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**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY**

**Climate Change Strategy—Consideration for the next Strategy - Assembly Resolution of  
17 March 2026 – Government Response**

**Presented by  
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On 17 March 2026, the Legislative Assembly passed a Resolution regarding the development of the new Climate Change Strategy.

The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026-2036 Framework and Action Plan 1 were released on 23 July 2026.

The Strategy outlines our vision for Canberra to be a climate-resilient, net-zero emissions city by 2045, with a long-term ambition to become climate positive.

This means that our nation-leading commitment of net zero will no longer be our end point. Rather, as we continue to build climate resilience beyond 2045 and move towards climate repair, net zero will be one step on the path to a climate-positive Canberra.

The Strategy includes an Overarching Framework with three goals: net zero emissions, restoring and supporting nature, and ensuring our city is prepared for the changing climate.

This acknowledges that climate mitigation and adaptation, including protecting nature, must be pursued together: effective mitigation will mean we play our part in reducing global emissions, while adaptation helps manage the impacts that are already underway to protect our community and the environment.

We're also committed to delivering all climate action according to two core principles: equity and resilience. We've done this to ensure that climate action is effective, coordinated and fair.

The Overarching Framework also sets out a series of visions and priorities across eight pillars that will focus our climate action efforts over the next decade.

The Strategy is also supported by the release of Action Plan 1, the first short-term climate action plan, which sets out key steps that government will take over the next few years to act on priority areas and set the ACT up for success over the long term.

The move to an overarching framework and shorter-term action plans is a deliberate decision to ensure we are able to be agile and adapt to new challenges and opportunities as they present themselves. The overarching framework keeps our efforts grounded and aligned, while the action plans allow us to consistently add to our actions. Further action plans will be added over the coming decade to drive implementation of the Strategy and build on our efforts to date.

Community consultation was undertaken on the Strategy in late 2025 and early 2026. Through the community engagement, Canberrans expressed strong support for ambitious climate action while highlighting the need for practical, fair and locally relevant solutions.

Canberrans want the ACT Government to continue reducing emissions, strengthen climate resilience, support communities through the transition, invest in climate-ready homes and infrastructure, improve sustainable transport options, protect the natural environment, and create opportunities for jobs, innovation and community wellbeing.

Community feedback shaped the final Strategy by strengthening the government's focus on ambitious, practical climate action with clear targets, balanced focus on mitigation and adaptation, centring equity in all climate action and stronger government leadership and accountability.

The input on priorities and direction heard from the Canberra community has been considered and incorporated into the Strategy's pillars, vision statements, principles and policy direction.

In direct response to the Assembly Motion of March 2026, I offer the following.

***Resolution 4 (a) - Calls on the Government to consider the following areas of policy and action in the development of the next Climate Change Strategy: ground transport emissions reduction, including clear actions to drive the phase-out of internal combustion engine vehicles, the large-scale rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and action to support the shift for Canberrans to move to lower-emissions modes of transport***

The Strategy explicitly recognises transport as a core pillar for focused government attention for the next decade.

Transport is the largest source of emissions in the ACT, accounting for 61% of emissions in 2024-25, with most emissions coming from private vehicles.

The Strategy recognises that achieving emissions reduction targets will require both widespread transport electrification and a continued shift to public and active transport.

To deliver on this, the Strategy sets an aspirational vision for transport in 2036 for Canberrans to have multiple low-carbon transport options for moving around our city, including safe, accessible and convenient public and active transport, as well as zero-emissions vehicles.

The Strategy reaffirms the government's commitment to zero-emission vehicle uptake. We've set ambitious targets for 80-90% of new passenger vehicle registrations to be zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs) by 2030, and 100% of new passenger vehicles from 2035. The Strategy also identifies targets for 30% of new truck and bus sales to be zero-emissions by 2030 and 100% by 2040. Ongoing work to deliver charging infrastructure and continued government incentives will support this transition.

We've also committed to supporting sustainable transport options such as active and public transport. The focus of the Strategy is to build on our existing commitments on delivering a 100% electric public transport network by improving access to alternative walking and cycling options.

Action Plan 1 under the Climate Change Strategy will help us understand how and why people travel in the ACT, what options there are to reduce private vehicle dependency and how we can reprioritise future infrastructure away from roads towards public and active transport. Improving how we collect travel data will also help us develop targeted policies, track progress, and evaluate mode shift initiatives.

