



**ACT**  
Government

# ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan

Progress Report



## Acknowledgement of Country

The City and Environment Directorate acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

We respect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, and their continuing culture and contribution they make to the Canberra region and the life of our city.

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# A message from the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy, and Water



I am pleased to present the first ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan Progress Report (the Progress Report), highlighting the significant achievements made by the ACT Government during the first two years of the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 (the Strategy and Action Plan). This Progress Report demonstrates our ongoing commitment towards the circular economy here in the ACT, which is centred around the key areas of food and organics, built environment, consumer goods, emerging and problematic waste streams, creating space to showcase our commitment to the circular economy, and procurement, skills, innovation and governance.

The circular economy transition requires collective efforts across the ACT Government and within our community. I am encouraged to see the ongoing commitment across the ACT Government through this Progress Report to drive progress towards greater circularity for our city.

Since the introduction of the Strategy and Action Plan, the ACT Government has delivered several key actions. This includes introduction of the *Circular Economy Act 2023*, expansion of the Food and Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) household waste collection pilot, and publication of the ACT Urban Design Guide. We have also delivered events and programs that adopted circular economy practices, such as the City Renewal Authority Sustainable Travel Street Party, and Lunar New Year Dragon and Art gallery installations.

We have continued to embed circular economy principles across our programs and services, such as trialling sustainable concrete for community pathways and the incorporation of circular economy principles into the design and construction of the Light Rail Procurement and Retrofit and Depot Expansion (LPRDE) project.

Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan is ongoing, and some key actions will be delivered over the coming years which will further support our transition towards a circular economy. This includes key initiatives such as delivery of a new large-scale FOGO facility which will allow the expansion of FOGO collection to all households in Canberra, and construction of our new recycling facility in partnership with Veolia which will increase our resource recovery rates.

We will also continue to identify problematic waste streams, including single-use plastics with suitable alternatives that can be phased out from circulation, and look further at the potential

to expand the ACT Container Deposit Scheme. Work is also underway to investigate the feasibility of a textiles hub to reduce problematic textile and clothing waste and support our craft community. All of this will make our city more circular, reduce waste to landfill, lower carbon emissions, conserve natural resources, and contribute to a cleaner and sustainable environment.

I look forward to the ongoing delivering of the Strategy and Action Plan in the coming years and the progress we will make towards a more circular economy for Canberra.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Orr', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Suzanne Orr

MLA Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

# Introduction

The ACT Government has committed to a long-term, high-level ambition for a more circular economy in the ACT. This is being delivered through implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan, which outlines circular initiatives that will be progressed through to 2030.

The Strategy and Action Plan aligns with [Australia's National Circular Economy Framework](#) (the national framework), which aims to double circularity across Australia by 2035, transforming how we use, reuse, and regenerate resources across the economy. The national framework is supported by the [National Waste Policy and Action Plan 2024](#) and ACT's [National Waste Policy Action Plan: ACT Implementation Plan 2025](#), which sets the strategic direction for improved waste management, resource recovery and reuse in Australia.

The Strategy and Action Plan aims to address concerns about resource scarcity, environmental pollution, and the economic limitations of current production and consumption patterns. It also seeks to maximise materials usage by keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible and reducing the reliance on natural resources.

The Strategy and Action Plan is underpinned by three key principles of a circular economy:

- designing out waste and pollution
- keeping products and materials in use at their highest value
- avoiding negative impacts on the environment and regenerating natural systems.

The Strategy and Action Plan is aligned to six key themes which provide the most transformative potential for the ACT based on their contribution to material consumption, waste generation, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the opportunities they provide to create change across the supply chain. The themes are:

- procurement, skills, innovation and governance
- food and organics
- built environment
- consumer goods
- emerging and problematic waste streams
- creating space to showcase our commitment to the circular economy.

The circular economy principles and approaches are multi-dimensional, requiring collaboration and engagement for success. Delivering the circular economy transition is a shared responsibility across all sectors of the economy, including the ACT Government, industry, businesses, and the community.

Whilst the Strategy and Action Plan reflects commitments right across the ACT Government, the City and Environment Directorate (CED) oversees the coordination of implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan. This report provides information on the Strategy and Action Plan's initial progress since its commencement in August 2023 through to August 2025. At this time, 14 actions have been delivered and a further 27 actions with an ongoing delivery

timeframe are underway. The commencement of eleven actions have been delayed, two actions are not yet due to commence, and two actions are no longer progressing.

## Progress of the circular economy action plans

### Procurement, skills, innovation and governance action plan

Government leadership on a circular economy is important to drive change. Through the procurement, skills, innovation and governance action plan the ACT Government aims to deliver and contribute broadly to the circular economy and support job creation and innovation, the growth of markets for recovered materials and goods, and circular business models.

#	Action	Description	Lead	Timing	Status	Update
1.1	Develop a Circular Economy in Procurement guide	The Circular Economy in Procurement Guide will provide guidance to support a transition to a circular economy through ACT Government procurement.	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)	Delivered in 2024	This action has been delivered.	<p>The <i>Government Procurement (Charter of Procurement Values) 2020</i> embedded environmental responsibility as among the ACT Government's key procurement values and encourages Territory entities to adopt sustainable procurement practices.</p> <p>Procurement ACT has published on its website a better practice guide on the obligations under the <i>Circular Economy Act 2023</i> (as a more user-friendly tool in lieu of a circular economy in procurement guide), as well as templates that may be readily customised, including to specify requirements</p>

						supporting a transition to a circular economy.
1.2	Identify potential metrics that could be used to inform the development of a wellbeing indicator for circular economy under the ACT Wellbeing Framework.	Circular economy measurement is critical to enable monitoring of progress towards circularity.	City and Environment Directorate (CED)	Commencing in 2024	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>CED is undertaking a literature review and jurisdictional analysis to develop a short list of potential circular economy metrics.</p> <p>This work is intended to be finalised, once a strategic plan for CED has been developed.</p>
1.3	Establish working groups for industry and business stakeholders under each strategy theme to support ongoing collaboration and engagement.	Collaboration between government, business and industry will be critical to identifying opportunities, overcoming barriers and sharing knowledge to help to grow the circular economy.	CED	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>In February 2025, CED hosted a textiles circularity workshop with a range of business, industry and community stakeholders under the consumer goods theme.</p> <p>The establishment of other working groups has been delayed due to prioritisation of other work on circular economy. Consideration will be given to the establishment of working groups at appropriate times when a suitable project or area of concern would benefit by being addressed through a working group.</p>

