

Southern Gateway

Snapshot

Draft Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework



ACT
Government

What is the draft Framework

Canberra is growing and changing and the Southern Gateway corridor, extending from Parliament House to Farrer, will play a key role in shaping the city's future.

With the ACT's population expected to grow to 700,000 by 2050, the ACT Government's priority is planning for more housing and the sustainable growth of Canberra.

In the northern and southern gateways to the city, a planning approach called transit oriented development (TOD) is being adopted to enable more housing close rapid bus and light rail stops.

The Draft Framework is a proposed integrated land-use and transport plan for the Inner South and Woden Valley.

The Framework sets a long-term vision for how this corridor will grow and change to 2050 and beyond:

The Southern Gateway to the National Capital will provide more housing in walkable neighbourhoods supported by commercial activity in vibrant urban villages, close to rapid public transport connections, high-quality landscapes, and community and recreational facilities.

The Framework aims to realise the original Griffin vision for the built form of main avenues with residential intensification and commercial activity supported by public transport. The transport spine is proposed to become multimodal, supporting safe and efficient

movement of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users as a priority.

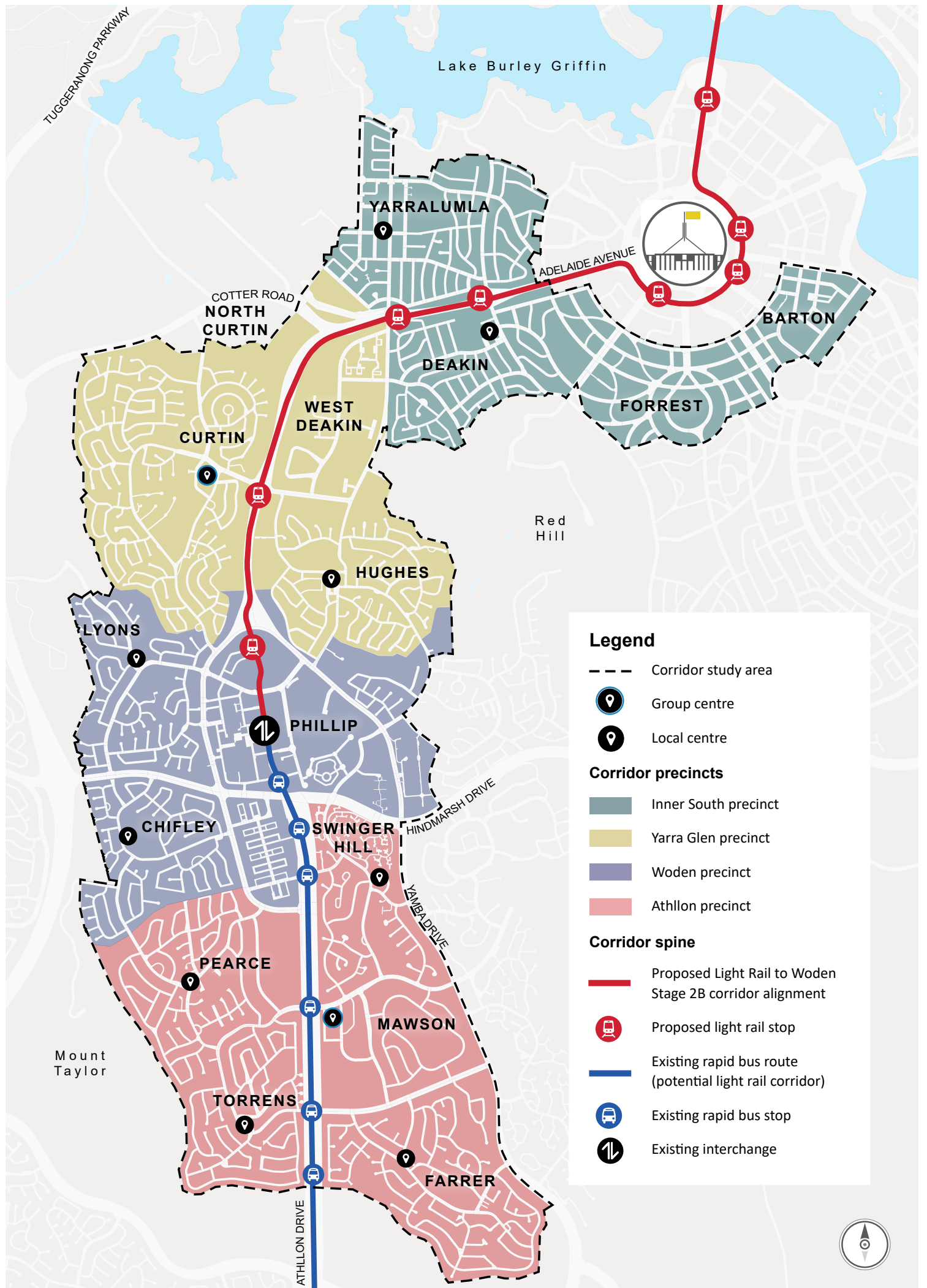
Behind the green edges, new mid-rise, human-scale housing is proposed in areas within walking distance of rapid transport stops, retail and employment centres. Renewal in these areas is proposed to be complemented by high-quality public spaces, more people-friendly streets, improved walking and cycling connections, and social and sporting infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing community.

