



ACT Infrastructure Plan Update

Entertainment, Arts & Sports



**BUILT
FOR
CBR**





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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge 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 acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Cover images include early concept designs and artist impressions of key Infrastructure projects.

Building today to transform tomorrow

The ACT Infrastructure Plan sets out a long-term vision to build Canberra's future.

The plan outlines the ACT Government's delivery of infrastructure that is built for Canberra, to ensure that we continue to be one of the most liveable cities in Australia and the world.

At the heart of the Government's entertainment, arts and sports infrastructure plan is our ongoing commitment to revitalise the arts and cultural scene in Canberra.

Infrastructure investment in this sector will help to realise our ambition for our city to be recognised as Australia's emerging cultural, arts and entertainment hub.

The plans we make today will transform our city for tomorrow.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister



Artist Impression;
Tuggeranong Ice Sports Facility

The update of the ACT Infrastructure Plan reflects the Government's commitment to delivering the infrastructure required to support a growing city.

The ACT has experienced the fastest growing population of any jurisdiction over the last 10 years, growing from 370,000 to 455,000 people. The Territory is expected to reach half a million residents by 2027. As Canberra's population grows, the government will invest in enabling infrastructure and seek to drive private sector investment into our renewal precincts, as well as new housing and commercial opportunities. Infrastructure investment has continued to create local jobs during the tough economic conditions faced in recent years. It has contributed to the government achieving its target of 250,000 jobs by 2025 ahead

of schedule. The plan outlines how the government is preparing for the delivery of new and improved infrastructure across the city for the next 5 years and beyond. The infrastructure priorities identified in this plan are informed by the best information we have now. As we move beyond the next 5 years, these priorities and investment decisions will be informed by changes in circumstances as our city and priorities evolve. Through careful planning now, the government will be able to continue to invest, at the right time, to maintain Canberra's liveability.

The update to the ACT Infrastructure Plan will be released progressively for 7 sectors.

The sectors are:



City Services, Recreation and Community Facilities:

Public recreation spaces, emergency services, corrections infrastructure, public amenity, community facilities, urban forest, cemeteries and crematoria.



Climate Action, Energy and Environment:

Electricity, batteries, electric vehicle infrastructure, parks and conservation, waterways, waste management and recycling, water and water management including stormwater.



Education:

Primary and secondary schools, early childhood facilities, tertiary, vocational and specialist facilities as well as upgrades.



Entertainment, Arts and Sports:

Community sports, community arts and key entertainment and sports venues.



Health:

Hospitals, walk-in centres, community health centres.



Housing, Land Release and City Planning:

Public housing, land release and development.



Transport:

Roads, bridges, public transport, and active travel

This *Entertainment, Arts and Sports Sector* update partially replaces the *Cultural and Recreational Facilities sector* in the 2019 Infrastructure Plan. Remaining components of the original sector will be addressed in future through the *City Services, Recreation and Community Facilities Sector* update.

As the national capital, Canberra is home to Australia's iconic national attractions and institutions.

Yet being the nation's capital city and home to Australia's Parliament House are not the only aspects that define Canberra.

The ACT Government's ambition is for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's emerging cultural, arts and entertainment hub. A city that hosts more top-tier theatre, musicals and concerts. A destination where hundreds of thousands of people can see quality cultural events on a regular basis. A place that offers top quality sports experiences for spectators and players at the elite, club and social levels. A nation's capital that can host leaders and be Australia's meeting place. A global destination for business and leisure.

Through the delivery of the projects outlined in this plan, Canberrans will be able to access major cultural and entertainment offerings. They will be able to experience these right here in Canberra, keeping more activity and investment in the Territory's economy.

Infrastructure will support a vibrant, growing arts and cultural sector for the ACT, generating economic impacts through increased tourism, while ensuring Canberra continues to be one of the most attractive and liveable cities in the world.



The ACT Government has already started delivering key infrastructure projects in this plan, including the Kingston Arts Precinct and the redeveloped Canberra Theatre. The Kingston Arts Precinct will provide a new home for visual arts in the ACT. The Canberra Theatre Redevelopment will create a world-class destination for artists and audiences in the heart of our Canberra Civic and Culture District.

The Canberra Theatre Redevelopment will include the construction of a new 2,000-seat theatre building and a refurbishment of the Playhouse and Canberra Theatre. This investment will help the ACT attract larger touring performances, musicals, contemporary music and theatre. The project is essential to the city's performing arts future and a key driver for the tourism, hospitality and accommodation sectors.

One of the infrastructure gaps in the ACT's entertainment infrastructure is a dedicated large-scale live music and concert venue. For too long, Canberrans wanting to see their favourite performers have travelled to iconic venues around Australia such as the Hordern Pavilion in Sydney and Palais Theatre in Melbourne.

It's time for Canberra to have its own iconic live music and concert venue in the city centre. Construction on this project will begin in the next 5 years as part of the biggest investment in entertainment and cultural infrastructure in the Territory's history.

