

2026

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

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS—ALLEVIATION MEASURES

Assembly Resolution of 3 December 2025

Government Response

**Presented by
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Treasurer
June 2026**



ACT
Government

Government response

Assembly Resolution 3 December 2025
Cost-of-living crisis – Alleviation measures

Government Response
2026

Introduction

On 3 December 2025, the ACT Legislative Assembly passed an Assembly motion entitled 'Cost-of-living–Alleviation measures'. The Assembly motion called on the ACT Government to:

- a. Recognise the cost-of-living crisis in the ACT has not ended;
- b. Ensure that so far as is possible, ACT Government fees and charges do not push up the cost of living beyond the wage price index for vulnerable groups;
- c. Review the tax burden on small and medium business, including payroll tax thresholds and commercial rates, to foster competition and lower prices for consumers;
- d. Establish a compliance burden and regulatory enforcement taskforce aimed at removing unnecessary and cumbersome regulatory barriers and costs in the ACT, making doing business as simple as possible;
- e. Investigate the ACT undertaking a regional World Bank Ease of Doing Business assessment to identify barriers to business success and growth; and
- f. Report back to the Assembly on (b) to (e) on 10 June 2026.

Background

Canberra remains a great place to live, work, study, invest and raise families and Canberrans continue to enjoy some of the highest living standards in Australia. However, the ACT Government recognises that Canberrans continue to face cost-of-living pressures, including through the impacts of the ongoing events in the Middle East. These impacts are felt unevenly across the Canberra community, with rises in the cost of essential goods and services and housing placing disproportionate pressure on low- and fixed-income households.

The ACT Government has in place a range of mechanisms to help Canberrans with cost-of-living pressures, including targeted support initiatives in response to recent increases in fuel prices and concessions on Government fees and charges.

In response to sharp increases in fuel costs flowing from the conflict in the Middle East, the ACT Government has introduced cost-of living support through a short-term reduction in monthly fare caps on public transport. From 8 April until 30 June 2026, the maximum monthly cap for the number of paid trips on public transport has been halved, capping the monthly total cost to \$68.20. The cap for tertiary students has been reduced even further to align with school students.

The ACT Government is also supporting lower fuel prices by contributing to a temporary reduction in fuel excise. From 1 April to 30 June 2026, fuel excise will be reduced by 32 cents per litre – 26.3 cents per litre from the Commonwealth reduction and 5.7 cents per litre funded by the States and Territories through forgone GST revenue. The Government is also shielding all public transport fares from higher fuel prices by absorbing the additional costs of higher fuel costs due to the Middle East conflict.

ACT consumers are also encouraged to use the FuelCheck website or App to find best fuel prices at service stations across the ACT and NSW.

The cost-of-living assistance measures introduced in the 2025-26 Budget include:

- permanently increasing the Electricity, Gas and Water Rebate to \$800 to eligible recipients (around 41,000 households);
- providing a one-off payment of \$250 to all ACT apprentices and trainees working in the ACT and an additional \$250 to first-year apprentice and trainees;
- increasing stamp duty concessions for first home buyers, pensioners, and people with disability;
- establishing a Food Bank Fund to support Canberrans facing financial stress and food insecurity; and
- funding for Roundabout to continue supporting disadvantaged children and families, including the provision of essential items to first-time parents in vulnerable households.

In 2025-26, the Government has spent approximately \$152 million on cost-of-living support for ACT households, and we continue to review other aspects of our targeted assistance on an ongoing basis to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

In the 2026-27 Budget, the ACT Government is introducing new cost of living assistance measures, including:

- financial support to private renters experiencing rental stress or those experiencing financial hardship, through the establishment of the Housing Crisis Support Fund and a Crisis Support Payment;
- reduced monthly public transport fare caps for tertiary students from 40 to 30 paid trips in 2026-27, commencing after the current, halved monthly fare cap initiative ends;
- a community sector grant to establish a transport service for individuals with chronic conditions;
- additional funding for the Student Equity Fund's 2026 round to support access to education for all students;
- extended fee-free TAFE training to an additional 9,093 training places in healthcare, advanced technology, construction, hospitality and foundation skills;
- additional funding for the Emergency Material and Financial Aid scheme in response to expected increased demand due to the ongoing fuel supply disruptions and associated economic impacts; and
- funding to strengthen community services, inclusion and participation.