We're also supporting Canberrans to shift to sustainable forms of transport through the recently announced changes to the Sustainable Household Scheme. Canberrans can now access low-interest loans of up to \$20,000, increased from \$15,000, which can be used for zero-emissions vehicles, and will be available for electric cargo bikes from September.

The new Strategy also establishes a strong commitment to integrating land use and transport planning to enable more Canberrans to move to lower-emissions modes of transport, and this will be further supported by the forthcoming Planning and Transport Strategy.

We're also continuing to demonstrate government leadership on our own government transport emissions. We've made new commitments that will ensure new government vehicles, including light, medium and heavy duty vehicles, transition to ZEVs.

***Resolution 4 (b) - Calls on the Government to consider the following areas of policy and action in the development of the next Climate Change Strategy: further initiatives to progress the phase-out of fossil fuel gas, providing assurance and certainty to households and businesses***

The ACT has made major achievements in decarbonising our energy sector. The ACT's 100% renewable electricity supply has driven major emissions reductions, and the next step is phasing out fossil fuel gas (which was around 18% of emissions in 2024-25) by supporting a transition to efficient electric technologies.

While the Integrated Energy Plan remains our cornerstone energy transition policy, the new Climate Change Strategy reiterates our commitment to phasing out fossil fuel gas by 2045, providing additional certainty to households and businesses.

The Strategy outlines a vision for the ACT to continue to be at the forefront of electrification, with a focus on a just transition supporting those who need it most. Gas consumption is already declining as households and businesses adopt electric appliances, supported by ACT Government incentives, advice and resources.

The Strategy signals that parts of the gas network will begin to be decommissioned in some areas from the mid-2030s as we transition from incremental reductions towards system phase-out. This coordinated, managed approach to phasing out gas, ensuring system resilience and integrating distributed energy, storage and demand management, will primarily be guided by future iterations of the Integrated Energy Plan.

Action Plan 1 also supports this energy system transition, such as through exploring battery options, and supports community access to electrification so that all Canberrans can share in the benefits across their homes, businesses and transport.

***Resolution 4 (c) - Calls on the Government to consider the following areas of policy and action in the development of the next Climate Change Strategy: investment in climate adaptation and disaster readiness, ensuring Canberra's infrastructure, emergency response, ecosystems and communities are resilient to worsening climate impacts***

Climate resilience is embedded throughout the Strategy rather than being confined to a single pillar or section. It is one of the Strategy's core principles and will guide climate-related decision-making across government, helping to strengthen our communities, services, operations, infrastructure and natural environment so they can withstand, respond to and recover from climate shocks and stresses.

Action Plan 1 sets out immediate actions to strengthen resilience across the different pillars identified in the Strategy over the next several years. Funding for these actions has been provided through the 2026-27 Budget.

The ACT Government will strengthen the resilience of its infrastructure by embedding climate risk considerations into our infrastructure design and delivery processes. This includes introducing climate financial risk disclosures to improve the identification, assessment and management of climate-related risks. These measures will be supported by the continued integration of climate considerations into planning processes to improve resilience to flash flooding and reduce urban heat.

To support community resilience, we will support community service organisations to prepare for climate impacts and deliver grants that enable local groups to deliver community-led initiatives that reduce emissions, strengthen resilience and empower communities.

Ecosystem resilience is another major focus. One of the Strategy's three overarching goals is to "restore and support nature", recognising that our natural environment and waterways help Canberra withstand heatwaves, bushfires and flooding. Funding has been allocated to embed climate resilience across conservation programs and land management practice.

While disaster readiness is recognised as an important aspect of climate adaptation and resilience, the ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy 2024-2030 continues to be the key strategic framework for building resilience to disasters in the ACT.

***Resolution 4 (d) - Calls on the Government to consider the following areas of policy and action in the development of the next Climate Change Strategy: the monitoring, reporting and reduction of Scope 3 emissions and industrial processes and product use emissions for Canberrans***

The new Strategy clearly addresses Scope 3 and industrial processes and product use – or refrigerant – emissions.

Reducing emissions in these areas can be challenging, requiring collaboration across industry, the community and across borders.