The government will start preparing for other large-scale infrastructure projects in this sector, including stadium and convention infrastructure, to further Canberra's credentials as a thriving and sustainable destination for visitors. This plan sets out the pathway forward so these key infrastructure projects can be realised in the coming decade.

There are opportunities for the government to partner with the private sector on large-scale infrastructure projects in this sector. The ACT Government will also continue to look to partner with the Commonwealth, where appropriate, to deliver projects, acknowledging the economic activity these will generate for the nation's capital. Additional investment in projects from either the private sector or the Commonwealth will enable the ACT Government to start construction sooner.

The impact of COVID-19 on our entertainment, arts, sporting and cultural sectors has been profound. Investment in this sector as set out in this plan, balanced across both city-wide assets and district-level projects, will support the sector to move from recovery to strength and resilience.

Infrastructure investment in this sector will tangibly improve the wellbeing of Canberrans, supporting physical and mental health at every stage of life by connecting people with community, ideas, and our shared stories. It ensures spaces are designed for Canberrans to be healthy, connected and supported in our community.



Indicative project pipeline

The priorities identified beyond the current budget are indicative and may change in response to community preferences, shifts in demand for services and the availability of funding. The government is committed to delivering our investment program sustainably by maintaining a balanced budget over the medium term, and leveraging partnerships with other governments and the private sector where there are opportunities to do so.

Project	Estimated Total Cost (\$m)	Funding considered				Description
		0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20+ years	
Canberra Theatre Centre redevelopment / Canberra Civic and Culture District	250-500					<p>The Canberra Theatre Centre redevelopment will create a world-class destination for artists and audiences in the heart of our Canberra Civic and Culture District. The ACT Government has committed \$33.6 million in funding for detailed design and community consultation for the major redevelopment and expansion of the Canberra Theatre Centre over the next two years.</p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2024–25 following design, public consultation and approval processes over the next 2 years.</p>
A new indoor entertainment pavilion – Convention Centre Precinct Stage 1	100-250					<p>A new indoor entertainment pavilion that can hold at least 7,500 people is proposed to be built to host a diverse range of touring artists, exhibitions, events, sporting events and performances. To be built in the city centre, it will incorporate an outdoor plaza with food and beverage offerings for year-round enjoyment of patrons and local Canberrans. Co-location with a new Convention Centre would allow staged investment in event, convention and performance capacity in the city.</p> <p>Detailed planning and concept design is underway to support this vision, with build commencement expected by 2026–27.</p> <p>Funding has been provided for detailed planning and concept design as part of a broader \$2.2 million investment into strategic infrastructure planning for major arts, business, entertainment and sports venues.</p>
A new or enhanced Canberra Stadium	500+					<p>The ACT Government will partner with the Australian Sports Commission to work together to maintain and enhance the AIS precinct as a vibrant hub for high performance sport and innovation, with a significantly redeveloped or new 30,000 seat stadium as a key feature. The possibility of situating the stadium at EPIC will be considered as part of the revitalisation strategy for EPIC, should the AIS option not prove feasible.</p> <p>Funding has been provided for an options analysis as part of a broader \$2.2 million investment into strategic infrastructure planning for major arts, business, entertainment and sports venues.</p>

Project	Estimated Total Cost (\$m)	Funding considered				Description
		0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20+ years	
Canberra Convention Centre – Convention Centre Precinct Stage 2	500+					<p>The Government is continuing planning for a new Canberra Convention Centre. The new Centre will be designed and planned to meet the current and future demand, with room to expand in the future. The Government has commissioned an operational needs analysis to inform more detailed planning. Stage 1 would see a new indoor entertainment pavilion, with a full Convention Centre Precinct developed as Stage 2.</p> <p>Funding has been provided for an operational needs analysis as part of a broader \$2.2 million investment into strategic infrastructure planning for major arts, business, entertainment and sports venues.</p>
National Arboretum Canberra	<50					<p>Planning is now underway for a second access road to the National Arboretum to improve egress from the site which will also increase the capacity to stage events at one of Australia's premier and unique venues. \$0.1 million in funding has already been provided to commence work.</p> <p>In the Arboretum Masterplan, a number of projects to enhance visitor experience have been identified, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A new boutique accommodation facility situated on the top of Dairy Farmer's Hill that extends into the forest. The site offers the opportunity to be immersive with the environment and to provide experiences not available elsewhere, these could include private dining in forests after hours, special guided tours and an immersive wellness experience within a forest landscape. — A tented camping area for low cost and higher-end offerings for the public and visiting students. This would be a new accommodation offering at the NAC and is envisaged as a more affordable alternative to the planned eco-resort, capable of catering to school and wedding groups. Tensile/tented structures are envisaged, along with shared amenities/facilities structures. <p>These projects will be explored and pursued in partnership with potential investors, or should budget funding be identified.</p>

