SUMMARY

DRAFT INNER NORTH & CITY DISTRICT PLANNING STRATEGY

The Strategy is a vision of how we live, work, play and care for community in the Inner North and City.



It sets the direction and intended future planning outcomes for the district, across the suburbs of Inner North and City District includes the City Centre and suburbs of Watson, Hackett, Downer, Lyneham, Dickson, O'Connor, Ainslie, Turner, Braddon, Acton, Reid, and Campbell.

What residents value about the Inner North and City District

The Inner North and City District is the heart of Canberra. Thorough previous consultations the community has told us about the things they value the most about living in the Inner North and City:

- the central location
- close to key destinations including the city centre, Australian National University, Commonwealth Park, National Museum, Lake Burley Griffin, Telstra Tower
- Dickson Pool, Haig Park, and Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC)
- heritage housing precincts and places of Aboriginal significance
- open green space with parklands, wetlands, creeks and the 'garden city' concept
- the wetlands
- convenient connections created by quality foot and cycle paths, particularly along Sullivans Creek and the Acton waterfront
- proximity and accessibility to light rail
- well-planned layout of the district with heritage features, iconic sight lines and a sense of history
- the bustling pedestrian, cycling and street life
- great local shops
- spaces that are tailored and cater for different groups including wheelchair and pram accessibility, inclusive play equipment, integration of diverse multicultural groups, indigenous education, and connection through places.



Future directions

Each district strategy is informed by five drivers.
The drivers align with a set of future directions that tell us the focus of the strategy. For the Inner North and City these are:



5 big drivers	Directions for Inner North and City
Blue-green network	• Protect, enhance, and restore habitat values in key blue-green corridors including re-naturalisation of Sullivans Creek and its tributary waterways, connections to Banksia Street and Dickson Wetlands and linkages between reserves, urban open space, and Garden City precincts. • Make sure future redevelopment contributes towards living infrastructure aims in built up areas including the City Centre.
Economic access and opportunity across the city	• Protect floorspace and development opportunities for future economic activities and employment to make sure the City Centre maintains its pre-eminent economic role. • Develop innovation precincts around economic assets in the City Centre (ANU/CSIRO and UNSW), Watson (ACU and AIE) and Campbell (ADFA).
Strategic movement to support city growth	• Develop the City Centre as a multimodal transport hub including accommodating future light rail corridors, bus interchange functions and improved active travel infrastructure. • Plan in long term for future faster or high-speed rail connection to the City Centre and reflect the future entertainment plan as relevant to the City Centre.
Sustainable neighbourhoods	• Revise City Plan to guide high quality future development of the City Centre and reflect the future entertainment plan as relevant to the City Centre. • Develop economic and mixed-use hubs at and nearby light rail stops along the Northbourne Avenue corridor based on sustainable urban development principles.
Inclusive centres and communities	• Pursue innovative models for future community and recreational facilities to support expected population growth, given constrained land supply.

Initiatives

A range of **initiatives** will deliver on the directions. Some are already planned or underway, and some are planned in the short term (5 years), medium term (10 years), long term (20 years) and longer term (more than 20 years).

The last page of this document has a full list of the initiatives for the Inner North, with further detail available in the Draft Inner North and City District Strategy.

Have your say on the **Draft Inner North & City District Strategy**

The Inner North and City Strategy is in **draft** form. We are seeking community feedback to find out what you think about it. We are seeking your views on **key development sites and change areas** and proposed **initiatives**, including what you think is most important, and what you think we should explore further.

You can find out more, read the Draft Inner North and City District Strategy and have your say through a series of in-person and online activities by visiting **https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/act-planning-review**