<p>1.4 Encourage growth in the ACT circular economy business sector through the CBR Innovation Network, Priority Investment Program and Innovation Connect Grants program.</p>	<p>This initiative will drive knowledge based economic growth by strategically investing in proposals that diversify the economy, grow entrepreneurial ecosystems, attract responsible investment and increase the number of high-value jobs in the ACT, including in the circular economy business sector.</p>	<p>CMTEDD</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Delivery of the action is still in progress.</p>	<p>During 2023-24, CBR Innovation Network (CBRIN) as the program delivery partner of the ACT Government's Innovation Connect Grant (ICON) Program facilitated two grant funding rounds. Four projects/start-ups with a circular economy focus were funded in 2023-24.</p> <p><i>Endless Australia:</i> Endless Australia pioneers the creation of premium, eco-friendly skateboard decks using 100% recycled and recyclable plastic bottle lids, catering to environmentally conscious skateboarders and collectors seeking sustainable, Australian-made alternatives in the adrenaline sports industry.</p> <p><i>Waste Check Systems:</i> Waste Check offers an innovative Internet of Things (IoT) bulk bin weighing system for the commercial and industrial property sector, providing real-time waste weight data to enhance sustainability tracking and reduce excess waste charges.</p> <p><i>Ohna:</i> Ohna is using technology to build climate-resilient food supply</p>
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						<p>chains to connect local farmers with consumers.</p> <p><i>Sprout Material:</i> Patented chemistry developing a circular and compostable plastic alternative.</p> <p>Across the 2023-24 period CBRIN also hosted a panel at the Sustainable Canberra Expo on innovation, which included panel members representing ACT-based companies with a circular economy focus (My Green Butler, Cafe Stepping Stone and Lids for Kids). CBRIN also delivered a Collaborative Innovation Lab, in partnership with the ACT Government, focusing on business sustainability.</p>
1.5	Develop initiatives to skill people in circular economy practices as part of the Renewables and Sustainability Industry Plan developed under Skilled to Succeed.	This initiative will support the skills and workforce development in the circular economy sector	CMTEDD	Delivered by 2023	The action has been delivered.	In the third quarter of 2024, the Industry Action Plan for the Renewables and Sustainability industry was released after a final round of stakeholder consultation. Actions in the plans will contribute to the ACT's circular economy. The Industry Action Plans are published on the Skills Canberra website.

1.6	Train the future workforce to embed best practice sustainability concepts, including circular economy, in selected Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) education and training programs.	Through programs delivered by the CIT Hair and Beauty Department and the CIT Culinary and Hospitality Department, students learn circular economy concepts, including reducing food waste, promoting reusability, repurposing and recycling.	Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	CIT embeds sustainability into their courses, where appropriate.  For example, the CIT Science and Environment uses recycled or biodegradable bedding materials for animals, reuses water for irrigation where possible and repurposes chicken manure on garden beds. CIT Horticulture and floristry recycles food waste with a compost bay and worm farm and makes its own potting mix to avoid purchasing products in plastic packaging. CIT supports Grind to Ground who recycles sawdust from CIT Carpentry to make compost.
1.7	Explore options to develop a grants program to support grass roots action and innovation on circular economy, aligned with the themes of the Strategy.	Options for a small grants program will be explored to support social enterprises, not-for-profits, start-ups and businesses to adapt to changes in practices, to upscale current circular practices, or to test innovative ideas to grow the circular economy.	CED	Future potential action	Delivery of the action is yet to commence.	Delivery of a circular economy grants program will be considered in the context of future budget considerations.

## Food and organics action plan

The food and organics action plan is focused on delivering a circular economy where households, businesses and industry prioritise food waste avoidance or recovery at its highest market value, with organic materials to be returned to the natural environment. This approach aims to reduce emissions from waste, achieve operational efficiencies for hospitality businesses that avoid food waste, support the community to make informed choices and change food waste behaviours, create jobs, and improve the quality of our soils.

#	Action	Description	Lead	Timing	Status	Update
2.1	Through working group participation, identify and progress food waste avoidance and behaviour change opportunities to grow the circular economy.	Food waste avoidance and behaviour change were key themes arising from the industry and business workshops. While the ACT Government has committed to managing food and organic waste at the end of the supply chain, this working group will focus on opportunities to reduce the amount of food waste within the system, such as extending the life of food across the supply chain, consumer education and behaviour change, increasing the resale or donation of surplus food, or creating operational efficiencies within the retail environment.	ACT business and industry peak bodies	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action has been delayed.	Delayed due to dependence on actions 2.2 and 2.9. CED intends to establish a working group with respect to food waste avoidance and behaviour change aligned with the potential implementation of a circular economy regulation, as well as the completion of the construction of a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) facility.

<p>2.2 Introduce circular economy legislation to require businesses to have food waste reduction plans and separate waste streams, including food organics.</p>	<p>The creation of circular economy legislation will support the avoidance and reduction of food waste by businesses, and the diversion of organic waste from landfill. This action relates to the creation of legislation, with the expectation that requirements for businesses will be introduced at a later stage.</p>	<p>CED</p>	<p>Delivered by 2023</p>	<p>The action has been delayed. The Act has been delivered. Requirements for businesses have been delayed.</p>	<p>The <i>Circular Economy Act 2023</i> was introduced in October 2023. The Act sets a framework for future regulation to be developed, to require businesses to have a separate collection for organic waste collection, as well as a food waste reduction plan.</p> <p>Under this Act, a draft regulation was prepared in 2023 which would have required all businesses that generate waste to have a co-mingled recycling collection system and all businesses that generate food waste to develop a food waste reduction plan. The proposed introduction date was 1 July 2024. Additionally, it was proposed that food businesses would be required to have a collection for food waste, commencing from 1 December 2024.</p> <p>The ACT Government has postponed the introduction of these requirements to provide businesses more time to plan and adjust to the new legislation. Information on how these recycling and food waste recovery requirements can be practically implemented by businesses will be made available in the future along with providing an</p>
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						appropriate lead-in time to allow businesses to prepare.
2.3	Facilitate opportunities for business-to-business connections between food businesses and ACT food waste recyclers.	It is estimated that up to 8,000 tonnes of commercial food waste will be generated each year in the ACT. Requirements to separate food waste provides opportunities for the Government to provide information to food businesses to connect them with existing food recycling businesses to ensure that this valuable resource is collected and recycled.	CED	Delivered by 2024	Delivery of the action has been delayed.	Business-to-business connections between food businesses and food waste recyclers will be facilitated through the future establishment of a food organics working group (see action 2.1).
2.4	Explore options to reduce food waste generated by patient meals, which may include implementing an on-demand service or food waste reduction plans.	Implementing a new food service model would allow patients (where appropriate) to order off a menu at a time suitable to them, which allows patients to have more flexibility in their ordering and when they receive their meals, in turn reducing food waste by preparing meals only when required.	Canberra Health Services (CHS)	Pilot project commencing in the second half of 2024	Delivery of the action has been delayed.	This project did not proceed due to significant cost increases for critical infrastructure required. A feasibility study is currently underway, expected to be complete November 2025. Additional funding for this program may be sought from a future Budget.