Project	Estimated Total Cost (\$m)	Funding considered				Description
		0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20+ years	
EPIC precinct staged redevelopment	50-100					<p>Identified as a first step to create a more seamless and vibrant future precinct, the government is progressing master planning work for EPIC. This work will ensure EPIC will be able to continue to host large exhibitions, concerts, conferences and a range of multicultural and community events along with a revitalised festival precinct. \$0.5 million in funding has been provided in 2022–23 for early planning and design.</p> <p>The proposed redevelopment of EPIC will begin with the refurbishment of Fitzroy Pavilion. Supported by funding in the 2023–24 Budget, a refurbished Fitzroy Pavilion will provide upgraded catering facilities and amenities and be suitable for hosting larger scale community and multicultural events.</p>
Kingston Arts Precinct – Staged development	100-250					<p>The Kingston Arts Precinct will be a leading destination for visitors and locals to explore contemporary visual arts and culture in the ACT. It will bring together a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art space, six leading visual arts organisations as well as resident artists, and a dynamic program of creative activity.</p> <p>In addition to purpose-built facilities for the anchor arts organisations, the precinct will include a large outdoor space, 2,000 sq m of retail space, accommodation for visiting artists, a gallery, workshops, meeting rooms and a theatrette. The Suburban Land Agency is well advanced with the design work for the new Arts Precinct, with construction completion expected in 2026–27.</p> <p>\$78.0 million has been provided for construction.</p>

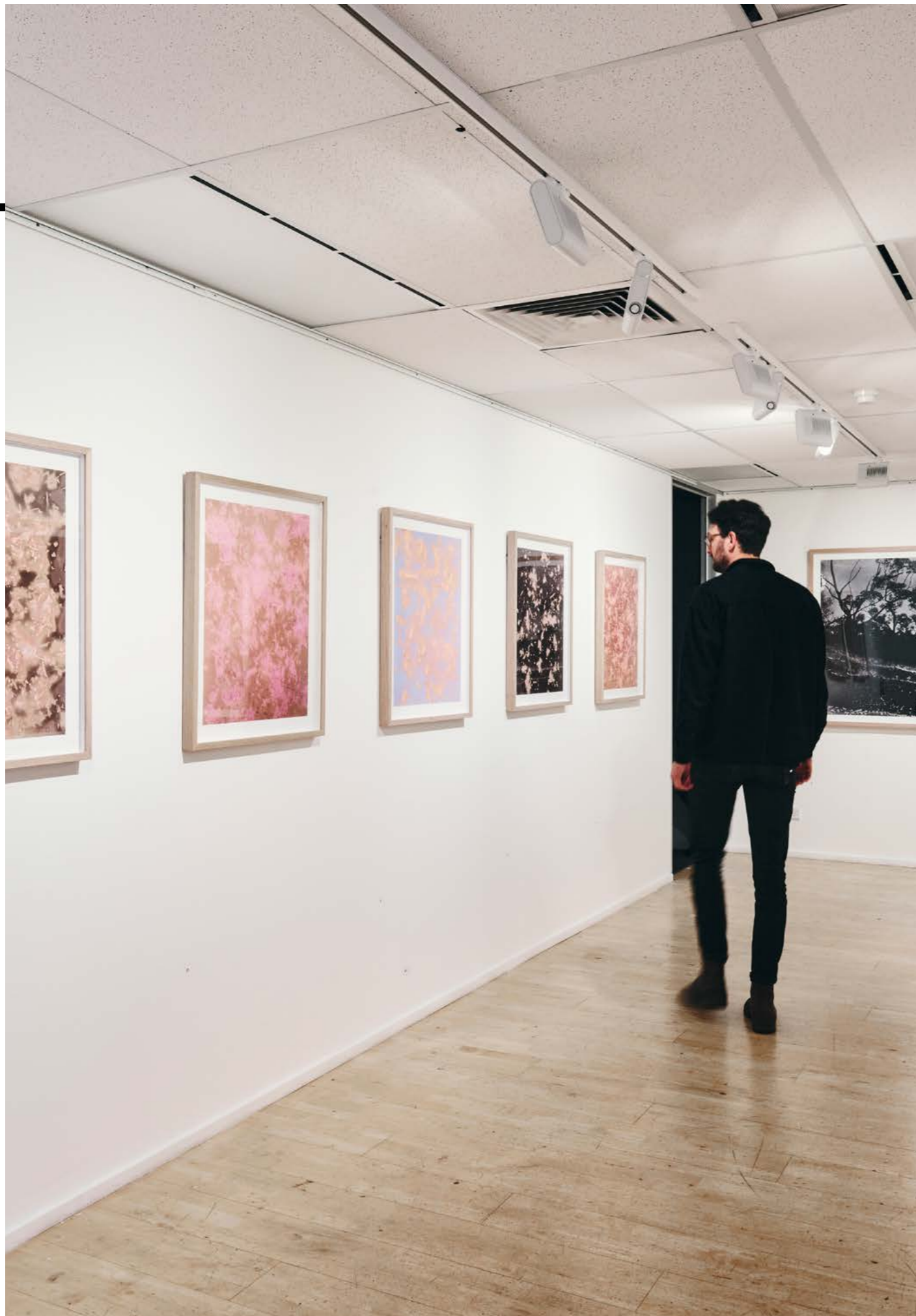
Project	Estimated Total Cost (\$m)	Funding considered				Description
		0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20+ years	
Upgrading local arts facilities	<50					<p>Under the Arts Infrastructure Plan the Government will target investment in facilities to support creative industries and artists, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Significant improvements proposed for Gorman House in the next few years in preparation for its 100th birthday in 2024. These will include improved dance and theatre spaces for rehearsal and performance including a new contemporary theatre and a multi-purpose space, improved visitor wayfinding, community meeting spaces, accessibility and sustainability initiatives. \$12.9 million in funding has been provided for this, including a contribution of \$5 million from the Commonwealth Government. — Ongoing heritage restoration works proposed for Ainslie Arts Centre, which remains a key arts facility and heritage asset for Canberrans in the Inner North. Works will include restoring the North-West wing to its original layout which will provide users with improved natural light and collaborative office spaces, as well as improvements to the building entrances to improve accessibility. — Improvements planned for the Tuggeranong Arts Centre Theatre which will enhance the theatre experience for both patrons and performers including improved audio visual, back of house and theatre accessibility. \$2 million in funding has been provided for this work, with construction expected to commence in mid-2023.