The ACT Government is supporting more Canberrans to buy a home through a range of stamp duty concessions and exemptions as well as commitments to deliver more affordable community housing. In the 2025-26 Budget, the Government provided a wide range of initiatives across the housing continuum to deliver 5,000 additional affordable and social homes by the end of 2030,

including an additional \$20 million for the Affordable Housing Project Fund, bringing the total funding to \$100 million. The 2026-27 Budget will include several new and expanded housing initiatives including the removal of stamp duty for first home buyers, for pensioners, or for homebuyers purchasing an off-the-plan dwelling or turn-key apartment, and new funding programs to support the delivery of affordable housing.

The ACT Government continues to implement targeted regulatory and policy reforms across key areas including commercial land use, business registration processes, business support services, and the night-time economy. These reforms are designed to streamline government services, improve the ease of doing business, and enable greater productivity and sustainable growth within the local business sector.

More information is available in the 2026-27 Budget Cost of Living Statement and the ACT Government's dedicated website on monitoring fuel supply impact in the ACT ([Fuel supply in the ACT - ACT Government](#)).

ACT Government Response

A. The Assembly calls on the Government to ensure that so far as is possible, ACT Government fees and charges do not push up the cost of living beyond the wage price index for vulnerable groups.

The ACT Government seeks to ensure fees and charges are set to reflect the cost of providing the relevant goods and services. Fees and charges are regularly reviewed in pursuit of this aim and to also consider potential efficiency improvements to reduce the cost of service delivery and limit the need for increases.

In some cases, fees increase beyond the wage price index because the prior level of the fee did not reflect the Government's cost to provide the service. However, the Government carefully weighs fee increases with the need to ensure fees and charges do not place undue pressure on living costs, particularly for vulnerable groups. Targeted concessions are provided on many fees and charges. For example, eligible concession cardholders can receive up to 100 per cent concessions for motor vehicle registration fees and driver licence fees, as well as up to \$800 a year off their utility bills through the Electricity, Gas and Water rebate.

It is important that fees and charges keep pace with the cost of providing goods and services to the community, otherwise alternative revenue sources would need to be increased, or expenditure reduced, to deliver fiscal sustainability.

B. The Assembly calls on the Government to review the tax burden on small and medium business, including payroll tax thresholds and commercial rates, to foster competition and lower prices for consumers.

The ACT Government acknowledges the importance of an efficient and equitable tax system that minimises distortions in the economy. The recent changes to payroll tax thresholds and commercial rates represent measured, responsible actions that support the Government's budget repair efforts, while ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality services for Canberrans.

The ACT's payroll taxable base as a share of the Australian payroll taxable base is lower than its population share, as the Commonwealth Government, the ACT's largest employer, is exempt from payroll tax. This means the ACT has one of the narrowest payroll tax bases. Consistent with this, the 2012 ACT Taxation Review recommended the ACT Government retain a form of tax on payroll to maintain a diversified tax system.

From 1 July 2026 the payroll tax-free threshold will be reduced from \$2 million to \$1.75 million, and the tax rate for firms with national wages under \$20 million will be lowered from 6.85 per cent to 6.75 per cent. This is consistent with the recommendations of the 2010 Australia's Future Tax System Review for a broader tax base and lower tax rate for payroll tax.

Under these changes, a small-size ACT firm that employs up to 20 people on average wages will continue to pay no payroll tax, where they would pay \$25,288 in NSW. A medium-size ACT firm that employs up to 200 people and a payroll of \$16.64 million will pay up to approximately \$2,235 more in payroll tax. Overall, firms with a payroll below \$4.05 million will pay less tax than equivalent NSW firms.

General rates are a significant source of revenue for the Territory that is necessary to fund the high-quality services Canberrans expect and use. It is an efficient, equitable, simple and stable tax revenue base.

Through its tax reform program, the ACT is progressively replacing volatile transaction taxes with general rates revenue. General rates are calculated using the unimproved value of land and applied progressively, meaning that owners of higher value properties pay more than owners of lower value properties. This approach ensures fairness while supporting a more predictable and sustainable revenue base.

Changes in commercial rates form part of the ACT Government's long-term tax reform program to replace inefficient transaction-based taxes with more efficient land-based taxes and broaden the Territory's revenue base. The ACT is the only State or Territory to have completely abolished insurance duty to make insurance more affordable for businesses and households and reduce the level of underinsurance. Without the change, ACT businesses would need to spend 10 cents more for every dollar spent on relevant insurance premiums.

C. The Assembly calls on the Government to establish a compliance burden and regulatory enforcement taskforce aimed at removing unnecessary and cumbersome regulatory barriers and costs in the ACT, making doing business as simple as possible.