2.5	Support food rescue activities.	The ACT Government currently provides funding to support targeted food rescue activities across the ACT. These targeted activities enable ACT residents who are experiencing hardship to access edible food.	Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD)	Delivered in 2023/24	The action has been delivered.	In 2024-25, the ACT Government provided an additional \$116,547 to OzHarvest as part of a food relief package. This has supported OzHarvest to continue their operation of a third delivery food rescue truck in 2024-25.
2.6	Complete a trial of a public food waste bin at the Suburban Land Agency Display Village in Whitlam.	A public food waste bin is the first of its kind in the ACT. This trial will evaluate its success in understanding the potential for Suburban Land Agency and the ACT Government to install more public food waste bins in the future.	Suburban Land Agency (SLA)	Delivered by 2023/24	The action has been delivered.	<p>A public food bin has been installed in the SLA Innovation Precinct at the Whitlam Display Village since April 2023. This bin is collected by Goterra, and they provide SLA monthly reports on waste collected.</p> <p>From April - December 2023 this single bin prevented 785kg of food waste from going into landfill, and from January - August 2024 the bin prevented 752kg food waste from going to landfill. This is equal to 1,491.5 kg of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e) prevented in 2023, and 1,428.8kg CO<sub>2</sub>e prevented up to October 2024 - a total of 2,920.3kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions prevented.</p> <p>Due to the success of this bin in collecting waste, reducing landfill and emissions, SLA is continuing to manage</p>

						the contract for this food waste bin in Whitlam Innovation Precinct for the duration the Display Village is open.
2.7	Continue the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) pilot collection service.	This pilot is servicing 5,000 households in Belconnen and is providing an opportunity to learn how to most effectively rollout a citywide household FOGO collection service.	CED	Delivered	The action has been delivered.	<p>The food organics and garden organics (FOGO) pilot was expanded from late 2024 to April 2025 to include additional multi-unit developments (MUDs) in Belconnen and select townhouses and apartments in Greenway.</p> <p>A total of 6,592 households (4,162 SUD households and 2,430 MUD households) are now part of the FOGO pilot. An estimated 4,567 tonnes of FOGO material has been collected, and diverted from landfill, since the pilot started in 2021.</p> <p>Contamination rates have remained low at less than 3% over the lifetime of the pilot. So far in 2025 over 500 tonnes of FOGO material has been collected from households across the pilot area.</p>
2.8	Pilot composting collection for all food	The ACT Government delivers a wide range of major events in Canberra, providing an opportunity to potentially pilot	CMTEDD	Future potential action	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	Events ACT has met with its waste and cleaning contractor to discuss the implementation of the pilot at either Floriade or Enlighten, to complement

	waste at a major event.	a collection service, not just for food organics but also for items such as compostable alternatives to single use plastic products.				its current sustainable waste practises, elimination and hand sorting to increase diversion.
			HCS D			Delivery of the action is still in progress. A pilot program could be considered for future events such as the National Multicultural Festival, once a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) facility has been constructed.
2.9	Build a new industrial scale FOGO facility to compost at least 50,000 tonnes of organic waste from city-wide kerbside household collections and consider acceptance of commercial collections.	This new FOGO facility will turn food waste into valuable compost that can be used to improve the soils of our whole region.	Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR)	Ongoing		Delivery of the action is still in progress. The Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) was released to industry on 1 July 2025 and closed on 12 August, the proposal is now in evaluation. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is awaiting industry feedback from the REOI process and is expected to be lodged for approval in late 2025.

## Built environment action plan

The built environment action plan focuses on prioritising reuse, recovery and recycling in our growing built environment, with influence to develop innovative and adaptive building and planning policies and practices.

Circularity in the built environment promotes the efficient use of materials, reduces reliance on natural resources, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

It drives innovation by integrating new technologies to enhance the design, build, and maintenance of infrastructure with the potential to enable significant economic savings.

#	Action	Description	Lead	Timing	Status	Update
3.1	Through working group participation, identify, discuss and progress opportunities to build circular economy knowledge within the built environment sector.	Knowledge sharing was identified as the highest priority area to address from the industry and business workshops. Stakeholders also raised the need for government to set the direction for the sector on circular economy. The delivery of ACT Government actions will start to provide this signal to industry and business.	ACT business and industry peak bodies	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action has been delayed.	The establishment of a built environment working group has been delayed due to prioritisation of other work on circular economy.
3.2	Provide design guidance in the planning system on the circular economy through the	As part of planning system reform, work will progress to establish urban design guidance which incorporate circular economy practices	CED	Commencing in 2023	The action has been delivered.	The <a href="#">ACT Urban Design Guide</a> was published in November 2023. The guide provides guidance on ways

	development of an Urban Design Guide.	such as sustainable procurement, adaptive reuse in the construction of new buildings, using prefabricated or modular building components, up-cycling and embodying carbon.				<p>developers can incorporate good design into public spaces and places.</p> <p>The guide specifically includes design guidance for circular economy considerations, including the design of public areas to include improved access for pedestrians, design for active travel, and the inclusion of trees and landscaping.</p>
3.3	Update the iCBR design brief process to include a sustainability report (or equivalent) requirement for major infrastructure.	This action will incorporate consideration of circular economy initiatives throughout a project's development and construction, including requirements for designers to consider circular economy opportunities when designing and selecting materials for ACT Government major projects.	iCBR	Delivered by 2024	The action has been delivered.	<p>The Infrastructure Design Requirements (IDR) incorporates and highlights existing government policy that will inform design-based infrastructure projects. The IDR has been published on the Infrastructure Canberra website and is strongly encouraged for use in relevant projects.</p> <p>It contains a specific section on sustainability requirements. This section requires designers to address within a Sustainability in Design report how the Territory's net zero and nature positive goals will be achieved throughout the project and how the design has considered the circular economy. It specifically requires designers to align with the</p>

						<i>ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030.</i>
3.4	Review and update the ACT Municipal Infrastructure Design Standards and Technical Specifications to encourage greater use of recycled materials and increase sustainability outcomes in the design and construction of civil and open space assets, and where suitable, align with other jurisdictions.	The initial focus of this work will look into the use of recycled content in asphalt and concrete materials, through a review and evaluation of previous trials and consultation with industry. This will then culminate in adopting recycled content limits within ACT Municipal Infrastructure Design Standards and Technical Specifications to align those same limits adopted in other jurisdictions' standards and specifications.	CED	Ongoing	The action has been delivered.	The road pavement review has been completed, with the publication of <a href="#">Engineering Advisory Note 22</a> in December 2023. The sustainable concrete specifications review has also been completed, with the publication of the new concrete specification on 27 August 2025.
3.5	Undertake trials to evaluate the suitability of innovative new materials and products that contain recycled content in	Trial, review and evaluate new innovative asphalt and concrete products that contain new forms of recycled content, such as soft plastics, and a higher proportion of recycled content. Monitor	CED	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	Trials have been undertaken, and will continue to be undertaken and monitored for performance. Examples of trials include the use of recycled plastics in concrete for community paths as constructed through Infrastructure Delivery.