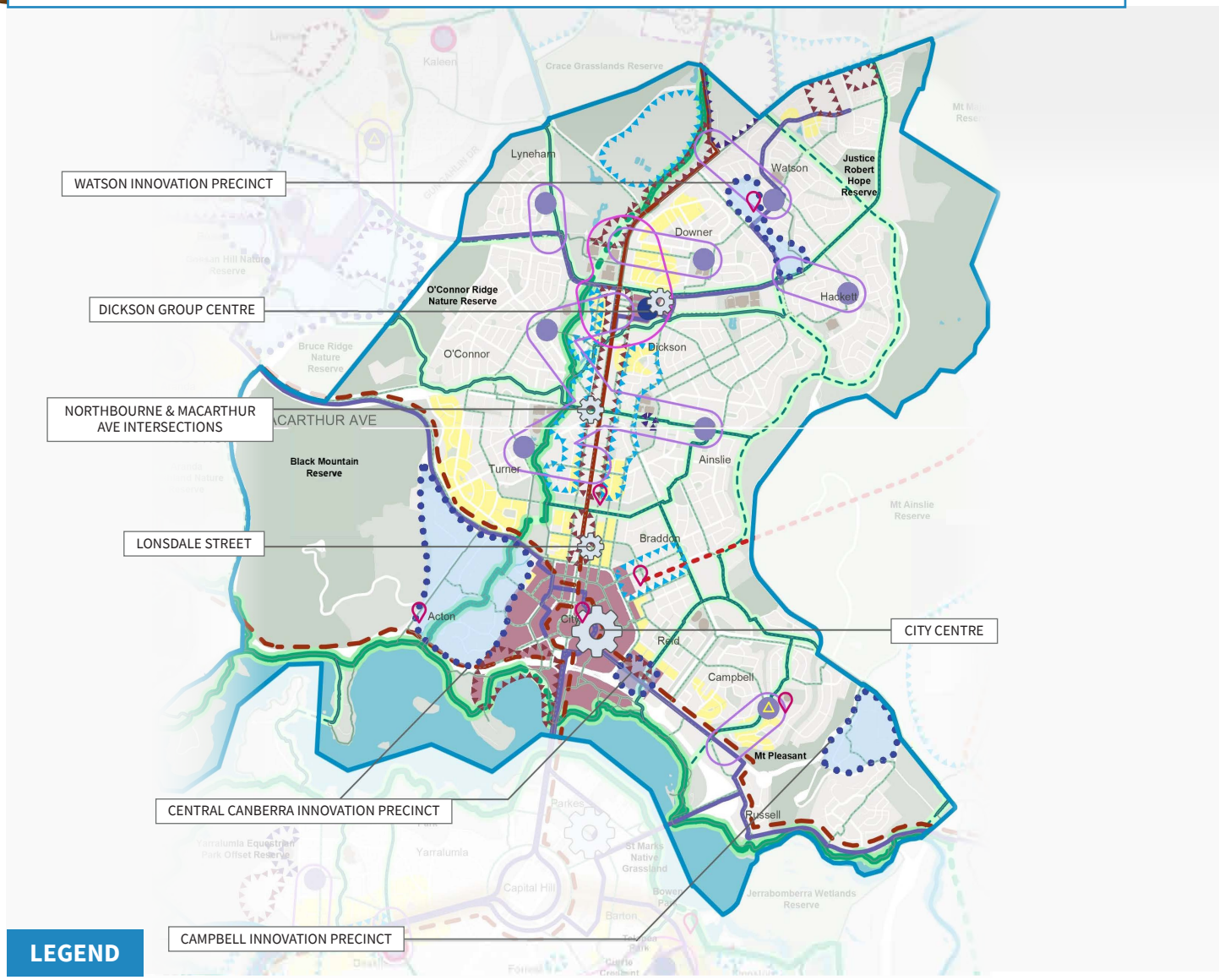


Change areas

Each district strategy includes **proposed, possible,** and **potential** key development sites and change area/s, which are included on the map below. For the Inner North and City, this includes:

① Thoroughbred Park

Draft Inner North & City District Strategy Plan



LEGEND

Sustainable Neighbourhoods

- Future Investigation Areas
- Rapid Stop to Local Centre 200m Connections
- Rapid Stop to Group Centre 400m Connections

Key Sites and Change Areas

- Proposed
- Possible
- Potential

Inclusive Centres and Communities

- New Community and Recreation Facilities
- Possible Centre Revitalisation Opportunity
- Shopping Centre Improvement Program Underway

Strategic Movement

- Current Light Rail Corridor
- Proposed Light Rail Corridor
- Current Rapid Bus Corridor
- Proposed Rapid Bus Corridor
- Current Active Travel Community Network
- Proposed Active Travel Community Network
- Bicentennial National Trail
- Strategic Investigation Corridor

High Speed Rail Alignment

- Proposed
- Alternate

Blue-Green Network

- Open Space
- Nature Reserve
- Water Bodies
- Sportsfields

Existing Connections
- Primary
- Secondary

Possible Future Connections
- Primary
- Secondary

Economic Access and Opportunity

- Economic and Employment Focus
- City/ Town/Group/Local Centre
- Service Trades/Industrial
- Local Centre
- Group Centre
- Innovation Precinct

Note: This is a common legend for all similar district plans and not all items listed will appear on this drawing

Waterways and green space network (blue-green network)