The ACT Government actively seeks to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden, understanding regulation increases costs and makes it harder to do business. The [ACT Government's regulatory impact assessment process](#) reflects best practice and puts the community at the forefront of decision making by ensuring Cabinet receives detailed advice on the impacts of feasible options to achieve a desired policy outcome.

As such, the ACT Government does not consider that a bespoke compliance burden and regulatory enforcement taskforce is currently needed. A significant body of work is underway across Government to identify regulatory impacts and streamlined processes, with further detail in **Appendix A**.

Streamlined Planning, Development and Precinct Activation

Through ongoing planning system modernisation, the ACT Government is delivering streamlined development pathways, clearer assessment requirements, and more predictable processes for applicants. Strategic planning work, including the delivery of district strategies, city-shaping

precinct plans and employment-land initiatives to ensure land supply, zoning frameworks and precinct activation are aligned with economic needs. The Government has improved development assessment timeframes, and simplified pathways for lower-risk proposals. These reforms directly reduce regulatory burden and provide greater certainty for businesses.

Regulatory Simplification and Better Regulation

The ACT Government continues to modernise and improve the regulatory environment to ensure that outdated, duplicative or unnecessarily burdensome requirements are removed. Under the Better Regulation Taskforce (10th Assembly), this included streamlining licensing arrangements and simplifying business processes. Modernisation efforts have continued into the 11th Assembly, with the Business Regulation Team leading the Territory's regulatory improvement agenda, providing substantial expertise in identifying outdated or duplicative regulatory requirements.

The better regulation principles embedded in Chapter 5 of the *Legislation Act 2001* require consideration of feasible options to achieve policy goals, including non-regulatory options.

National Competition Policy reforms

Australian governments are working together to deliver stronger competition and productivity outcomes under the National Competition Policy reform agenda. This includes progressing initiatives that directly reduce compliance burden and streamline business processes by:

- Liberalising and standardising commercial zoning rules, reducing planning distortions and accelerating approvals.
- Reviewing planning requirements to ensure they do not create unnecessary regulatory barriers or inhibit competition.
- Lowering barriers to modern methods of construction, such as prefabricated and modular construction, which boosts productivity and reduces housing delivery costs.
- Implementing updated Competition Principles, ensuring transparent, efficient and equitable regulatory settings across the ACT economy.

This work, which will reduce anti-competitive planning barriers and modernise land use and development processes, is integral to the ACT Construction Productivity Agenda to reduce regulatory burden, improve approval processes and support housing delivery.

All Australian governments agreed in late 2025 to explore a further tranche of productivity reforms in relation to heavy vehicles, health scope of practice, nationally consistent occupational licensing and harmonised standards for goods. These proposals provide an opportunity for greater productivity through removing friction points in the economy from fragmented regulation.

Transport, Municipal Services and Public Realm Operations

The ACT Government is improving core operational and municipal services that directly impact business precincts, regulatory compliance, and the ease of operating in public spaces. This has brought about improvements to transport-related permits, street-use approvals, and municipal operations that support business precincts to reduce operating barriers for businesses.

Night-time Economy Reforms

Across two Assemblies, significant reforms have been delivered to support hospitality, arts and entertainment businesses, including reforms that improve licensing flexibility, reduce costs, and boost entertainment precinct activation. Canberra ranked 12th nationally in Visa's 2025 Night-Time Economy Index.

Business Navigation, Support Service and Practical Assistance

The ACT Government has assisted to make doing business simpler through providing a single point of entry for business information and offering concierge type assistance to help businesses engage efficiently with government.

The act.gov.au/business website was originally established during COVID-19 to centralise business support and guidance. At that time, business-related information was dispersed across multiple ACT Government websites, creating complexity for users. In line with a recommendation of the former Better Regulation Taskforce to provide a single point of entry for business information, the website was re-launched in May 2023 with a new design system and updated information architecture. The website has been rebuilt to provide a single-entry point for business information, improving navigation, accessibility and user experience.

The Government continues to strengthen its business-facing systems to make it easier for businesses to interact with government and lower the cost of doing business. This includes clearer step-by-step guidance, expanded multilingual access, and direct navigation support facilitated by Access Canberra. This framework assists essential coordination, cross-agency linkage and practical support, reducing the compliance burden by helping businesses understand requirements and engage efficiently with the correct government areas.

