an eye on your mailbox for information on what this year’s budget means for your region.

2020 target for renewable electricity

We are close to reaching our target of 100% renewable electricity supply.

The 109 megawatt Hornsdale wind farm will start generating renewable electricity for the ACT in October 2019.

Reaching our renewable goal will ensure zero-emissions electricity for Canberrans and help to stabilise electricity prices.

More at environment.act.gov.au

Light rail in a sustainable city

Canberra’s light rail network will run off 100% renewable electricity as the ACT reaches its 2020 target.

You can help reduce transport emissions by catching the light rail or bus and leaving the car at home.

More at act.gov.au/our-canberra

Photo: Neoen
Nggunnawal Primary serious about sustainability

Nggunnawal Primary aims to achieve a 5-Star sustainability accreditation through the Actsmart Schools Program.

Each class spends time in the school’s environment centre where they manage gardens and learn about composting.

→ Find out more about the Actsmart Schools Program at actsmart.act.gov.au

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Zero Emissions at Margaret Hendry

Margaret Hendry School is the ACT’s first public school to operate with zero emissions.

The school integrates sustainability education into every aspect of school life with design elements, such as solar electricity, automated LED lighting, double glazing and water collection tanks.

→ More at education.act.gov.au

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Gold Award for long time basketball member

Brian Franklin is one of Canberra’s most recent Canberra Gold Award recipients. The Canberra Gold Award is awarded to community members, businesses or associations who have been in Canberra for 50 years.

Brian is currently the interim CEO of Basketball ACT.

“I remember when I first started playing basketball; there were about 300 members at the time and now we have about 9000,” Brian said.

→ Nominate for Canberra Gold at act.gov.au/cbrgold

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More room for local wildlife

Mulligans Flat has almost tripled in size with the completion of new fencing.

The enlarged area will provide a feral free sanctuary with more protected habitat for endangered animals in the near future.

The extension almost triples the size of the Mulligans Flat Predator Free Sanctuary.

→ More at act.gov.au/our-canberra
Wintervention is coming

Embrace the chilly weather these winter school holidays with Wintervention in Civic.
Ice skate in the open air as Civic Square is transformed into a winter wonderland.
Enjoy local food or treat yourself with a gift from the Winter Food and Makers Markets.

More at wintervention.com.au

World Environment Day in Canberra
Celebrate on 5 June with a variety of opportunities to be at one with nature.

More at environment.act.gov.au

Use MyWay across Canberra’s public transport network

MyWay is the smartcard ticketing system used to pay for travel across Canberra’s public transport network.

It’s now fully integrated across buses and light rail. Make sure you tap on and off at the validators located on buses and at each light rail stop.

More at transport.act.gov.au

New mountain biking tracks for Canberra

Mountain biking is expanding in Canberra with a new pump track opened at Majura Pines.
The Best of Canberra Mountain Biking project will continue to grow the city’s biking experiences.
In coming months, we will hold a series of engagement activities so the community can contribute to a new concept plan.

More info at yoursay.act.gov.au

Produced by: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.
For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/our-canberra or follow us on social media.