Project	Estimated Total Cost (\$m)	Funding considered				Description
		0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20+ years	
Lanyon Homestead	<10					<p>The ACT Government has invested \$8 million to make improvements at Lanyon Homestead, including converting the former Nolan Gallery into staff workspaces and collection storage, upgrading key access roads, conservation works on buildings in the Shearer's Precinct, converting sleeping quarters into artist spaces, and conserving, removing and replacing trees.</p> <p>Future investments for consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Establish a demonstration site at Lanyon Homestead for regenerative agricultural practices and sustainable local urban food production and consumption in partnership with local food business/organisations and other areas of Government to showcase circular economy principles and provide agritourism opportunities. — Establish an Endangered and Rare Trades Centre that offers demonstrations, workshops and training in rare and forgotten craft and artisan trades in the areas of glass, fibre, decorative arts, leather, textiles, metal and wood that promote sustainable use of materials and provides arts and cultural tourism opportunities. — Undertake Stage 2 of current adaptive reuse of Shearer's Precinct, which involves the conservation and reuse of Shearer's Living Quarters (and auxiliary buildings) as art workshops, studios and visitor amenities and accommodation.
University of Canberra Stromlo Forest Park	<50					<p>The ACT Government has invested \$2.9 million to seal the University of Canberra Stromlo Forest Park car park to support public amenity and improve safety as the next step toward improving the community offering. Early planning is also underway for the addition of dive facilities in the Aquatic Centre.</p> <p>In the medium term, the ACT Government will continue to progress identified projects in the Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan to improve the quality, range and type of facilities available and enhance visitors' overall experience. Subject to further investigation and analysis, these projects include a Stromlo Boulevard and Access link, new Sister Pavilion / Link Bridge, 12km Road Cycling Circuit, Equestrian Facilities, BMX/Bike Park and Mountain Bike Track Review.</p>

Project	Estimated Total Cost (\$m)	Funding considered				Description
		0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20+ years	
A new Civic Pool	<50					<p>A new pool to service the people in the Civic centre is a priority project. The Civic Pool has now reached end of life and a new pool is needed to replace the ageing Civic Pool and ensure that demand for aquatic facilities continues to be met into the future. The Government will continue to explore feasible locations for a new pool facility in the short term.</p>
Major sporting projects and facilities	<50					<p>While planning for a new or significantly enhanced Canberra Stadium is underway, upgrades will continue at GIO Canberra Stadium to improve spectator experience and functionality for the major sporting teams that use the facility including turf replacements, installation of a new video replay board and improvements to the current TV network throughout GIO Canberra Stadium. Upgraded technology will ensure GIO Canberra Stadium remains competitive and a location of choice for Rugby Union and Rugby League in Canberra.</p> <p>The ACT Government will continue to invest in further developing Manuka Oval as the premier site for Cricket and Aussie Rules football events in Canberra. Improvements are proposed for Manuka Oval in preparation for its 100th birthday in 2024 which will enhance patron experience, these include a new Video Replay Board and the addition of new amenities blocks. Manuka Oval will soon be undergoing turf replacement to maintain its first-class pitch to international standards.</p> <p>\$11.8 million in funding has been provided across multiple programs for enhancements and capital upgrades to the GIO Canberra Stadium, Manuka Oval and EPIC.</p>

