



Environment and Planning Bulletin

October 2025

In this issue

[News and events](#) | [Community engagement](#) | [Development applications](#)



Message from Dave Peffer

Yuma

As we continue shaping a more connected and liveable Canberra, I wanted to share a few important updates that reflect the scale of change ahead - and the work already underway to prepare for it.

Canberra is one of Australia's fastest-growing cities, with a projected growth to reach nearly 700,000 residents by 2050. To meet the challenges of this growth, the ACT Government is planning for up to 148,000 new dwellings over the next 25 years, including 30,000 by 2030. To help shape Canberra's future, the Minister's Statement of Planning Priorities 2025–2028 was released this month. It sets out key actions to boost housing supply, build a vibrant and sustainable city, and ensure high-quality infrastructure and services for both current and future residents.

Essential upgrades to futureproof Commonwealth Avenue Bridge begin in November, with strengthening works and widened shared paths to support a growing city. Each side of the bridge will close for up to 12 months—one at a time—to allow safe delivery of the project. Temporary lanes will be constructed first, followed by major works starting with the western side (northbound). Public transport adjustments are planned for early 2026 to help minimise disruption, with details to be shared soon by Transport Canberra. The project is being delivered by the Australian Government through the National Capital Authority.

Thanks again to everyone who joined this month's meeting. For those who couldn't attend, we discussed the annual Environment and Planning Forum Survey, now live via YourSay. This is an opportunity to help shape how we communicate and collaborate through the Forum, ensuring it continues to reflect your priorities. The survey is open until Friday 12 December and accessible via the provided link—please feel free to share it with relevant colleagues. Your feedback will help us make the Forum even more effective in 2026.

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



Statement of Planning Priorities released

Minister Steel has released a refreshed Statement of Planning Priorities, reinforcing its commitment to enabling 30,000 homes by 2030. The plan outlines nine key priorities focused on increasing housing supply, improving building quality, and enhancing infrastructure and services. It supports diverse housing options, including the Missing Middle Housing Reform, and aims to create vibrant, sustainable communities connected to transport and local hubs.

With a growing population projected to reach 700,000 by 2050, the priorities reflect a strong focus on wellbeing, environmental protection, and thoughtful urban planning for Canberra's future.

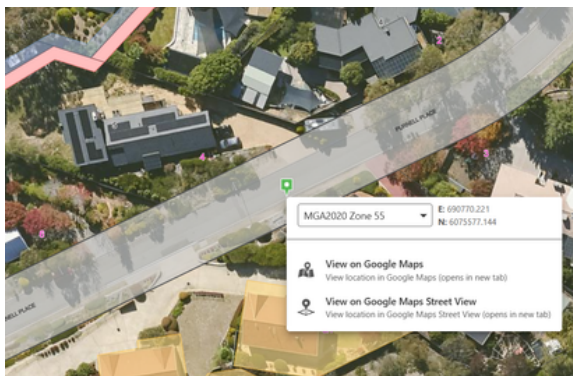
You can read the full Statement of Planning Priorities on the [Planning website](#).

Missing Middle Housing Reform Consultation Report Now Available

The ACT Government has today released the Consultation Report outlining community feedback that was heard during the Missing Middle Housing Reforms engagement and how it has shaped revisions to the proposed Territory Plan changes and the draft Missing Middle Housing Design Guide.

Community feedback has played a vital role in shaping the updated draft reforms. As a result, key refinements have been made to strengthen design standards, protect Canberra's unique character and manage impacts to neighbours, and support greater housing choice across the city.

The full report is now available on both the [Planning website](#) and [YourSay](#), where you can explore how public input has influenced the direction of the reforms



Explore what's new on ACTmapi

ACTmapi, Canberra's aerial imagery and spatial data management tool, is constantly evolving - and some exciting new features have just been added.

Explore with Google Street View

You can now view locations at street level directly within the Development map. Just right-click on a spot and select "View in Google Street View" to get a closer look at your area of interest.

Save and Load Your Projects

ACTmapi now lets you save your map markups and configurations for future use. Simply go to Share > Share Project to save your work, and when you're ready to return, click Share > Load Project to pick up right where you left off.

Check out the new features on [ACTmapi](#).

Applications open for Property Developer Licensing and Regulation Scheme

The ACT Government is now accepting applications for licences under its Property Developer Licensing and Regulation Scheme. This applies to developers working on residential projects with three or more homes.

The scheme expands accountability beyond builders, requiring developers to fix serious defects and uphold construction standards. The goal is to boost public confidence in Canberra's housing quality and ensure developers are competent and responsible. The scheme is supported by the Property Developers Regulation 2025 and a new Code of Practice.

Licensing will be mandatory from 1 October 2026 for developers selling off-the-plan units, lodging development applications, or seeking building approvals. Certain groups, like not-for-profit aged care providers, are exempt when performing specific residential activities.

To learn more or apply, visit the [ACT Planning website](#).



Engagements open for comment

Canberra Aquatic Centre Consultation



Environment and Planning Forum feedback survey



Options to Restore Lake Tuggeranong



Thoroughbred Park Major Plan Amendment



ACT
Government

September development applications



71 Development Applications (DAs) Lodged



30 Development Applications (DAs) Single Residential



4 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