We know that Scope 3 emissions represent a significant proportion of the ACT Government's overall emissions footprint. A new target has been adopted for ACT Government scope 3 emissions to be on a declining trajectory. We will start to measure and report on ACT Government scope 3 emissions. This will enable us to identify and manage these emissions through the supply chain. For example:

- we will continue the Low Carbon Concrete Policy;
- we will leverage government procurement and introduce zero-emissions vehicle expectations for government contracts with large transport components
- and we will implement carbon management practices on major government infrastructure projects to reduce embodied emissions.

We have also committed to start measuring and reporting territory-wide consumption emissions (or scope 3 emissions). This is the first step in monitoring the emissions associated with the goods and services consumed in the Territory. This will be an important starting point and will help us to consider responsible consumption; circular economy approaches to waste and lower emissions across supply chains.

Refrigerant emissions are already measured and reported on in the annual ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory. For the first time, we are addressing these emissions and will begin by developing guidelines to

reduce refrigerant emissions in government programs. This will ensure that we can lay the groundwork for managing residual emissions.

We've also committed to measuring and valuing emissions impacts in major projects to encourage government decision-making to take emissions into account. Independent sustainability ratings and a phased approach to carbon management on all major projects will support consistent, cost-effective emissions reduction.

***Resolution 4 (e) - Calls on the Government to consider the following areas of policy and action in the development of the next Climate Change Strategy: a requirement for government to consider future generations in decision making on climate, to accurately represent the duty of care we owe to future generations;***

We received strong input from the community for incorporation of a duty of care to future generations in climate decision-making.

The ACT is a leader in this space and the new Strategy reiterates that we have a clear duty of care to future generations to address climate change in ways that protect their health, wellbeing and opportunities to thrive.

In 2024, the ACT became the first Australian jurisdiction to enshrine the right to a healthy environment in our Human Rights Act. This ensures that all Canberrans have a right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

We already have a legislated requirement to apply the intergenerational equity principle in the development of climate action policies and programs.

We consider impacts on future generations in Wellbeing Impact Assessments conducted as part of government decision-making processes.

To build on these actions and focus the priorities and interests of young people, we have also committed to developing a Next Generation

Statement of Priorities to ensure government is able to incorporate input from younger voices, and I look forward to working with young Canberrans, including those leading the Duty of Care Campaign, to shape up the Statement of Priorities.

***Resolution 4 (f) - Calls on the Government to consider the following areas of policy and action in the development of the next Climate Change Strategy: restrictions on fossil fuel sponsorship or advertising in the ACT, to align public communications and community spaces with the Territory's climate goals***

Calls to restrict fossil fuel sponsorship or advertising is not reflected in the new Strategy.

The ACT has already taken steps to restrict fossil fuel advertising and sponsorship in specific settings, including public schools and Transport Canberra assets.

The government has previously raised a number of concerns related to a legislative ban on such advertising. However, should evidence and policy developments warrant further consideration, the government may in future wish to explore approaches to align public communications with the Territory's climate goals.

***Resolution 4 (g) - Calls on the Government to consider the following areas of policy and action in the development of the next Climate Change Strategy: ways of improving governance between the portfolios of climate, planning, environment, transport and treasury are able to work constructively together, including the potential development of a cross-government coordination mechanism***

This government has, and continues to, work constructively to collaborate on climate change, and this Strategy is an excellent example of cross-government coordination. We know that climate change is already impacting all sectors of our society. We also know that climate action is not a standalone activity for one area of government to implement.

Achieving our climate goals requires coordinated action across all levels of government, as well as close collaboration with industry, businesses, community and the research sector.

The Strategy emphasises a clear, cohesive approach across government. This has informed the decision to integrate the ACT Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022-30 (ZEV Strategy) and Living Infrastructure Plan into this Strategy, given the close thematic linkages between those frameworks and the Climate Change Strategy.

Similarly, the strategic goals outlined in the new Climate Change Strategy will also be reflected in other key ACT Government priorities such as the Planning and Transport Strategy currently under development.

The Strategy's government pillar includes a range of actions that will support continued coordination and improved governance across different portfolios for both emissions reduction and adaptation.

In relation to emissions reduction, we have committed to developing and maintaining a whole-of-government framework to consolidate emissions reduction commitments and support consistent and coordinated implementation.

In relation to adaptation, the Strategy includes a commitment to conduct a second ACT climate change risk assessment to identify and assess climate vulnerabilities, particularly to ACT Government services, operations and assets, and begin work to embed climate risk management and planning across directorates.