Project	Estimated Total Cost (\$m)	Funding considered				Description
		0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20+ years	
Community sporting facilities	<50					<p>In addition to sports grants programs, the ACT Government is investing in infrastructure to support local and community sports, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Construction of a new Gungahlin Tennis Centre including full-sized tennis courts, a hitting wall, LED lighting for all courts, a pavilion, and onsite parking. \$10.3 million has been provided for this project, which includes a contribution of \$400,000 from Tennis ACT and Tennis Australia. — Phillip District Enclosed Oval Upgrade which will include the construction of a new stand-alone sports pavilion, new maintenance facilities, the installation of new LED sportsground lighting to support night-time use and the refurbishment of the existing Michael O'Connor Grandstand and other existing infrastructure. The ACT Government has invested \$7.5 million in this project with completion expected in 2024. — Construction of a new Dragon Boat Facility at Grevillea Park. The new facility will include boat storage, amenities and change rooms, a training room, and event administration space. \$1.7 million has been invested in this project, with construction underway and anticipated to be completed at the end of 2023. — Investment in the expansion of basketball facilities at the Belconnen Basketball Stadium, building on a previous \$100,000 grant provided by the ACT Government. — Re-surfacing Canberra's netball facilities, including works to prevent future water damage and cracking of the surfaces. — Early planning and concept design is underway for Stage 1 of the Stromlo District Playing Fields. — Ongoing renewal and maintenance of neighbourhood ovals and district playing fields.

Project	Estimated Total Cost (\$m)	Funding considered				Description
		0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20+ years	
Community sporting facilities – Tuggeranong ice sports facility	<50					The ACT Government has committed \$16.2 million toward delivering a new ice facility in Tuggeranong in partnership with the private sector. The facility will include two international-standard ice sheets for figure skating, broomball, speed skating and ice hockey and will be able to host up to 3,600 spectators. It will also have curling sheets – the first of its kind in Australia. An indoor rock-climbing facility will offer all three Olympic disciplines of lead, speed and bouldering. Construction works will commence following appropriate design and planning processes and the facility is anticipated to be delivered by 2025.
Community sporting facilities – Throsby Home of Football	<50					The Throsby Home of Football is a partnership project between the ACT Government and Capital Football. The facility will include multiple outdoor football fields, indoor futsal courts, office space for Capital Football staff and associated amenities. It has been designed to support a range of community and high-performance programs for Capital Football and its affiliated clubs, providing a dedicated football facility for the community to enjoy.



DRIVERS OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The ACT Government's investment in entertainment, arts and sports infrastructure set out in this plan is driven by:

- the economic benefits that improved infrastructure will yield
- improving wellbeing across the domains of economy, social connection, health, and identity and belonging
- ensuring that our existing infrastructure is fit for purpose and meets the need for sporting, community and creative spaces as our city grows.

CBR Switched On set the objective of developing our city as a global destination, with the intent to grow Canberra's reputation as the arts capital of Australia and a destination for visitors.

In line with this vision, investment in this sector will create precincts and spaces that enhance how the community and visitors engage with our city and deliver broad economic and social benefits.

Investment in infrastructure will contribute to our ambitions for environmental sustainability and climate action through thoughtful design, build and operation of new facilities and projects.

Investment in entertainment, arts and sports reinforces Canberra's role as the national capital and as a global city by facilitating cultural diplomacy through arts and sport, supporting strong relationships between cultures and countries and promoting national interests.

The *Statement of Ambition for the Arts* set out the goal for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's Arts Capital. This ambition is supported by the *Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 2022–26* and its action plan, which both pursue key strategies to create, develop and promote.

The action plan outlines next steps to support the government's commitment to invest in sustainable and connected arts venues and precincts that support quality, engaging and innovative art and culture experiences, enlivening our public spaces and making them accessible to all. Specific actions under the plan include:

- the future arts precinct at Kingston that will be the destination for Canberra's visual arts and culture, and include a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art space.
- upgrading Gorman House Arts Centre.
- upgrading the Tuggeranong Arts Centre Theatre.
- expanding the Canberra Museum and Gallery.

CBR Next Move: Sport and Recreation Strategy 2023–2028 provides the direction for strengthening and developing sport and active recreation in the ACT over the next 6 years. Its vision is for all Canberrans to be moving more through sport and active recreation. A key government objective is to increase and maintain participation in competitive, non-competitive and social sporting activities at all levels.

This plan seeks to achieve these objectives by ensuring places and spaces for sport and active recreation are fit for purpose, adaptable to climate change and accessible to all.

Investment in wellbeing

Infrastructure that supports elite sporting events, major touring shows and a year-round calendar of business events and creative experiences showcases Canberra to the country and the world. It also provides an engine for economic growth and activity.

T2030: ACT Tourism Strategy 2023–2030 sets a vision for Canberra to be a thriving, sustainable destination that benefits Canberrans. By increasing our city's ability to attract tourists, events and experiences to Canberra, investment in this infrastructure will draw in economic activity to the benefit of ACT businesses and residents. More and bigger sports, arts, business and music events in our city will provide employment and flow-on economic benefits to industries like hospitality, accommodation and retail. Investment will boost overnight expenditure in the tourism sector and the ACT's competitiveness as a destination of choice.

Ongoing investment in arts infrastructure will support sector growth by building the capacity of our city to support local artists, musicians and related businesses. Increased activation of our city centre and other precincts will drive cultural vibrancy, economic activity and opportunity for innovation.