	civil assets. Where products/materials are deemed suitable, allow for and encourage their ongoing use in the ACT.	ongoing research and trials being undertaken in ACT and other jurisdictions, and ensure future updates are made to the ACT Municipal Infrastructure Design Standards and Technical Specifications to align with future updates of specifications by other jurisdictions.				
3.6	Explore opportunities to incorporate circular design principles during the design and construction of Light Rail Stage 2.	The Light Rail Stage 2 project will investigate opportunities to: (a) prioritise recycled and reused materials during construction, where suitable; (b) collect data on material types, quantities and origin to inform future recycled content or reuse targets; (c) enable end-of-life reuse or recyclability in the selection of systems and materials used; (d) make excess waste and materials available for reuse; and (e) reduce materials and associated end-of-life waste	iCBR	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<u>Light Rail Procurement, Retrofit and Depot Expansion (LPRDE)</u> : The design and construction of the LPRDE Project incorporated circular economy principles and strategies, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designing out waste and pollution: through the use of approximately 150 tonnes of excavated topsoil and spoil; and through design optimisation to reduce fill and shotcrete materials needed for embankment stabilisation/retaining wall;</li> <li>- Keeping products and materials in use at their highest value; including the use of reclaimed crushed concrete materials the use of 15% RAP (Recycled Asphalt) in carpark</li> </ul>

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during design and construction.

asphalt, and the use of 21 tonnes of reclaimed steel rails; and

- voiding negative impacts on the environment and regenerating natural systems: achieving 25% replacement of Ordinary Portland Cement with fly ash, leading to a commensurate reduction in carbon emissions.

Data collected and reported for LPRDE, together with Light Rail Stage 2 A (LRS2A) data, will inform opportunities for LRS2B.

(LRS2A): The head contractor has developed a Delivery Phase Sustainability Plan and a Materials Environmental Impact Plan, including commitments to implement the *ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030* hierarchy during design, selection and procurement. The first annual report including data on whether materials used are recycled or reused, and where neither recycled or reused outlining barriers will cover the 2025 calendar year, and is expected in Q1 2026.

3.7	Facilitate the greater use of recycled material for road maintenance and construction.	This action aims to continue to increase the use of recycled content such as truck tyres, crushed glass, recycled asphalt pavement, soft plastics and toner cartridge powder in road maintenance and construction activities such as road resurfacing, rehabilitation and new construction works where appropriate and deemed safe to implement.	CED		The action has been delivered.	The road pavement review was completed with details provided at <a href="#">Engineering Advisory Note 22</a> . Ongoing maintenance programs also consider greater use of recycled materials through procurement approaches.
			iCBR	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p><u>Monaro Highway Upgrade and Molonglo River Bridge:</u> The Monaro Highway Upgrade and Molonglo River Bridge were both tendered prior to the development of the <i>ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030</i>. Where current standards at the time of tendering allow for the use of recycled materials, these projects have utilised materials with recycled content. This includes Recycled Asphalt (RAP) in new asphalt concrete pavements.</p> <p><u>William Hovell Drive:</u> Construction is due to commence in late 2025 on the William Hovell Drive Duplication. The project will reuse 100% reclaimed (clean) asphalt material from within the site boundary with up to 15% RAP to be used in new asphalt for road construction.</p>

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Athllon Drive: Construction is due to commence in 2026 on the Athllon Drive Duplication (southern section), following all approvals and procurement completion. This project will target a sustainability rating under the Infrastructure Sustainability Essential framework, which will consider the use of RAP, reclaimed (clean) asphalt material and recycled aggregate, where appropriate.

Light Rail Procurement, Retrofit and Depot Expansion (LPRDE): The completed Depot expansion (as part of LPRDE Project) incorporated the use of 15% RAP in the carpark asphalt.

Light Rail Stage 2A (LRS2A): The head contractor has developed a Delivery Phase Sustainability Plan and a Materials Environmental Impact Plan, including commitments to implement the *ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030* hierarchy during design, selection and procurement. The first annual report including data on whether materials used are recycled or reused, and where neither recycled or reused

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						outlining barriers will cover the 2025 calendar year, and is expected in Q1 2026.
			SLA		Delivery of the action is still in progress.	SLA is continually exploring how to increase the use of recycled materials in road maintenance and civil construction. Asphalt with 30% recycled content is being used in the roads built in Whitlam, Jacka and Lawson, and will continue in future places with consideration of how to introduce asphalt with higher recycled content where possible. Concrete paths with e-mesh (a recycled component used instead of steel) was used in some footpaths in Whitlam and Jacka, and will be used in future places.
3.8	Explore innovative circular economy initiatives as part of North Wright Compact Housing design and construction.	Research is being undertaken for the North Wright Compact Housing project to use less materials through compact design, fewer virgin materials and more re-used building components for greater resource efficiency. In Stage 2 of the development,	SLA	Commencing in 2023 and delivered by 2026	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	Construction of the North Wright Compact Housing Project Stage 1 commenced in early 2024 and delivered 23 sustainable terrace style homes. Green concrete with 30% recycled content, recycled bricks and renewable or durable cladding systems have been used to reduce

		<p>prefabrication is being considered an alternative to in-situ construction as part of designing for disassembly and dematerialisation.</p>				<p>the embodied carbon of the building materials.</p> <p>The landscape also incorporated re-used materials and structures left over from other construction projects and crushed up concrete from within the site to support circular economy principles.</p> <p>The design of 20 prefabricated dwellings for Stage 2 is ongoing with an emphasis on continuing to identify materials with high turnover or high environmental impact (such as cladding, floor finishes, joinery, insulation, and benchtops) and substituting these for products with high recycled content, reuse potential, or take-back programs where practical and available.</p>
3.9	<p>Explore ways to encourage circular design through a circular house design guide for residents in new developments.</p>	<p>The design guide will provide details on how residents can design a circular home by considering what materials are made of, where they have been sourced, how they have been transported and what is involved with their installation.</p>	SLA	Commencing in 2023	Action is no longer progressing	<p>SLA has considered the best way to present information to encourage circular design and sustainable building. Following consideration of various options, SLA is not progressing with the originally suggested format of a guide to help residents use circular materials.</p>