In addition to making it simpler for business to engage with Government, ongoing engagement with industry through programs such as the Canberra Business Advice and Support Service (CBASS) assists the Government to identify and take action to address emerging challenges and constraints.

Strengthening Procurement Fairness and Supplier Accessibility

The Government has introduced reforms to simplify procurement processes, improve supplier participation, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, and streamline documentation. Changes to quotation thresholds, direct-approach options, competitive neutrality policies and insurance requirements reduce administrative effort for suppliers and lower barriers to government contracting.

D. The Assembly calls on the Government to investigate the ACT undertaking a regional World Bank Ease of Doing Business assessment to identify barriers to business success and growth.

The ACT Government has engaged with the World Bank's Regulatory Efficiency Unit regarding the feasibility of the ACT undertaking a subnational business environment assessment.

The Ease of Doing Business assessment has been permanently discontinued since 2020. Australia's ranking referenced in the Assembly motion was from the last edition of that assessment in May 2019. The assessment has now been replaced by Business Ready (B-READY) Index, under which Australia (at the country level) will be assessed for the first time in 2026. The country level report will likely primarily assess what the World Bank considers the business capital of Australia, Sydney.

Country-level B-READY assesses an economy's business environment by focusing on and measuring the regulatory framework and the provision of related public services directed at firms and markets, as well as the efficiency with which regulatory framework and public services are combined in practice. Subnational B-READY applies the above methodology with targeted adaptations based on the local regulatory and business environment. The World Bank has highlighted that the main beneficiaries of such assessments are countries with shared regulatory frameworks and those seeking to boost local and regional competitiveness to drive economic growth and attract investment.

Most economies assessed at a subnational level are developing countries or in the European Union. No subnational B-READY assessment has been undertaken in the Oceanic region.

The ACT Government has undertaken substantial work across the three areas assessed by B-READY, namely regulatory frameworks, public services, and operational efficiency, to strengthen the business environment. This includes reforms to business navigation and information access, improvements to land-use planning for business purposes, and initiatives to simplify processes by reducing red tape, as outlined above and in Appendix A.

The matters raised in the motion regarding the Territory's business environment are being addressed through ongoing reform initiatives. Given the substantial cost of undertaking a separate exercise of this kind (depending on the scope, estimated at between hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars) and the lack of demonstrated economic impacts, pursuing a World Bank B-READY assessment at the subnational level would not deliver value for money.

Appendix A

Streamlined Planning, Development and Precinct Activation

The ACT Government has commenced or progressed major planning, land-use and precinct activation initiatives that directly support investment, employment and business activity, including:

Major Plan Amendments

- Thoroughbred Park (DPA 08): enabling mixed-use and employment-generating redevelopment.
- Forrest Section 19 (DPA B): supporting mixed-use redevelopment in a key civic and diplomatic area.

Strategic Planning Framework

- Minister's Statement of Planning Priorities 2025–28, including priorities for housing, commercial activation and employment precincts.

ACT Planning Strategy 2018, providing the strategic basis for city-shaping precincts, innovation clusters and centres revitalisation.

District Strategies, identifying economic access, employment lands, innovation precincts and transport-land-use integration actions.

Online resources available for reference:

- Major plan amendments: [Major plan amendments - City and Environment Directorate - Planning](#).
- Minister's Statement of Planning Priorities: [Statement of Planning Priorities 2025-2028](#).
- ACT Planning Strategy: [ACT Planning Strategy - City and Environment Directorate - Planning](#).
- District Strategies: [District Strategies - City and Environment Directorate - Planning](#).

Regulatory Simplification and Better Regulation

10th Assembly – Better Regulation Agenda

- The Better Regulation Taskforce delivered a comprehensive program of regulatory and non-regulatory reforms aimed at making it easier to start, run and grow a business, including:
 - Automatic Mutual Recognition for 44 licensed occupations.
 - Simplified Responsible Service of Alcohol recognition for interstate workers.
 - Revitalisation of Access Canberra's Business Hub and Business Assist functions.
 - Updated Model Rules to reduce compliance burden for incorporated associations.
 - Deregulation of employment agents through amendments to the Agents Act 2003.

11th Assembly – Continued Regulatory Modernisation

- The ACT Government introduced the Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and Better Regulation (Repeal of Legislation) Amendment Bill 2025, delivering:
 - Removal of unnecessary statutory declarations
 - Removal of outdated payment method requirements
 - Strengthened regulatory compliance monitoring
 - Repeal of obsolete legislation
 - Updated and clarified regulatory language

Online resources available for reference:

- 10th Assembly: [Better Regulation Report](#).
- 11th Assembly: [Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025](#), [Inquiry into Canberra's Night-time Economy](#).