In addition to the economic benefits of investment in entertainment, arts and sports infrastructure, we know that this sector supports community and individual wellbeing by improving health, identity and belonging, and social connection. We need spaces for Canberrans to participate in a

variety of collective events, entertainment, arts and sports for greater community connection, cohesion and identity.

Arts infrastructure provides essential space for art to connect emotions, ideas, stories and heritage. The ACT's *Arts, Culture and Creative Policy* recognised how the experience of COVID-19 reaffirmed the importance of creativity to personal and collective wellbeing. In this way, arts infrastructure can drive economic as well as social recovery and resilience.

The benefits of physical activity for personal wellbeing are widely recognised. Sport and physical activity improve physical and mental health outcomes, strengthen communities, and contribute to the economy. This update addresses both elite sporting and community sporting facilities to deliver these benefits.

Addressing community needs

Investment in this sector is driven by our understanding of community needs, and the capacity of existing infrastructure to meet those needs.

Canberrans are highly engaged in the arts and other events: in 2017–18, 45% of the adult population participated in a cultural activity and 61% of adults attended a performing arts event – the highest rates in the country.^{1,2} Although attendance rates for arts and other events were heavily impacted in 2020 and 2021, they are expected to return to normal levels and associated infrastructure will need to meet this demand. Audience monitoring from 2022 showed that Canberrans are some of

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Participation in Selected Cultural Activities 2017–18*, released 2019, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/participation-selected-cultural-activities/2017-18>.

2 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia, 2017–18*, released 2019, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/attendance-selected-cultural-venues-and-events-australia/latest-release>.





the most likely to attend a cultural event, with 8 in 10 people attending recently.³

Sport and physical recreation are also important to Canberrans. The ACT has a higher than national average participation rate in sport and physical recreation. Elite sport contributes to the ACT economy, shapes positive community identity and connection, promotes physical activity and maintains elite sport development pathways. Planning and investment in community sporting infrastructure should track population growth to ensure it can keep up with growing demand.

Canberra has a distinctive combination of advantages when it comes to entertainment infrastructure. There is high demand for all forms of event space in the ACT and our relatively high disposable incomes create consumer demand for events and other cultural content.

Canberra continues to be a sought-after conference location due to our unique linkages to some of Australia's best universities and research institutions, the diplomatic community and to the Australian Government. Yet our business event spaces are at capacity.

In 2018 and 2019, the National Convention Centre (NCC) reached 99% and 100% capacity, respectively, and it is already back to that capacity following the disruption of recent years. Responding to this unmet demand and accommodating the potential for further growth will provide a major economic driver for the city and bring more visitors to Canberra from around the world.

The government's decision to prioritise upgrades to the Canberra Theatre Centre is a prime example of where infrastructure investment is driven by demand and community need. This landmark venue is operating at capacity. The maximum number of performances that can be held each year is around 200, and in 2019, the Canberra Theatre Centre held 200 performances, in addition to the Playhouse's 179 performances.

Community space is also in high demand in the ACT, including from sports and active recreation organisations, artists and performers, community groups and residents. Canberra's growing population also needs more community sporting facilities so everyone can continue engaging in the sports they enjoy.

The current and increasing demand can be resolved with efficient, innovative infrastructure solutions.

Another driver of proposed investment in this sector is the combination of Canberra's continued strong population growth – with projections showing Canberra will reach half a million people well before 2030 – and the need for renewal of older infrastructure, such as Gorman House (built in the 1920s), the Canberra Theatre Centre (originally built in 1965), the GIO Canberra Stadium (built in 1977), and the NCC (constructed in 1989). All of these major facilities were built at a time when the city was much smaller with a different composition. Now, as a growing, diverse city that is a hub for a region of 750,000 people, our needs and aspirations are different.

Nevertheless, in renewing infrastructure, we need to recognise our heritage. For some facilities like Gorman House Arts Centre or Manuka Oval, it is important to retain the unique character of these assets.

³ Patternmakers, *Audience Outlook Monitor: Australian Capital Territory Snapshot*, December 2022.