						<p>As an alternative pathway to share this information, SLA has, since 2024 been delivering the Building a Sustainable Home workshop series, providing community members with tailored, wholistic advice on how to design and build sustainable homes including consideration of circular design and materials. Participant feedback from the workshops to date indicate positive results with high levels of engagement and learning. The series will continue to run for the remainder of the 2025 calendar year.</p> <p>Options to continue sharing information with new home builders about circular materials will be explored into the future as part of SLA's ongoing communications.</p>
3.10	Encourage circular economy and resource use considerations in land sales undertaken by the City Renewal Authority and advocate for circular	Using a Checklist for Sustainability Initiatives in Land Sales, the City Renewal Authority will include relevant circular economy principles in land release packages and land sales contracts where appropriate. The CRA advocates for circular	City Renewal Authority (CRA)	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>CRA has established a process for integrating circular economy principles into land sales.</p> <p>Project managers are required to report annually on the CRA Sustainability Strategy Action Plan. This includes indicating on the Sustainability Initiatives in Land Sales Checklist whether circular economy</p>

	economy considerations for proposed developments within the CRA precinct.	economy principles to be considered in development applications where appropriate through their role as a referral agency.				<p>principles and resource use considerations (such as re-used, recycled and repurposed materials or adaptive re-use of structures) have been considered or incorporated into a land sale or development.</p> <p>For example, circular economy principles and resource use are considered in the Acton Waterfront Neighbourhood Urban Design Framework and will be part of the approach to market documentation.</p> <p>Through our role as a referral entity, the CRA advocates for circular economy principles to be considered in development applications where appropriate.</p>
3.11	Encourage circular economy principles through the Sustainable Design and Delivery Checklist for City Renewal Authority public realm projects.	Using a Sustainable Design and Delivery Checklist, the City Renewal Authority will incorporate relevant circular economy principles where appropriate throughout the project design and delivery process, such as in the Statement of Requirements	CRA	Commencing in 2023	The action has been delivered.	Project managers are required to report annually on the CRA Sustainability Strategy Action Plan. This includes indicating on the Sustainable Design and Delivery Checklist whether circular economy principles and resource use considerations (such as re-used, recycled and repurposed materials or adaptive re-use of structures) have been considered or incorporated into

		for design and construction tenders.				<p>the design or delivery phase of public space upgrades.</p> <p>For example, some granite setts get salvaged and reused and all concrete/pavers get recycled into road base from the Garema Place public realm upgrade. The final design for the Dickson Shops public realm upgrade proposes to re-use existing paving material, integrate existing artworks and relocate the existing shade structure in Taglietti Square to the laneway off Dickson Place. The Alinga St masterplan design considers the stockpiling of materials for reuse where possible.</p>
3.12	Develop circular economy principles in building policy through the development of a 10-year pathway to progress towards world's best practice in climate ready and environmentally sustainable buildings.	Establish a roadmap to progress the Territory towards sustainable and climate resilient buildings. The roadmap will consider and develop policy to incorporate circular economy practices that encompass construction techniques, materials, and embodied carbon in the building process.	CED	Commencing in 2023	The action has been delivered.	<p>The roadmap has been established and publicly released as the ACT Sustainable Buildings Pathway. It has inbuilt review-points in recognition of the changing national and jurisdictional context. The circular economy is a theme under the focus area "Making sure buildings are fit for purpose now and into the future".</p> <p>The circular economy is also referenced under other focus areas, in particular with reference to</p>

						sustainable practices, innovation, supply chain resilience and policies to reduce embodied carbon in the built environment which are already being implemented.
3.13	Explore circular economy business ideas in future Suburban Land Agency development sites.	Consider opportunities for circular economy businesses as part of the Horse Park Revitalisation Strategy, such as an urban timber log and recycling yard, and a share and repair café.	SLA	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action has been delayed.	<p>The Horse Park Homestead Revitalisation Strategy included consideration of how the precinct could support circular economy businesses. However, further work on the precinct has not progressed and is not expected to proceed in the near term.</p> <p>Support for circular economy businesses remains a key consideration in the planning of future development sites, including Molonglo Town Centre and the suburbs of Kenny and Bandler. These opportunities are being explored as part of the broader master planning and detailed design processes for these areas.</p>
3.14	Consider initiatives around sustainable construction materials, resource	As part of implementing sustainability plans for key sites, circular initiatives such as resource recovery, flexible	SLA	Future potential action	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	SLA is embedding principles of circularity and sustainable materials into the master planning and detailed design of new places like Molonglo

	recovery, flexible design and materials selection and support the share/repair economy as part of the sustainability approach for strategic development delivery projects.	design and materials selection will be considered during the design of strategic development delivery projects. Where relevant, places that help the community to connect with the share/repair economy will be considered.				Town Centre and Kenny to consider these elements early in design of new places. External frameworks such as Green Star rating tools are also being considered to embed circularity, sustainable materials and processes, and reduction of embodied carbon into selected SLA developments.
3.15	Explore options for incorporating circular economy principles of adaptive reuse and refurbishment as part of the design stage of the Canberra Theatre Redevelopment project.	This project involves designing and constructing a new 2,000-seat theatre and upgrading the existing Canberra Theatre Centre, which presents an opportunity to demonstrate a circular economy.	iCBR and Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC)	Final Preliminary Sketch Plan Report to be delivered by 2024	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>Circular economy principles are being incorporated into the construction of the new Canberra Theatre. Sustainability, as one of several guiding values within the broader project plan, is being actively integrated into design and delivery approaches.</p> <p>The 30% design milestone report outlined that the project is targeting a 20% reduction in embodied energy, reflecting a commitment to lower-impact material choices and efficient construction methods.</p> <p>The current design achieves a Building Circularity Score of 26%, indicating that over a quarter of</p>

					<p>materials are planned for reuse, recycling, or recovery. However, a significant proportion of materials are presently designated for downcycling at end-of-life. While this is beneficial for landfill diversion, there are further opportunities to improve material selection and design for higher-value reuse.</p> <p>During construction, the project aims to divert 90% of waste from landfill, aligning with best practice benchmarks and contributing to ACT Government sustainability targets.</p>
<p>3.16 Explore options to establish a Circular Resource Hub for Suburban Land Agency built form projects.</p>	<p>The Suburban Land Agency has identified a depot for storing materials. Callouts are currently being undertaken for recycled and salvaged materials across ACT Government, to be reused in Suburban Land Agency's landscape and built-form projects.</p>	<p>SLA</p>	<p>Commencing in 2023</p>	<p>Delivery of the action is in progress.</p>	<p>SLA and iCBR have established a cross-government Community of Practice (CoP) for Reuse of Materials, which serves as a forum for facilitating reuse of project materials between ACT Government projects.</p> <p>Materials removed as part of iCBR Light Rail works have been identified for reuse opportunities in SLA public realm projects. The CoP is also exploring potential cross-government opportunities for storage and distribution of materials, to logistically enable material reuse in a</p>

						streamlined and coordinated manner across government.
3.17	Develop an urban wood reuse plan for trees removed from public land.	The reuse of urban forest material (by-product) at end of life has the potential to transform what is currently a 'waste stream' for the Territory into a 'value stream'. Higher value salvaged wood can be processed into sawn timber for use by local schools, community organisations, and businesses, while low value urban wood is processed into new products such as soil and compost, soft fall mulch, bio-char and wood pellets.	CED	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	Community consultation has been undertaken on the draft Urban Wood Reuse Plan, with internal and external engagement sessions completed in July 2025. Feedback on the draft Plan closed on Friday 29 August 2025.

## Consumer goods action plan

The consumer goods action plan focuses on improved design and management of consumer goods to keep materials in circulation, achieved through collaboration with all levels of government, industry, local businesses and the Canberra community.

This action plan seeks to reduce unnecessary consumption, materials use, and impacts from the production of consumer goods. It supports the transition from single-use to reusable items, and the elimination of unnecessary or environmentally harmful packaging.

