



ACT Greens: Major planning reform package in the Legislative Assembly

The ACT Greens want a Canberra that works for everyone. This means protecting our green space, being climate change ready, and giving the community more say.

I'm sure I don't need to tell you that there are too many unsustainable, poorly-built developments popping up across the ACT.

This reflects fundamental problems in our planning system. It's outdated, tough to navigate, and not delivering the sustainable, climate-ready city that Canberrans expect and deserve.

That's why this Thursday, **the ACT Greens will fight for my major planning reform package in the Legislative Assembly. If supported, it will deliver real and lasting improvement to Canberra's outdated planning system.**

There are three important parts to the Bill: real and urgent action on climate change; better consultation with the community; and better oversight of major planning decisions.

Real and urgent climate action

While the COVID pandemic is what we need to focus on right now, the climate crisis is only getting worse.

The Greens are proud of our world leading climate achievements, powering the ACT by 100% renewable electricity. **But there is so much more we need to do to make Canberra a climate ready, environmentally sustainable city.**

Canberrans want climate action, and they want it now. That's why my Bill will require the ACT Government to:

- Consider, for the first time in ACT history, climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions when Development Applications (DAs) are being assessed in the merit and impact tracks
- Ensure high greenhouse gas-emitting development proponents must undertake an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), giving the community a chance to fight for them to be cleaner and greener, and better for our community.

Better consultation = decisions for, and with, our Canberra community

Too many planning decisions proceed without genuine community consultation. Unfortunately, where consultation does happen, the voices of residents and community groups are too often ignored, leading many of us to wonder why the Government would even consult in the first place.

This is no way to deliver a climate-ready, sustainable city for all of us. That's why our Greens Bill will:

- Introduce ACAT appeal rights for approvals of EIS exemptions, so decisions to bypass proper environmental investigations are able to be rightly independently scrutinised
- Ensure that where developers make major changes to their proposals after public consultation, the public is again consulted before the application is considered
- Extend DA consultation periods over the Christmas/New Year period
- Ensure residents of newer suburbs like Wright, Coombs, Denman Prospect, Lawson and Moncrieff are no longer excluded from pre-DA consultation
- Provide better access to information for residents and environment groups online.

More accountability and transparency = a better planning system

Transparency and accountability are vital in our democracy. That's why our Greens Bill will also:

- Allow the Planning Authority to reject a DA that contains false or misleading information
- Ensure large retail developments are more closely scrutinised – for example, projects expected at Mawson, Kippax and Cooleman Court over coming years would be scrutinised by the Design Review Panel
- Ensure that the Legislative Assembly has greater oversight and scrutiny of controversial decisions like call-ins, deconcessionalisations and interim effect of Territory Plan Variations

SHARE TO CARE

With just days left before the other parties vote one way or another - on real and urgent climate action, to listen to community voices, and for a stronger democracy, we need your help.

Please help us to get the word out that this vote is getting underway - by sharing this news on social media, discussing this with your networks and the community, and by letting the other parties know that **issues like this matter to you.**

Thank you to all those that have engaged with us on this all-important community issue to date.

During these uncertain times, you can rest assured that your Greens will always fight for the issues that matter most.