The Framework divides the corridor into four distinct precincts, which each have a unique character and identity. These precincts include:

- > **Inner South precinct** – includes parts of Yarralumla, Deakin, Barton and Forrest.
- > **Yarra Glen precinct** – includes west Deakin, Curtin, Hughes and the future north Curtin residential area.
- > **Woden precinct** – includes Lyons, Chifley and parts of Garran, including Canberra Hospital, as well as the future north Woden development area, the Woden town centre and the Phillip service trades area.
- > **Athllon precinct** – includes Swinger Hill, Pearce, Torrens, Mawson and Farrer.

The study area for the Southern Gateway corridor, including the four precincts, is shown in the map on the following page.





The Framework is built around 8 key principles. The principles describe the key ideas that will help bring the vision to life. They focus on improving transport, protecting and enhancing green spaces, and providing more housing choice and guiding future decisions across the corridor.



The 8 key principles are:



Support delivery of more housing close to transport, centres, jobs, services and facilities.



Create walkable urban villages with easy access to daily needs.



Promote human-scale neighbourhoods through gentle densification.



Reimagine Adelaide Avenue, Yarra Glen, Callam Street and Athllon Drive as a landscape-led, multimodal corridor spine, complementing the function of streets as places for civic life and activity.



Strengthen active travel connections between housing, rapid transport stops, centres, jobs, services and facilities.



Realise the corridor's heritage vision.



Ensure access to social infrastructure including community and recreational spaces.



Protect and enhance nature in the corridor.

Planning and design moves

The following moves set out potential changes in the Southern Gateway corridor which support the corridor vision and principles. Each move is discussed in more detail later in this Framework. The numbering of the moves does not indicate priority or sequencing.

Corridor moves

1	Enable more housing close to shops and rapid transport stops.
2	Protect and enhance employment areas.
3	Integrate transport networks, balancing different user needs.
4	Transform the corridor spine to make it multimodal, safer and greener.
5	Enhance landscapes and places including the blue-green network.
6	Support access to social infrastructure for growing communities.

Inner South precinct

Place moves

1	Plan for an urban village in Deakin.
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Yarra Glen precinct

Precinct moves

1	Support delivery of the North Curtin Residential Area.
2	Investigate the feasibility of a new intersection at Cotter Road and Yarra Glen Drive to improve traffic movement ('Mint Interchange').
3	Plan for future bus and light rail stops near the North Curtin Residential Area.
4	Investigate interchange opportunities between buses and light rail.
5	Protect and expand the Deakin District Playing Fields.

Place moves

6	Plan for an urban village in west Deakin.
7	Plan for an urban village in Curtin.

Woden precinct

Precinct moves

1	Create a new gateway at north Woden.
2	Renew public spaces in the Woden town centre.
3	Explore opportunities for placemaking and social infrastructure in the Woden town centre.
4	Investigate opportunities for new green space near Woden's commercial core.
5	Protect and enhance the Phillip service trades area.
6	Strengthen connections between the town centre and Canberra Hospital.

Athllon precinct

Precinct moves

1	Enable mid-rise housing along the Athllon Drive edges.
2	Protect and enhance the Mawson District Playing Fields.

Place moves

3	Plan for an urban village in Mawson.
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Why your input matters

It's important to keep in mind, this is a draft document. Community feedback will help to shape the final Framework and future planning decisions. This is your opportunity to influence the future of the places you live, work and move through every day.

As Canberra grows, decisions made now will help shape:

- > the overall vision for the corridor
- > how more housing is delivered
- > the design of sustainable neighbourhoods
- > improvements to active and public transport connections
- > the design of parks, streets and public spaces
- > what should be protected, improved or changed
- > what community facilities and infrastructure is delivered
- > future planning and investment decisions.

