

# Submission Guide

## ACT Climate Change Strategy community consultation

The ACT Government has released a Discussion Paper on 'developing the next ACT Climate Change Strategy' and is seeking community feedback to guide the ACT's climate action efforts from 2026-2035. This is a critical opportunity to push the Government to develop an ambitious, forward-looking policy that adequately addresses the scale of the climate emergency.

You can make a submission **before 18 March 2026** via the Your Say platform [here](#), or by emailing your written comments to [climatechange@act.gov.au](mailto:climatechange@act.gov.au)



The Civic Square Precinct, Photo by: File.

Following the Government's failure to meet its own interim emissions reduction target of 50-60% by 2025, a new Climate Change Strategy must outline a credible pathway to reaching net zero and reinstate the ACT as a national and world leader in climate action.

We're deeply concerned the Discussion Paper attempts to shift responsibility for climate action onto individuals, rather than outlining a clear plan for the ACT Government to adopt a leadership role in advancing the net zero transition, climate resilience and adaptation.

We're asking you to join us in making a submission to the ACT Government that advocates for:

- **Bringing forward the commitment to achieve net zero emissions by five years to 2040 at the latest, in line with the recommendation of the 2024 Independent Review of ACT Government Action on Climate Change;**
- **Speeding up the phase out of fossil fuel infrastructure and significantly increasing investment in public and active transport; and**
- **Adapting to the impacts of climate change by improving the design of our urban areas, increasing our urban forest, and ensuring we are prepared for extreme weather events.**

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## Tips for writing an effective submission

### Make key recommendations

- What are you asking the ACT Government to include in the new Climate Change Strategy? Make your key recommendations and demands specific, measurable and action-oriented, and highlight them in the beginning of your response.

### Use evidence, facts and figures

- Support your submission with available evidence, including reviews and reports commissioned by the Government. Some good places to start include the 2024 Independent Review of ACT Government Action on Climate Change, and the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment’s 2021 Report into Reducing Scope 3 Emissions.

### **Draw on existing Government policy and commitments**

- Has the Government met its commitments in relation to climate action? Keep the Government accountable by outlining progress towards its own goals.

### **Keep it short**

- One or two pages is enough! Provide a link to supporting evidence or include it as an Appendix, if necessary.

### **Make it original**

- The most effective submissions are unique and written in your own words. They outline a few key concerns specifically relevant to your circumstances or your organisation. Keep in mind submissions may be published publicly, so only include detail you are comfortable sharing online.



Photo by: King of Buses 2017

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## **Don't have time to write a submission? Use our template below, or adapt these key points into your own submission:**

**To:** [climatechange@act.gov.au](mailto:climatechange@act.gov.au)

**Subject:** [Your name] – Submission on Developing the next ACT Climate Change Strategy

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to make a submission on the development of the next ACT Climate Change Strategy.

*[Introduce yourself - begin your submission with a brief introduction to yourself or your organisation, and share why this issue matters to you.]*

We are in a climate emergency, and the time to act is now. I'm calling for a new Climate Strategy for the ACT that commits to:

- **Bringing forward the commitment to achieve net zero emissions by five years to 2040 at the latest, in line with the recommendation of the 2024 Independent Review of ACT Government Action on Climate Change;**
- **Speeding up the phase out of fossil fuel infrastructure and significantly increasing investment in public and active transport; and**
- **Adapting to the impacts of climate change by improving the design of our urban areas, increasing our urban forest, and ensuring we are prepared for extreme weather events.**

To reinstate the ACT as a national and world leader in climate action, the Government must include the following in the next Climate Strategy:

#### *Transport*

- Rapidly transition to a zero-emissions transport system by:
  - Delivering an integrated and electrified bus and light rail network with a frequent, reliable seven-day service, with particular emphasis on accelerating light rail construction.
  - Legislating a target of 50% of all commuting journeys by active and public transport by 2035.
  - Upgrading and building the missing links in Canberra's active travel network by 2028, as per Priority Two of the ACT Government's Active Travel Plan.
  - Committing to all buses operating on 100% renewable energy by 2035.
  - Implementing vehicle registration regulations that preference small, zero-emissions vehicles.

#### *Natural environment*

- Fully fund the implementation of the Nature Conservation Strategy, including the development of a Nature Conservation Network.
- Meet the 30% urban forest canopy cover target by 2045.
- Progressively upgrade and re-naturalise existing major creeks and stormwater channels, including reinstating plans to re-naturalise Sullivan's Creek.

#### *Energy and the Built Environment*

- Bring forward the commitment to phase out gas to 2035 and invest in accelerating electrification, including by:
  - Expanding the Home Energy Support Program to directly fund electrification for low-income and vulnerable households.
  - Strengthen minimum energy efficiency standards to require all rental homes to meet 7 stars by 2035.
  - Funding the electrification of all ACT Government assets, including social housing, schools and community centres .
  - Increasing the uptake of solar power, battery and energy monitoring systems.
  - Implementing all recommendations from the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's 2021 report on reducing scope 3 emissions.

#### *Embedding equity, wellbeing and resilience*

- The next Climate Strategy must provide tangible detail on how an equitable transition will be achieved and measured; including explicit consideration of intergenerational equity in

line with the International Court of Justice's 2025 landmark advisory opinion on climate change.

I welcome the Government's commitment to developing a new Climate Strategy and urge decision makers to use this opportunity to set a bold course for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important process.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Organisation]

[Contact details].