The ACT Government will oversee the delivery of this Strategy through regular planning, monitoring and reporting. Progress will be reported annually to the community through the Minister's Annual Report under the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010. Given the cross-directorate nature of most of the actions in the Strategy, this will include extensive cross-government coordination.

***Resolution 4 (h) - Calls on the Government to consider the following areas of policy and action in the development of the next Climate Change Strategy: investigate how to encourage mode shift to public transport and active travel, including undertaking a stated preference survey across Canberra.***

The ACT Government is committed to making it easier for Canberrans to choose cleaner, healthier and more affordable ways to travel. The new Climate Change Strategy recognises that reducing transport emissions will require both continued investment in public transport and active travel infrastructure, and a stronger understanding of the factors that influence travel behaviour. Consistent with this approach, the latest ACT Budget includes funding for data, research and analysis to better understand mode shift and travel demand management opportunities, ensuring future policy interventions are evidence-based and targeted to deliver the greatest emissions reductions.

As part of this work, the government will investigate how best to encourage greater uptake of public transport, walking and cycling. This may include undertaking a stated preference survey across Canberra to better understand the trade-offs people make when choosing how they travel, and the relative importance of factors such as convenience, travel time, cost, safety, reliability and connectivity. Building this evidence base will help identify the policies, services and infrastructure investments most likely to support a sustained shift to lower-emissions transport options.

This work complements the government's broader transport and climate agenda, including investment in public transport services, active travel networks and integrated land use and transport planning. By strengthening our understanding of travel behaviour and demand management measures, we will be better placed to reduce transport emissions, manage congestion, and support a more sustainable and liveable Canberra. The Climate Change Strategy therefore directly addresses the intent of this resolution through a funded program of data

collection, research and analysis that will inform future mode shift initiatives across the Territory.

***Resolution 5 (a) further calls on the Government, in a downpayment of goodwill to the people of Canberra on their stated commitment to climate action, to consider specifically as part of the 2026-2027 Budget: additional funding and technical support for low-income households to transition off the fossil fuel gas network through electrification***

The Strategy commits us to prioritising equity in all climate action. In fact, equity is one of the core principles of the new Strategy. We will endeavour to ensure progress is fair, equitable and doesn't leave anyone behind. To deliver on this, we're supporting those most affected by climate change and most impacted by the economic and social changes in the net zero transition.

For example, this includes:

- Continuing to provide financial support to households to install energy-efficient products through the Sustainable Household Scheme.
- Support for households and businesses with advice to create energy transition plans and switch off gas also continues.
- Launching the Sustainable Apartments Program, which is designed to support apartment buildings with planning and progressing their transition to electrification. The program will provide tailored advice on feasibility, indicative costings and guidance on renewable energy generation, electric vehicle charging and replacing gas systems with efficient electric alternatives.

***Resolution 5 (b) further calls on the Government, in a downpayment of goodwill to the people of Canberra on their stated commitment to climate action, to consider specifically as part of the 2026-2027 Budget: invest in further funding and long-term assurance to Canberra's climate and environment community partners***

The 2026-27 Budget includes significant funding for community climate and environment partners.

The ACT Government is committing \$1.865m over 3 years to support community environment and climate resilience initiatives in environment and climate education, community engagement, biodiversity conservation and wildlife protection.

This is new funding to be delivered through community organisations and is on top of existing grants programs. Funding initiatives over the next 3 years will include:

- \$300,000 to ACT Wildlife
- \$150,000 to Landcare ACT Peak Body Services
- \$90,000 to National Parks Association ACT
- \$150,000 to increase ACT Environmental Grants
- \$150,000 for a new community weeds grant
- \$100,000 to continue the ACT Environmental Volunteers Conference
- \$600,000 to work with community partners to run or co-design projects to support climate change mitigation and adaptation
- \$325,000 over 2 years to support community service organisations to continue management of climate risks and adaptation planning

In summary, the new Climate Change Strategy clearly responds to the important and emerging climate issues raised in this assembly and by the Canberra Community. The Strategy sets the vision and framework that will guide this work over the coming decade.

Our job isn't done, and over the course of the next decade, we will continue progressing new actions to realise our vision of a climate-positive, sustainable and equitable Canberra for all.