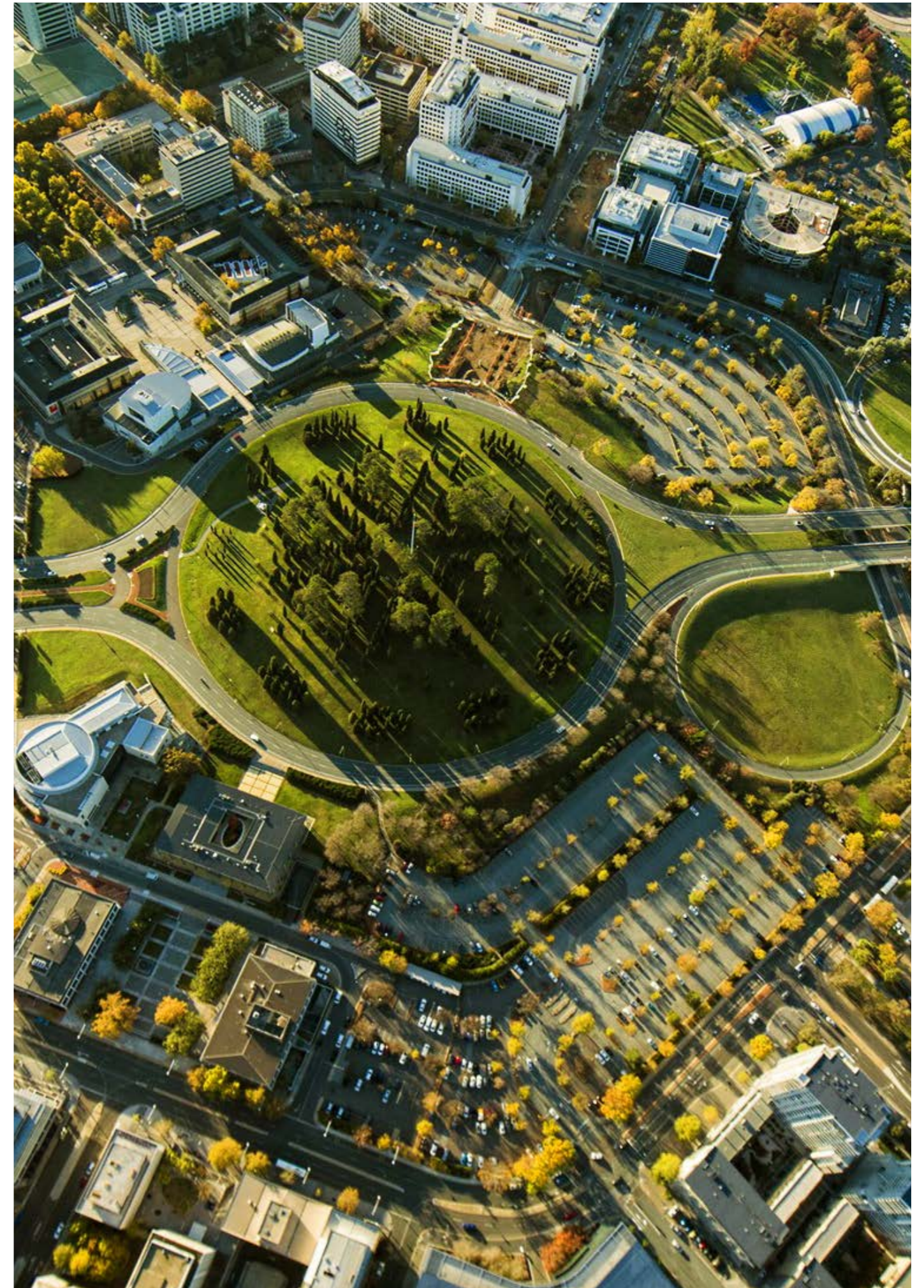
Canberra's role as the national capital

A key challenge for the ACT Government in this sector is the tension between planning infrastructure for a medium-sized city that also happens to serve as the regional centre for south-east NSW and the national capital.

As the national capital, the ACT Government needs to work with the Australian Government to ensure Canberra's infrastructure meets our needs. We have a shared responsibility to Canberra, and the ACT Government acknowledges that the Commonwealth not only partners with the ACT to deliver shared priorities, but also invests in its own infrastructure in Canberra. From the national institutions that enrich our national discourse to the enabling infrastructure for the Australian Public Service, the ACT welcomes the Commonwealth's investment in infrastructure in the ACT. We will continue to look for opportunities to partner with the Commonwealth to deliver on a shared vision for the national capital.

In this sector, providing major venues to service the national capital – and through it, the nation – requires a level of investment that cannot fall solely to ACT taxpayers. For this reason, some of the priorities identified will require partnership with the Australian Government to realise the Infrastructure Plan's full ambition.

The Indicative Project Pipeline sets out the key priorities and indicative timings. In the case that there is agreement with the Commonwealth for partnership and funding support on specific projects, that will influence sequencing and may alter the indicative timelines presented in the Plan.



KEY PRIORITIES

Canberra Theatre Centre redevelopment

The redeveloped Canberra Theatre Centre will be an exemplary performing arts centre. It will provide a world-class audience experience and deliver architectural excellence befitting its location in the centre of our city, and within the planned Canberra Civic and Culture District.

The ACT Government has progressed the design development phase, with concept designs sought for the redevelopment and expansion of the Canberra Theatre Centre, which will include:

- a new 2,000-seat theatre building, with a bigger stage, for major performances
- a refurbishment of The Playhouse
- adaption of the existing Canberra Theatre to become a more flexible space able to host a broad variety of performances, concerts and events
- the significant expansion of the Courtyard Studio to accommodate a wider variety of performances and large-scale rehearsals.

These upgrades will create a globally recognised theatre centre and precinct that supports the government's ambition for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital.

Construction is expected to commence in 2024-25 following design, public consultation and approval.