#	Action	Description	Lead	Timing	Status	Update
4.1	Through working group participation, identify and progress opportunities for ACT stakeholders to influence certain stages of the circular economy for electronic goods and textiles (e.g. design, production, distribution, and use).	E-waste and textiles were raised as potential priority focus areas by industry and business stakeholders at the consumer goods and emerging and problematic waste streams workshops. This action will seek address these items before they become waste, through approaches such as behaviour change/consumer awareness, and extending the life of these products through reuse, sharing and repair.	ACT business and industry peak bodies	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	The ACT Government has committed to investigate the feasibility of a textiles hub to reduce problematic textile and clothing waste, in addition to supporting our craft community.  In February 2025, CED held a textiles circularity workshop with local community, business and industry stakeholders. The workshop explored needs and opportunities for textiles circularity in the ACT. This group of stakeholders may be re-engaged via a working group pending future work on textiles.
4.2	Continue to advocate nationally for consumers' right to repair.	The ACT Government raised concerns with consumer affairs ministers across all Australian jurisdictions in relation to the	Justice and Community Safety, (JACS) and CED	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	On 29 November 2024, Australian state and territory treasurers signed 2 agreements to revitalise the National Competition Policy (NCP): the

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repair of consumer products becoming increasingly difficult. This resulted in the Productivity Commission's 'Right to Repair' inquiry in 2021, examining the lack of competition in repair markets and lack of certainty for consumers about repairability and costs. The ACT Government awaits the response from the Commonwealth Government on the Inquiry report to inform national progress on informing consumers' right to repair.

Intergovernmental Agreement and the Federation Funding Agreement Schedule. These agreements introduce updated National Competition Principles and outline the first steps on a 10-year reform program, supported by the National Productivity Fund. On 30 June 2025, the Australian Government Jurisdiction-Specific Reform Plan was agreed which can be found [here](#).

The existing Motor Vehicle Information Sharing Scheme (MVISS) makes motor vehicle service and repair information available to all Australian repairers and registered training organisations. A review into the scheme is currently underway. A final report will be provided to the Commonwealth Government at the end of 2025. Once this report is released, it can be determined if there are any potential reforms to be progressed by the Commonwealth, as well as to the states and territories consumer law.

4.3	Investigate the potential to expand the scope of eligible containers in the ACT Container Deposit Scheme, with the intention of harmonising ACT's Container Deposit Scheme with other jurisdictions.	The ACT Government has consulted on expanding Canberra's container deposit scheme in line with the Environment Ministers' agreement that all states and territories will harmonise container types, refund amounts, labelling and community education across jurisdictions by 2025.	CED	Delivered by 2025	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>The ACT Government has committed to investigate expanding the ACT Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to incorporate other recyclables, such as wine and spirit bottles.</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken in 2023 to seek feedback on a proposal to include additional items within the ACT CDS. The ACT Government is now considering this feedback and assessing the impacts of an expanded scheme through an assessment of regulatory impacts and is seeking to align with other jurisdictions.</p> <p>The NSW Government announced recently that their CDS would be expanded in 2027.</p>
4.4	Create circular economy legislation for businesses to have separate collections for co-mingled recycling.	The creation of circular economy legislation will support the diversion of co-mingled recycling from landfill. This action relates to the creation of legislation, with the expectation that requirements for businesses will be introduced at a later stage.	CED	Commencing in 2023	The action has been delivered.	<p>The <i>Circular Economy Act 2023</i> was introduced in October 2023. The Act sets a framework for future regulation to be developed, to require businesses to have a separate collection for co-mingled recycling.</p> <p>Under this Act, a draft regulation was prepared in 2023 which would have required all businesses that generate waste to have a co-mingled recycling</p>

						<p>collection in place. The proposed introduction date was 1 July 2024.</p> <p>The ACT Government has postponed the introduction of this requirement to provide businesses more time to plan and adjust to the new legislation. Information on how these recycling requirements can be practically implemented by businesses will be made available in the future along with providing an appropriate lead-in time to allow businesses to prepare.</p>
4.5	<p>Support a reformed packaging system that is industry funded, focuses on avoidance and designing out waste, and has a centralised scheme administration under a Commonwealth legislative framework.</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Government completed an independent legislative review of Australia’s national co-regulatory framework for packaging in 2021, which found that the current system is not fit-for-purpose and reform is needed to improve environment outcomes for packaging. Following this review, Environment Ministers agreed to reform the regulation of packaging.</p>	<p>CED</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Delivery of the action is still in progress.</p>	<p>The ACT is continuing to engage with this work and advocate for an extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme through the Packaging Government Officials Group, Senior Officials Group, and the Environment Ministers’ Meeting.</p> <p>In October 2024, the Australian Government undertook consultation to discuss options to reform Australia’s packaging regulations. The consultation summary demonstrated strong support for an EPR scheme with mandatory requirements, and for reforms for packaging design,</p>

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recycled content thresholds, and recyclability labelling. The next steps identified to support reforms included continued and targeted consultation, and consideration of preferred model.

In 2024, the Australian Government's Design Standard Working Group provided an independent recommendation for the government to develop a Design for Kerbside Recyclability Grading Framework. The Framework was released in December 2024, and incentivises best practice packaging design for recyclability through kerbside collections, while maintaining essential packaging characteristics and functionality. The Australian Government will undertake targeted industry engagement on the Framework as part of ongoing consultation in 2025, and will consider how the Framework could be built upon and integrated into a future regulatory model.

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4.6	Consider options to trial events or activation programs that encourage and promote the adoption of circular economy principles.	The City Renewal Authority will seek to trial events or activation programs that adopt circular economy practices, or encourage the community to adopt circular economy practices, such as plastic-free events or a tool lendery or 'share and repair' program at the Haig Park Community Centre.	CRA	Commencing in 2023	The action has been delivered.	<p><u>Sustainable Travel Street Party:</u> Reusable materials were used to build stalls and the program supported education on reducing individual carbon footprints and sustainable travel choices.</p> <p><u>Art gallery installation:</u> Originally constructed for La Fiesta in 2023, the installation is made of entirely recycled materials and has been utilised at numerous events.</p> <p><u>The Lunar New Year Zodiac Snake:</u> The Lunar New Year Zodiac Snake installation was constructed using recycled wood.</p> <p>The Place Experience and Marketing Action Plan supports the ongoing delivery of events aligned with the Circular Economy Strategy (e.g., Suitcase Rummage in Haig Park).</p> <p>All event signage is made from recycled or recyclable materials. Additionally, all events align with "plastic free events" program.</p>
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4.7	Develop a long-term plan for phasing-out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic items and transitioning to more sustainable alternatives, in line with circular economy principles and legislation.	The ACT Government has introduced bans on single-use plastics in three tranches. Commencing in 2023 work will be undertaken to prepare a long-term plan to set the future direction of phase outs, potential timings and a criteria by which to select items for phasing out, aligned with the circular economy. This will also provide greater certainty to business and industry on the proposed items, scope and timing of future bans.	CED	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>The ACT Government has committed to continue to identify problematic waste streams, including single-use plastics with suitable alternatives, that can be phased out from circulation.</p> <p>The ACT continues to work with Commonwealth, state and territory governments to harmonise existing single-use plastic bans and to develop a coordinated approach to identifying and banning future items.</p> <p>This work will also consider means of plastic reduction beyond bans, including the use of reusable items to reduce plastic waste.</p>
4.8	Continue to collect and recycle offcut fabric from CIT Fashion courses for reuse by the gym equipment sector for the manufacture of punching bags.	Waste fabric from the CIT Fashion course is reused and recycled, diverting it from landfill.	CIT	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	CIT continues to collect and recycle offcut fabric from CIT Fashion courses for reuse by the gym equipment sector. In addition, CIT Fashion utilises old sheets and recycles second hand clothing.