Construction Productivity and Approval Streamlining

Reforms under the ACT Construction Productivity Agenda:

- Voluntary greywater piping (saving homeowners ~\$1,550)
- Simplified energy efficiency upgrade requirements
- Passive House certification recognised as a compliance pathway
- Expanded exempt development categories

Further tranches will be implemented every six months.

Reforms under the National Competition Policy Federation Funding Agreement:

- Limit anti-competitive objections
- Remove anti-competitive considerations from planning
- Expand permissible land uses
- Streamline DA and rezoning processes
- Support modern construction methods

Online resources for reference:

- Media release on delivering more homes and ramping up construction productivity: [Delivering more homes and ramping up construction productivity - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate](#)

Transport, Municipal Services and Public Realm Operations

The ACT has a limited supply of Commercial CZ3 services zone land which provides for minor industrial and service trades uses along with lower-rent retail, office and recreation tenancies.

Service Trades Areas are a key component of our employment lands and are important service destinations for Canberrans. CZ3 lands are situated within town and group centres and

complement, rather than compete with premium retail and office districts supported by other commercial zones. By serving this role, they reduce pressure on industrial lands, allowing them to be used for more intensive or offensive industries.

- Phillip Service Trades Area: precinct modernisation and planning work under the Southern Gateway Framework.
- AIE Campus Renewal (Watson): supports a new global headquarters and up to 250 new jobs.
- Land Supply Studies (e.g., Erindale, Belconnen): ensuring land-use change strengthens rather than fragments centres.

Reforms currently under investigation by the Government includes:

- Time limited remissions for Missing Middle housing
- Remissions for affordable and social housing
- Incentives for adaptive reuse
- Improved certainty and reduced disputes in the valuation and assessment process
- Eastern Broadacre and Southern Gateway Framework
- Long-term planning to support future industrial, commercial and employment growth corridors.

Online resources available for reference:

- Academy of Interactive Entertainment AIE Campus Renewal – Watson: [Development Application no. 202544529 - City and Environment Directorate - Planning](#).
- The Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment: [Eastern Broadacre - City and Environment Directorate - Planning](#).
- Erindale Group Centre: [Erindale Group Centre Master Plan](#).
- Belconnen Town Centre & Surrounds: [Belconnen District Strategy - 08.11.22.pdf](#).
- A time-limited LVC remissions framework to support affordable and social housing supply: [Lease Variation Charge reductions for social and affordable rental developments - ACT Government](#).
- Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework: [Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework - City and Environment Directorate - Planning](#)

Night-time Economy Reforms

10th Assembly Reforms:

- Extended licensed trading hours
- Reduced liquor fees for small venues
- City Centre Entertainment Precinct (CCEP) established with fit for purpose noise settings
- Easier floorplan changes and interim licences
- More flexible extended trading authorisations

11th Assembly Reforms

- Continued fee reductions for small and medium venues
- Over 40 special event declarations providing automatic trading extensions
- Free loading zone permits for musicians
- Night-time economy guides and resources
- Ongoing review of CCEP and future entertainment precinct opportunities
- Work on vexatious noise complaint reforms and order of occupancy considerations

Online resources for reference:

- Night-time Economy Review Paper: [Night-time Economy Review Paper](#)

Events, Public Land Use and City Services

An Event Coordination Guide is publicly available. By consolidating requirements, approvals and processes into a single, accessible resource, the Guide makes it easier for businesses, community groups and event organisers to understand their obligations, navigate permissions, and plan activities confidently.

The forthcoming Public Unleased Land Act Review will build on this by ensuring the legislative framework continues to reflect contemporary community expectations and supports safe, appropriate and economically beneficial public land use. Together, the Event Coordination Guide and the planned review demonstrate a proactive effort to simplify processes, enhance clarity and create a more enabling environment for businesses and the community to make productive use of public spaces.

Business Navigation, Support Service and Practical Assistance

Online resources available for reference:

- Canberra Business Advice and Support Service: [Canberra Business Advice and Support Service \(CBASS\)](#)

Business Navigation, Support Services and Information Access

Enhancements include:

- Updated information architecture
- Step-by-step guides
- Improved search
- Google Translate integration
- Integration of Access Canberra and ACT Health business content

A further overhaul in 2025 implemented these recommendations and introduced Google Translate to improve accessibility for culturally and linguistically diverse users. The site now includes

industry-specific guidance, numbered process steps, and improved readability. These enhancements will undergo an additional round of user testing by June 2026.