- Protect and restore riparian and aquatic corridors across the district, including re-naturalisation of Sullivans Creek and its tributary waterways to enhance linkages with Banksia Street Wetlands, Dickson Wetlands and Lake Burley Griffin.
- Enhance and restore habitat value to existing open space throughout the suburbs to facilitate connectivity for fauna and flora (including threatened species) between nature reserves in the west, north and east, including:
  - from Mount Ainslie, through Haig Park, across to Sullivans Creek through O'Connor and the Banksia Street Wetland, continuing up to Lyneham Ridge
  - from Lyneham Ridge along Banksia Street Wetland and Sullivans Creek through to Mount Majura Nature Reserve
  - the active travel corridor and Sullivans Creek past Daramalan College, Dumaresq Street and Phillip Avenue through to Mount Majura Nature Reserve
  - Mount Majura Nature Reserve through to Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve
  - Bruce Ridge to Lyneham Ridge across to Crace Grasslands Nature Reserve
  - Bruce Ridge to the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin and across to Anzac Parade, Mount Ainslie and across to Mount Pleasant Nature Reserve.
- Investigate expansion of Mount Majura Nature Reserve to include Hackett Horse Paddock.
- Implement enhanced water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and ecologically sensitive urban design (ESUD), green space and tree canopy cover as part of all future development proposals in the district to contribute to achieving living infrastructure targets, reducing urban heat and improving environmental outcomes in built up areas.
- Utilise and enhance the green network to provide greater amenity and connectivity as outlined in the map, including links around Lake Burley Griffin and linking to northern suburbs via the periphery of Mount Ainslie.

Economic access and opportunity across the city

- Undertake ACT-wide analysis of capacity and demand for employment floorspace to inform planning for key centres including the City Centre and Dickson group centre, including capacity to meet strategic employment outcomes.
- Review planning and other regulatory controls in the City Centre to preserve sites for commercial uses and restrict residential development where appropriate, informed by ACT-wide analysis of need for employment floorspace and planning for the future city entertainment precinct.
- Deliver economic initiatives for the City Centre in line with revised City Plan, including a future economic study.
- Investigate potential for and develop innovation precincts based around three key areas within the Inner North and City: ANU/CSIRO and future UNSW campus (Acton, the City Centre and Reid), ACU and AIE in Watson, and defence focus in Campbell and Russell.
- Continue planning for future redevelopment of EPIC site to enhance capacity as Canberra's primary venue for large events.

Strategic Movement to support city growth

- Deliver the light rail corridor from Alinga Street to Commonwealth Park.
- Continue investigations and planning for future light rail corridors, including potential link between Belconnen and Canberra Airport which will travel through the City Centre.
- Undertake detailed planning for the City Centre and its future as a multimodal transport hub, including:
  - integration of future light rail routes and implications for orientation and location of the City Centre bus interchange
  - establishing a clear hierarchy of movement and prioritisation of transport users
  - identifying ideal future locations for bus layovers to avoid conflict with other uses.
- Investigate options for increasing capacity of public transport network in the Northbourne Avenue corridor and across the district to relieve demand pressures in advance of future population growth.
- Expand the micro-mobility network to remaining areas in the north of the district and deliver other initiatives to facilitate an enhanced multimodal network in line with the implementation of the ACT Transport Strategy.
- Implement upgrades to priority active travel routes identified in the implementation of the ACT Transport Strategy, including the Garden City Cycle Route, and other upgrades to improve walkability and connectivity of the City Centre.

Sustainable neighbourhoods

- Further detailed analysis and modelling to identify future housing needs not able to be met by change areas across Inner North and City District.
- Detailed analysis and planning for Inner North and City future investigation areas to accommodate future housing and facilitate desired urban character based on suitability and transect analysis and opportunities in identified 200m/400m stop-to-centre connection areas.
- Continue planning for selected key sites according to ideas and principles outlined in the Draft District Strategy.
- Planning and development outcomes in the City Centre to be delivered based on principles and initiatives outlined in the revised City Plan.
- Implement the future entertainment plan as relevant to the City Centre including changes to planning controls for new development to mitigate noise and other impacts as appropriate in mixed-use areas.
- Development precincts achieve improved tree canopy cover, permeability and urban heat outcomes when compared to similar previous precincts.
- All development precincts to provide the infrastructure needed to deliver the zero carbon transition, with additional precinct-based initiatives to also be encouraged.
- Implement planning and design provisions that encourage the supply of affordable, diverse and sustainable housing.

Inclusive centres and communities

- Identify possible local centres for investigation of appropriate planning and non-planning initiatives to support their ongoing viability and role as a community meeting place.
- Undertake detailed localised analysis to inform and confirm the need for new community and recreational facilities in Inner North and City District. This includes collaboration across government directorates and with community.
- Make sure sufficient land (or floorspace capacity) is identified and preserved for social and community uses alongside residential growth to accompany areas of change in further detailed planning for the Inner North and City district including through appropriate Territory Plan policies.
- Investigate innovation in land assembly and delivery of community and recreational facilities in the Inner North and City where availability of land for new facilities is constrained.
- Deliver planned new community facilities including new Emergency Services Agency station in Acton, upgrades to Campbell Primary school, play space in Watson, Haig Park Community Centre, and new and upgraded arts facilities.
- Deliver initiatives for community facilities in line with the updated City Plan.