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Why the new structure for the ACT?

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Abstract

The demographic profile of the ACT is changing. Population growth, demographic change, household change and a constant demand for a higher quality of life underpin the need to plan for growth and change in the ACT. Like other jurisdictions in Australia, household size is declining while household formation rate is rising. Coupled with this change, housing preferences are also changing. This has implications for planning to accommodate future population growth.

The previous strategic plan for Canberra, the Y Plan, was developed in the 1960s when none of these changes were envisioned. The *Canberra Spatial Plan* is the new strategic direction for a sustainable ACT. It has considered the changing demographic profile of the ACT and surrounding region, as well as the need for a sustainable future city form for the ACT.

In developing the *Canberra Spatial Plan* consideration was given to areas that were capable of urban development within the ACT. These areas were identified through examination of factors that may constrain, or potentially limit, the location of future urban development, including social, physical and environmental constraints. Key issues included maximising access to and use of existing services and facilities and infrastructure, minimising the need for new transport links and travel times, maintaining the sense of place of the city, protecting biodiversity, ensuring physical responsibility for the Territory and enhancing the quality of life. An urban land capability analysis was undertaken with the help of Geographic Information Systems to determine the future urban capable lands in the ACT.

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