In 2025, the website was also migrated to the ACT Government's whole-of-government design system, improving navigation and aligning the look and feel with other government websites.

Integration of ACT Health business content in 2025–26 contributed to significant growth in usage:

- 1,949 page views (Jan 2022–Jan 2023)
- 15,297 page views (May 2023–Jan 2024)
- 53,043 page views (Jan 2024–Jan 2025)
- 107,614 page views (Jan 2025–Mar 2026)

CBR Business Update Newsletter

- 7,700 subscribers
- 53% open rate (well above industry norms)
- Only whole of government direct communications channel for ACT businesses

Canberra Business Advice and Support Service (CBASS)

- Up to four hours of free advice
- Strong uptake driven by targeted social media campaigns
- Notable increases in enquiries (up to 102%) during campaign periods

Badji – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Support

- Provides culturally appropriate, free support for Indigenous businesses.

Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN)

- Innovation Connect (ICON) grants
- Accelerator programs and mentoring
- Regular networking events and innovation community support

Online resources for reference:

- Official Business website: [Business - ACT Government](#).
- CBR Business Update subscription page: [Subscribe to the CBR Business update email newsletter](#)
- ACT Small Business Strategy 2025 Update: [ACT Small Business Strategy Progress Update 2025](#)
- Badji: [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Support Service - Badji - ACT Government](#)
- Canberra Innovation Network: [Home | Canberra Innovation Network](#)

Supporting strong outcomes for the community without unnecessary regulatory burden

The ACT Government supports competition, innovation and consumer choice as core drivers of productivity. This includes the Government's decision to introduce but not mandate

electronic-conveyancing in modernising ACT land titling laws to provide more secure transactions. In doing so, the Government chose to allow price and service competition – and greater flexibility for ACT businesses – through allowing the choice of in-person and electronic conveyancing.

Further, the ACT Government facilitates real-time fuel price information for motorists through FuelCheck, without unnecessary regulatory burden. The ACT Government first undertook a pilot program where retailers could opt in and provide real time pricing in FuelCheck. Consumer protections in place through the Australian Consumer Law ensured pricing information would be accurate. The ACT Government decided to continue the scheme without extra regulation due to its popularity and low levels of complaints. All ACT fuel retailers now take part.

Procurement Reform and Supplier Support

The ACT Government has introduced several reforms to make government procurement simpler, fairer and more accessible—particularly for SMEs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

Legislative Reforms:

- **Threshold increases:** Amendments from 1 July 2024 increased tender and quotation thresholds to reduce administrative burden on suppliers, particularly SMEs. Further changes from 1 July 2026 will simplify procurement requirements for purchases under \$500.
- **Direct approach for SMEs and Indigenous businesses:** From 1 July 2026, entities may directly approach a capable certified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander business or ACT region SME for limited tender procurements, instead of seeking three written quotations.
- **Procurement Values:** The Charter of Procurement Values requires agencies to consider values such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic participation and business development.
- **Insurance reforms:** Under the Government Procurement Rules 2024, suppliers should not be required to obtain insurance until identified as the preferred supplier, helping reduce upfront costs.

Policies:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy:** Sets annual addressable spend targets to support Indigenous economic participation.
- **Canberra Region Local Industry Participation Policy:** Requires businesses to demonstrate local economic contribution (via the Economic Contribution Test for projects >\$200,000) and Local Industry Participation Plans for procurements over \$5 million.

Supplier Tools and Support:

- **Streamlined templates:** Consistent procurement templates reduce complexity for suppliers.

- Online guidance: The Procurement ACT website provides practical "how to supply" information, updates on reforms, and invitations to supplier information sessions.
- TendersACT eLearns: Assists suppliers with platform registration, opportunity notifications, and how to access tenders and notifiable contract information.
- Direct engagement: Procurement ACT undertakes supplier training (including Indigenous Business Month workshops), attends SME events, and meets regularly with industry bodies.
- Supplier Service Desk: Offers customised advice and procurement navigation support

Online Resources for reference:

- ACT Government Event Coordination Guide: [Access Canberra Event Coordination Guide](#)
- Master Builders ACT Submission the ACT Budget Consultation 2026-27: [Master Builders ACT 2026-27 Budget Submission](#)
- Government Procurement Regulations and Policies Factsheets: [Policies and factsheets - Procurement ACT](#)