



Communication Link

# Inner North District Planning Workshop

ACT Planning Review and Reform Project

5 July 2021



# Introduction

The ACT Government is currently reviewing the ACT planning system. The ACT Planning Review and Reform Project is considering the introduction of district level planning to provide more planning guidance at a district level and allow for the distinctive character of each district to be reflected in the planning system.

The ACT Government has identified eight urban districts and a district planning workshop is being conducted in each of these districts.

Communication Link has been engaged by the ACT Government to facilitate these workshops and report to the Government on what was heard. This report summarises the key feedback gathered from the Inner North community.

The Inner North District Planning Workshop was held on 24 June and was attended by 31 people. The workshop was also offered online with participation conducted through Zoom and an interactive collaboration platform called Mural. Six people attended online.

Of the attendees that completed the demographic survey, there was a reasonably even age spread between the ages of 25 to 74. The most common age bracket represented was 35–44 years old. Nine Inner North suburbs were represented at the workshop, including Ainslie, Braddon, Campbell, Canberra City, Dickson, Downer, Hackett, Lyneham, O'Connor, Reid, Turner and Watson.

## What we heard

The District Planning workshop gathered community feedback related to each of the themes identified in the ACT Planning Strategy 2018.

The most common areas of feedback provided by the community of Inner North are identified against these themes in the following sections.

### Liveable

The following questions were asked about liveability:

- What suggestions do you have for how the type of housing and where it is located could be different in your District in the future?
- Are there changes needed to recreational areas, outdoor public spaces and/or community facilities to cater for future needs of people in your District? Where should this occur?
- What community facilities (including schools) are needed to cater for the future needs of the people in your District? Where could they be located?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 1.



**Table 1.** Community suggestions on future planning for a liveable district

 <p><b>Housing density</b></p> <p>Create a mix of housing densities with a focus, however, on medium to low density housing.</p>	 <p><b>Schools</b></p> <p>Maintain and/or reinstate Inner North schools. Some schools are at capacity.</p>	 <p><b>Garden City</b></p> <p>Promote the Inner North as an example of a garden city. Build homes with gardens and ensure people have access to community green/open spaces and gardens</p>
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## Diverse

The following questions were asked about being diverse:

- How might future changes impact the commercial or retail areas within your District? What changes might impact on the town centre, group centres and local centres?
- Are there places that are considered significant to the community in your District that should be considered differently in the future? Where are they located?
- What characteristics and features are unique to your District that should be considered when planning the future?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Community suggestions on future planning for a diverse district

 <p><b>Green/public spaces</b></p> <p>Maintain existing green spaces and places for the public.</p>	 <p><b>Protect Inner North uniqueness</b></p> <p>Preserve what is unique to the Inner North, including heritage areas and items; trees and green areas; community; diverse architecture; and local shopping areas.</p>
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## Accessible

The following questions were asked about accessibility:

- What areas in your District should be considered to improve peoples' ability to walk and cycle?
- What are the long-term travel needs for public transport and cars for your District?
- Are there road connections to other ACT districts or regional NSW that should be considered in your District?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 3.



**Table 3.** Community suggestions on future planning for an accessible district

 <p><b>Cycleways</b></p> <p>Improve existing paths and cycle infrastructure by creating more cycleways with links between Yowani Golf Course and EPIC; making end-of-trip facilities more available; and creating additional and wider off-road cycle ways.</p>	 <p><b>Walking</b></p> <p>Improve pedestrian infrastructure with dedicated walking paths, more mid-block crossings, repairing existing paving and improving lighting.</p>	 <p><b>Public transport</b></p> <p>Make public transport accessible by making it cheaper, more frequent and improved facilities at stops and interchanges.</p>
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## Compact and efficient

The following questions were asked about a compact and efficient city:

- When considering the additional residents that will live in your District in the future, what aspects of your District need to be considered to make sure it is a pleasant place to live?
- What areas should be priorities for open spaces and public places in your District?
- What views from outdoor public places are special in your District and should be considered in future planning?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Community suggestions on future planning for a compact and efficient district

 <p><b>Green space</b></p> <p>Maintain smaller green spaces. Maintain the open spaces in Reid, Hackett and Watson and the green space on Anthill Street.</p>	 <p><b>Create more transport links</b></p> <p>Create more public transport and active travel links and reduce barriers.</p>	 <p><b>Sullivans Creek</b></p> <p>Enhance and naturalise Sullivans Creek.</p>
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## Sustainable and resilient

The following questions were asked about sustainability and resilience:

- Consider the following areas in your District and describe what elements should be prioritised as these areas change in the future:
  - Investigation areas for potential future suburbs.
  - Government land identified for sale and private development.
  - Urban intensification areas within existing suburbs.
  - Major sites in important areas identified for development by the government.

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 5.



**Table 5.** Community suggestions on future planning for a sustainable and resilient district

 <p><b>Maintain/enhance open and green spaces</b> Maintain green spaces and incorporate them into future residential developments</p>	 <p><b>Efficient Housing design and size</b> Design and build efficient homes for the Inner North, make them smaller and increase greenery in and around them.</p>	 <p><b>Bicycle infrastructure</b> Extend and enhance cycleways and cycle infrastructure.</p>
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## Next steps

The Inner North district planning workshop is one of eight workshops that were held across Canberra during June 2020.

This report has been drafted based on a preliminary analysis of the data gathered from participants. An overarching consultation report will be prepared at the conclusion of all district planning workshops. Reporting back to the community on what was heard in the district planning workshops and how that input is informing proposed policy changes will occur later in 2021.

**Figure 1.** Community members from Inner North during the District Planning Workshop.