4.9	Scope the establishment of a textiles hub in the ACT.	A textiles hub would help to support local designers, crafts people and industry to realise circular economy opportunities in relation to textiles as well as educate the broader community on circular economy possibilities.	CED	Future potential action	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>The ACT Government has committed to investigate the feasibility of a textiles hub to reduce problematic textile and clothing waste, in addition to supporting our craft community.</p> <p>In February 2025, CED held a textiles circularity workshop with Aurecon which involved local community, business and industry stakeholders. The workshop explored needs and opportunities for textiles circularity in the ACT, and tested options for a textiles hub. CED is considering workshop outcomes to understand opportunities for textiles in the ACT.</p>
4.10	Support reusable facilities at Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres.	The ACT Government will be undertaking a procurement to renew the services. The reusable facilities provide a safe and convenient location for the community to drop off and purchase unwanted reusable items. This will contribute to resource recovery and diversion of materials from landfill and improve the community's	CED	Commencing in 2024	The action has been delivered.	<p>Goodies Junction was the successful tenderer in the procurement process and commenced operation of the Mitchell and Mugga Lane Reusable Facilities under a new contract on 31 May 2024. Both facilities were fully operational and open to the public on 1 July 2024 and continue to deliver this service.</p>

		capacity to participate in the circular economy.				
4.11	Evaluate the clothing charity bin trial at Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre to understand the potential for future expansion.	The ACT Government has extended the clothing charity bin trials through to December 2023, enabling an opportunity to evaluate the service including the identification of recommendations, to then inform decision making around its potential future expansion.	CED	Delivered by 2023	The action is no longer progressing.	Koomarri, a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Service Provider, provided a textile collection, repurpose and recycling service at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre until December 2024. Due to changes in NDIS funding Koomarri ceased operations on 6 December 2024.

## Emerging and problematic waste streams action plan

The focus of the emerging and problematic waste streams action plan is for industry to work proactively to prevent the creation of problematic waste, with nationally regulated product stewardship schemes in place in instances of industry inaction for whole-of-life product management. Benefits of this approach include avoiding lock-in effects from design decisions that impact opportunities to further cycle materials later in their life, innovation in product design and manufacturing, creation of markets and jobs associated with recovered materials.

It also seeks to achieve regulated national product stewardship arrangements for problematic products, which encourages economies of scale, reduces free riders, and facilitates opportunities for harmonising management across jurisdictions.

#	Action	Description	Lead	Timing	Status	Update
5.1	Through participation in a working group identify and progress opportunities for ACT stakeholders to influence certain stages of the circular economy for lithium-ion batteries (e.g. design, production, distribution, use, and recycling).	Batteries were raised as a potential priority focus area by industry and business stakeholders at the emerging and problematic waste streams workshop and managing lithium-ion batteries at their end-of-life is becoming increasingly challenging. This action will seek to identify and address barriers associated with managing this waste stream and identify opportunities such as improved product design to increase the circularity of these batteries.	ACT business and industry peak bodies	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action has been delayed.	The establishment of an emerging and problematic waste streams working group has been delayed due to prioritisation of other work on circular economy.

5.2	Advocate for nationally regulated product stewardship schemes and opportunities to design out waste for solar PV systems, general electrical appliances and medium and large batteries.	There are opportunities for continued advocacy by the ACT on regulated product stewardship schemes and better design for these waste streams as part of the Commonwealth Government's work on establishing a regulated product stewardship scheme for solar panels and household electronics.	CED	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>CED continues to advocate for nationally regulated product stewardship schemes and opportunities to design out waste for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, general electrical appliances and batteries.</p> <p>Following the commencement of NSW's <i>Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act 2025</i> (NSW), CED is exploring the feasibility of establishing product stewardship reforms in the ACT, with a focus on batteries. CED participates in an interjurisdictional working group with the aim of understanding the feasibility of harmonising this approach across states and territories.</p> <p>At a meeting of the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council in August 2025, Commonwealth, state and territory governments agreed to progress work towards a national product stewardship scheme for solar panels, ensuring they are managed from start to end of life. NSW announced they will lead preliminary work, with other jurisdictions, in preparing a RIS for solar PV system</p>
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						stewardship. The ACT will work closely with NSW on this ongoing work.
5.3	Ensure responsible decommissioning requirements are created, agreed to, and met for all ACT Government-owned and ACT Government financially supported batteries through the Big Canberra Battery project.	The growing investment by both Government and industry in battery systems in the ACT will lead to a higher volume of battery waste in the future when these assets are decommissioned. However, since a significant portion of battery materials can be reused or recycled, end-of-life treatments can ensure that these materials are effectively reused within the economy.	CED	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>There are three streams of work under the Big Canberra Battery (BCB) Project:</p> <p><i>Stream 1:</i> a 250MW/500MWh battery at Williamsdale with Eku Energy;</p> <p><i>Stream 2:</i> behind-the-meter batteries at government sites; and</p> <p><i>Stream 3:</i> neighbourhood scale batteries across three ACT suburbs (Dickson, Fadden and Casey) respectively.</p> <p>The negotiated contracts for both stream 1 and the small behind-the-meter batteries under stream 2 include obligations for the approved Battery System Supplier to undertake appropriate end of life decommissioning. A similar obligation has not been included for the Supplier of the stream 2 large behind-the-meter-batteries. In this case, CED will work closely with the site</p>

