

Chris Steel MLA

Treasurer

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Member for Murrumbidgee

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 8****27 June 2025****Question No. 488****MR BRADDOCK MLA** - To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development:

In what ways does the ACT Government balance the critical need for affordable housing with the priorities of sustainable urban development, particularly in terms of environmental impact and resource allocation.

MINISTER STEEL MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government takes a strategic, integrated approach to balancing affordable housing needs with sustainable urban development and resource allocation. Affordable housing is embedded within ACT Government Strategies including but not limited to the ACT Planning Strategy (2018), the ACT Housing Strategy (2018), and the district strategies (2023) which help make sure there is alignment across environmental and urban planning policies. For example, the strategies promote compact city growth, preserving natural landscapes while encouraging improved energy efficiency, sustainable design, and climate resilience standards through the public housing renewal program, the Sustainable Buildings Pathway (2024) and Climate Change Strategy (2019).

Further, the ACT Government is investing in upgrading older public housing stock to improve energy efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability, which helps reduce emission impacts and reduce tenants' energy bills. In the context of these strategies, the land release program also prioritises affordable housing through a range of projects including Housing Targets, the Affordable Housing Project Fund, the Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program, the Social Housing Accelerator Program and by supporting build-to-rent models and private sector partnerships that enable affordable housing delivery.



The ACT Government is also progressing a range of strategic and planning reform projects to support housing supply and improved affordability across Canberra. The proposed Missing Middle Housing reform (MMHR) includes a new Missing Middle Housing Design Guide that has informed proposed changes to the Territory Plan. These changes promote best practice design, greater housing diversity, and housing that enhances the character and liveability of our established suburbs.

Beyond this first stage of the MMHRs, the ACT Government is exploring opportunities for medium and higher density housing within Canberra's urban footprint. This includes transit-oriented development such as the Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework, which integrates land use and transport planning to support the extension of the light rail to Woden. Further opportunities are being explored to deliver housing in and around local and group centres, ensuring new homes are close to services, jobs, and public transport.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Date: 7/8/25

This response required 2hrs 8mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$276.29