

Our CBR

Inner North, Inner South and City

March 2021

INSIDE THIS EDITION >

**Light rail
to Woden**
is one step
closer

Cut power bills and take climate action

Canberra households can now register for information about a zero-interest loan up to \$15,000 to invest in rooftop solar panels, household battery storage, zero emission vehicles and efficient electric appliances.

Yarralumla resident Janet Harris is one of many Canberrans who have made the switch to a more energy efficient way of life.





She replaced her home's gas ducted heating with a reverse cycle system and included solar as part of this switch.

"Our heating costs have halved, and the house is more comfortable to live in," Janet said.

→ To register for information about the Sustainable Household Scheme visit actsmart.act.gov.au, call **13 22 81** or email actsmart@act.gov.au

Photograph: Janet Harris' son, Daniel Harris-Pascal, at their home with his partner Veronica Briceño Rodriguez and their daughter, Mailen.

Eligible Sustainable Household Scheme products include:

-  Rooftop solar panels
-  Household battery storage
-  Zero emission vehicles
-  Efficient electric appliances

Message from the Chief Minister

Canberra leads the nation in taking action on climate change and we want more Canberrans to benefit from a zero-net emission future.

Our Sustainable Household Scheme will help households invest in solar panels, battery storage and other technologies to reduce their emissions and their energy bills.

The scheme will also support jobs in Canberra, with approved installers working with the Government for a safe rollout of the program over the next four years.

We're also waiving registration fees on newly purchased zero-emissions vehicles, and creating the Big Canberra Battery network to help store renewable power in the Territory.

Andrew Barr



**MORE NEWS,
MORE OFTEN**

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Sign up for our e-newsletter at act.gov.au/subscribe





One year into COVID-19

March marks 12 months since Canberra recorded its first active case of COVID-19.

Bronte Morgan was the fourth ACT resident to be diagnosed with the virus.

One year on, the 24-year-old continues to battle fatigue, joint and muscle pain, as well as an unwavering “brain fog”.

“It’s almost offensive, to be honest, when I hear people complaining about the rules or thinking they’re above them and not wanting to comply,

because if I had that chance, I would’ve done what I could to avoid getting it,” she said.

Let’s keep CBR safe and strong. Remember to keep your physical distance, practise good hand hygiene, and get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms.

➔ More at covid19.act.gov.au

COVID-19 vaccine rollout

The first batches of the COVID-19 vaccine are for those at greatest risk of exposure and those most vulnerable to COVID-19.

This includes quarantine and border workers, health care workers in high-risk exposure and transmission areas, and residents and staff of aged care and disability residential care facilities.

The ACT Government is working closely with the Australian Government to make sure everyone in the ACT has access to safe, effective and free COVID-19 vaccines.

➔ Learn more covid19.act.gov.au/vaccine



Streamlining newborn registrations

The ACT Government is taking part in a pilot program to make it easier for parents to register their newborns.

Through the program, parents will only need to provide their child’s details once through a digital system to enrol and register for multiple government services. The first step of the pilot will streamline Medicare enrolment. The full pilot is expected to roll out by mid-2022.

➔ More at act.gov.au/our-canberra/birth-of-child-pilot

BIGGER intensive care unit

The expansion of Canberra Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit will boost the ACT’s critical care capacity from 31 to 39 beds.

➔ More at health.act.gov.au/ICUExpansion

Free bulky waste collections for Canberra

The rollout of the free bulky waste collection service across Canberra has been fast tracked and will be available to all households in July 2021.

You will be able to book a date to get rid of up to two cubic metres of items such as old furniture and household appliances for free each year.

→ More at act.gov.au/bulkywaste



Light rail to Woden another step closer

Extending light rail from the City to Commonwealth Park is now closer after the Federal Government granted environmental approval.

This is an important milestone in progressing Stage 2 of light rail to Woden.

→ Sign up for project updates at yoursay.act.gov.au/light-rail-to-woden

New dragon boating facilities

Planning and design work on a new permanent home for Canberra's dragon boating community will commence this year.

The facility will be built at Grevillea Park, along Lake Burley Griffin, and include a boathouse, storage and spectator area.

→ More at act.gov.au/our-canberra/actbudget



You must use Check In CBR

Protect yourself and your loved ones

Check In CBR app means faster contact tracing



Cleaner, quieter buses for Canberra

The ACT Government's transition to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2040 is well underway. Canberrans can expect to see the first of the 90 electric buses hitting the streets next year.

The 34 remaining orange diesel buses left in the fleet are also being phased out and replaced with new buses in the second part of this year. These buses will be wheelchair and pram accessible.

➔ More at transport.act.gov.au/zero-emissions



More trees for Canberra

More than 6,300 trees were planted across Canberra last year, and thousands will be planted this year.

The ACT Government is continuing to grow the city's urban forest and by 2023-24 you will see a flourish of green across Canberra with 54,000 trees being planted.

Planting locations will focus on areas where there aren't many trees or where existing trees are ageing or dying.

➔ To suggest a planting location, visit yoursay.act.gov.au/trees-act



More teacher librarians for ACT schools

As part of the ACT Budget 2020-21, the ACT Government has committed to providing 10 Master of Teacher Librarianship scholarships each year until 2025.

A qualified teacher librarian supports students by enhancing digital and information literacy, resourcing the curriculum, and helping students become critical, creative and collaborative thinkers.

➔ More at act.gov.au/our-canberra/actbudget



The Working with Vulnerable People Scheme has changed

To provide stronger safeguards for vulnerable people, more changes are being made to the Working with Vulnerable People Scheme including:

- increased ability to restrict people who pose an unacceptable risk to vulnerable people
 - introduction of NDIS worker screening
 - improved information sharing between organisations
 - a nationally consistent approach to protecting vulnerable people.
- ➔ [Learn what is changing at act.gov.au/accesscbr](https://act.gov.au/accesscbr)

Have your say

Influence government decision-making and shape our response to issues like climate action and COVID-19 by becoming a YourSay Panel member.

➔ More at yoursaypanel.act.gov.au