The Framework sets a long-term direction for the corridor up until 2050 and beyond but it does not lock in outcomes. Community feedback is essential to ensure future planning reflects what matters most to local people.



What we'd like to hear from you

1 The overall vision and connection to the corridor

The overall vision for the Framework is:

“The Southern Gateway to the National Capital will provide more housing in walkable neighbourhoods supported by commercial activity in vibrant urban villages, close to rapid public transport connections, high-quality landscapes, and community and recreational facilities.”

Do you think the vision for the Framework strikes the right balance between:

- > More housing (including affordable options)
- > Better transport (including proposed light rail, buses, walking and cycling)
- > Jobs and local businesses
- > Liveability, green space and community wellbeing

The Framework aims to bring these together through a transit-oriented development approach, focusing growth around public transport and close to shops.

2 Places, spaces and local character

Every neighbourhood along the corridor has its own identity.

We want to understand:

- > What you value most about your local area
- > What gives your area its unique character
- > How new development can respect and enhance the qualities you value most while delivering more homes for the community

The Framework seeks to protect and enhance Canberra's landscapes, heritage and identity while allowing for change.

3 Community facilities

As the population grows, so does the need for spaces and services that support daily life. Tell us:

- > What community facilities you currently use and value
- > What is working well

- > Where there are gaps or unmet needs

This could include:

- > Parks and playgrounds
- > Sports and recreation facilities
- > Community centres and spaces like libraries, arts centres and community halls

Planning future facilities will be guided by both data and community feedback about local needs.

4 Streets, green space and active travel

The Framework aims to create safer, greener and more people-friendly streets that support walking, cycling and public transport.

We'd like your ideas on:

- > How to improve accessibility and connections
- > Where safety could be improved for walking and cycling
- > Opportunities to enhance parks, trees and open space
- > How to make streets more comfortable, attractive and usable

This includes transforming major roads into multimodal corridors that better balance different transport needs.

5 Jobs and employment areas

The corridor includes major employment hubs such as the Phillip Service Trades Area.

We want to understand your views on:

- > The future of key employment precincts
- > How these areas can support more jobs and local services
- > Ways to improve connections to transport and surrounding communities
- > How employment areas can evolve into more vibrant, accessible places

The Framework proposes strengthening these areas while supporting new mixed-use centres and local businesses.

Have your say

This is your opportunity to help shape how the Southern Gateway grows and changes.

Your feedback will:

- > Inform the final version of the Framework
- > Guide future planning controls and investment
- > Influence how neighbourhoods evolve over time

Whether you have detailed ideas or just a few key priorities, every piece of feedback will help build a clearer picture of what the community wants for the Southern Gateway.

There are many ways you can get involved and share your views on the Framework:

- > **Complete the online survey**, add a quick comment or provide a written submission.
- > **Listen in to an online information session.**
- > **Attend a pop-up event** in key locations along the corridor.

Visit the ACT Government YourSay conversations website to learn more and share your views yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/southerngatewaycorridor.

Together, we can help shape a corridor that reflects community values, supports growth and keeps Canberra as a great place to live.

Next steps

Once the final Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework is released, it will guide how the area grows and changes over time.

This won't be the last chance for community input. There will be more opportunities to have your say as planning progresses in the corridor as part of future related projects.

Future changes to the Territory Plan

The Framework is a non-statutory document, meaning that while it does not determine outcomes, it will provide direction for future changes to the planning controls along the corridor. To put this Framework into action, changes through the planning system will be needed to update the Territory Plan, and in some instances, the National Capital Plan. The ACT Government and National Capital Authority will work together on these changes.

Updates to the Territory Plan (the planning “rulebook”) are made through Major Plan Amendments. These amendments can enable changes such as new housing, shops, offices, community facilities and changes to building heights.

Key things to know:

- Amendments will happen in stages, focusing on different parts of the corridor over time
- Each stage will look at specific precincts, starting with areas identified as priorities for change

In simple terms, major plan amendments are how planning rules are updated when bigger changes are needed and the community plays an important role in shaping them.

These changes won't happen all at once. They will be rolled out gradually, and each stage will include consultation and opportunities for community feedback before decisions are made.

You can learn more about the Territory Plan and Major Plan Amendments by visiting the ACT Planning website: [The Territory Plan - City and Environment Directorate - Planning](#)

While this Framework will not determine future development outcomes, it will help guide future Major Plan Amendments and also inform the review of [District Strategies](#), which occurs every five years.