					<p>managers to develop and execute a well sought decommissioning plan.</p> <p>The ownership of all batteries installed under stream 3 of the BCB project will be transferred to Evoenergy as nominated by the Commonwealth government. Discussions with Evoenergy have noted that the organisation is drafting a decommissioning plan. Territory representatives will be able to review and provide input into this plan. Discussions around the same are expected to commence in the near future.</p>	
			CMTEDD	Ongoing	<p>The action has been delivered.</p>	<p>There is now a contract in place with Eku Energy, which requires batteries at the end of life to be reused or recycled.</p>
5.4	Explore legislative options to encourage product stewardship in the ACT and address free riders in product stewardship schemes.	This work will look at options to strengthen product stewardship arrangements in the ACT to reduce free riders (i.e. businesses or organisations that may benefit from a product stewardship activity, without contributing	CED	Delivered by 2025	<p>Delivery of the action has been delayed.</p>	<p>Legislative options to encourage product stewardship were explored during the development of the <i>Circular Economy Act 2023</i>, however did not progress at that time.</p> <p>Following the commencement of NSW's <i>Product Lifecycle Responsibility</i></p>

		to the cost of developing and operating them).				Act 2025 (NSW), CED is exploring the feasibility of establishing product stewardship legislation in the ACT, with a focus on batteries.
5.5	Explore options for a potential legislative ban on e-waste to landfill.	The potential to ban e-waste from landfill will be explored for products where there are alternative pathways in place, such as existing product stewardship schemes.	CED	Commencing in 2024	Delivery of the action has been delayed.	Work on exploring the feasibility of establishing product stewardship legislation has taken priority over exploring an e-waste ban to landfill at this time, however there may be an application for e-waste under the proposed product stewardship framework which could be explored in future.
5.6	Investigate opportunities to utilise local or national battery reuse and recycling schemes to dispose of electric bus and light rail vehicle batteries at the end of useful life.	Opportunities will be investigated to utilise local or national reuse and recycling schemes at end of useful life for electric bus and light rail vehicle batteries. Australian battery recycling options and/or reusing batteries no longer suitable for powering electric buses and light rail	CED	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action has been delayed.	<u>Planning and Delivery:</u> CED will investigate opportunities once second life options are made available within the Australian market. With battery electric technologies in their infancy and second life options evolving, CED will take opportunities to maximise recycling or reuse of energy storage solutions. CED intends to undertake research and studies to further

<p>vehicles are expected to emerge and mature over time.</p>			<p>understand the market for reuse, recycling or disposal.</p>
	<p>iCBR</p>	<p>Delivery of the action is still in progress.</p>	<p><u>Canberra Metro Operations Light Rail Vehicle (CMET LRV) Battery Position:</u> In cooperation with the LRV manufacturer and maintenance contractor, CAF, Canberra Metro will undertake market studies and assessments to confirm best options for recycling or reusing batteries when they reach the end of useful life. Noting that the battery fleet is relatively new, these batteries will be in use for a minimum of 10 years.</p>

## Creating space to showcase our commitment to the circular economy action plan

The focus of the creating space action plan is for a regional approach to grow a circular economy which encourages cross-border collaboration and identifies land for enterprises to establish and innovate close to the source of waste generation in the ACT and wider region. This will ensure space is reserved for circular economy activities and services, providing opportunities for cross-border collaboration and the scaling of circular economy initiatives within the region.

#	Action	Description	Lead	Timing	Status	Update
6.1	Work with the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) and NSW Government through the ACT-CRJO MoU and ACT-NSW MoU for Regional Collaboration to identify opportunities for broader regional cooperation on waste management and circular economy.	This action will leverage existing commitments from the ACT Government that support cross-border engagement on a circular economy.	CMTEDD	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	The ACT continues to work with NSW and the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) to identify opportunities for broader regional cooperation on waste management and the circular economy.
6.2	Explore potential location/s for a future circular economy innovation precinct in the ACT that brings together small and large companies and non-profit organisations and	This will include investigating locations that allow for circular economy to co-locate with start-ups, research institutions and established businesses in a hub to promote collaboration and innovation,	CED	Future potential action	Delivery of the action is yet to commence.	The District Strategies 2023 identify locations of potential innovation precincts across the ACT, which could consider industries linked to the circular economy. This implementation pathway would consider planning and non-planning initiatives to support their growth. In

	provides a physical presence for an innovation ecosystem focused on the circular economy.	with appropriate zoning and transport access routes.				addition to this, the East Canberra District Strategy Initiative 2.3 could consider circular economy innovation precincts as part of its implementation. This item is for medium-term action (next 10 years).
6.3	Build a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to improve the quality and capacity of recycling in the ACT.	New technology will deliver the capacity to sort, separate, and process materials for the whole Canberra region, creating higher quality resources with higher value uses, including remanufacturing.	iCBR	Delivered within 2025 to 2026	Delivery of the action has been delayed.	The contract for the new recycling facility was awarded to Veolia on 30 January 2025. The contractor has lodged the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for completion and is awaiting final determination from the Territory Planning Authority. The contractor has taken possession of the site for mobilisation ahead of demolition activities commencing on the existing facility.
6.4	Finalise the ACT strategic waste infrastructure analysis.	This analysis aims to identify waste management and resource recovery infrastructure needed into the future to facilitate sustainable landfill diversion and resource recovery.	CED	Delivered by 2023	The action has been delivered.	The strategic waste infrastructure analysis has been finalised and will be used to inform waste and resource recovery planning into the future.

6.5	Explore location/s for future potential waste facilities that support reuse, repurposing and recycling, and where identified, reserve suitable land.	Investigate locations for waste facilities that are appropriately zoned, and allow for the range of waste reuse, repurposing and recycling facilities identified in the Circular Economy Strategy that are isolated from sensitive users and protect/maintain buffer zones.	CED	Ongoing	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>The new planning system commenced in late 2023, focusing on performance-based outcomes. Assessment of developments will focus how developments perform in their setting and how they meet the desired development outcomes. The permissible uses in land use zones were considered as part of the planning system review.</p> <p>As new greenfield areas are planned, such as to the city's east and west, consideration will be given to reserving suitable land for waste and circular economy activities.</p>
6.6	Finalise the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment.	The Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment will identify potential areas for future employment and industrial uses including circular economy activities.	CED	Commencing in 2023	Delivery of the action is still in progress.	<p>The Eastern Broadacre area is identified in the ACT Planning Strategy 2018 and in the East Canberra District Strategy 2023. Investigations within the study area are looking at new industrial and employment opportunities while also considering existing uses of the land and environmental values.</p> <p>The Eastern Broadacre area is subject to a further assessment under the Australian Government's</p>

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*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*  
Once approval of the draft assessment is received from the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) it will be placed on public exhibition for comment and review.

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# Conclusion

This Progress Report demonstrates that adopting circular practices and pathways in the ACT is having a positive impact on the environment and community. A solid foundation has been established for the ACT's transition towards a more circular economy during the first year of implementing the Strategy and Action Plan.

The coming years provide an opportunity for the ACT to further progress circular economy practices through the implementation of more circular initiatives, such as a new large-scale FOGO facility that will allow the expansion of FOGO collection to all households in Canberra, a circular economy grants program, a potential expansion of the ACT Container Deposit Scheme, and the construction of a new recycling facility. The ACT Government will continue to forge and strengthen partnerships with industry, businesses and the community to support the ongoing collaborative approach that is required for success.

This Progress Report will be complimented by annual updates on progress of the Strategy and Action Plan through the CED Annual Report. A further progress report is anticipated to be released once there has been significant progress against multiple actions within the Strategy and Action Plan.