A new indoor entertainment pavilion

A new indoor entertainment pavilion Envisioned as a key element of Canberra's future entertainment infrastructure, a new indoor entertainment pavilion provides a venue to meet our growing entertainment needs. The pavilion concept was identified in the 2019 Infrastructure Plan as an

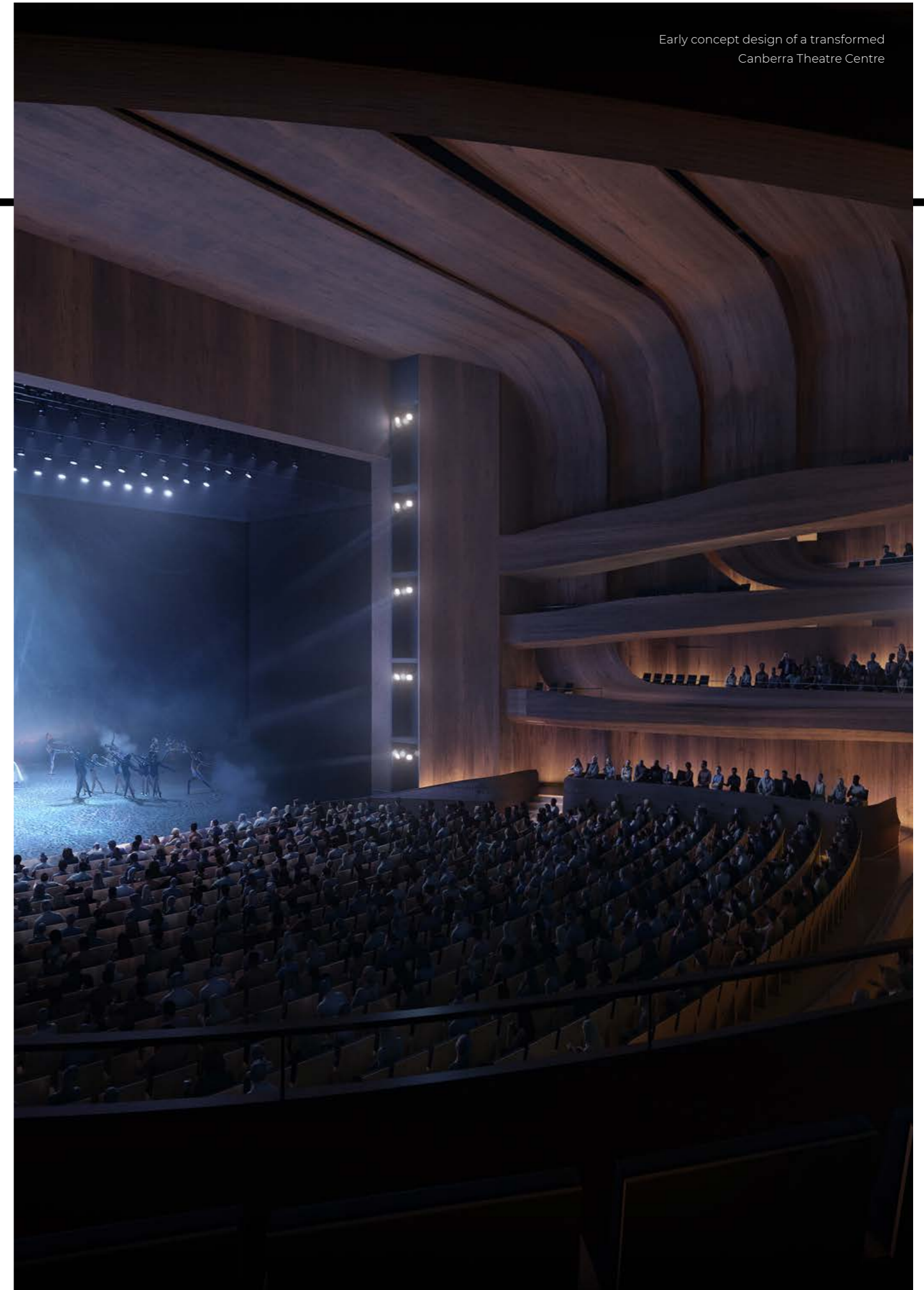
enclosed arena. This sector update identifies an immediate priority planning and initial work on a new, versatile music and event venue that caters for at least 7,500 people.

This facility would cater to large-scale touring acts to contribute to the ACT economy and the wellbeing of Canberrans. In addition, the pavilion would be an important addition to Canberra's convention and business events infrastructure, providing additional capacity for conventions, exhibitions, meetings and product launches. A pavilion of this size would offer opportunities for groups within the Canberra community to hold large-scale gala dinners, cultural celebrations and awards ceremonies. It could also include show court facilities to support major indoor sporting events.

Given its location in the city, it could feature an outdoor plaza with food and beverage offerings for year-round enjoyment. Locating the venue centrally in the city would complement the new Canberra Theatre Centre precinct and provide an opportunity for co-location with a future Canberra Convention Centre to support our city's growth as a hub for entertainment. By co-locating with a new Convention Centre, the Government can stage its investment in increased event, convention and entertainment capacity in the city, while allowing flexibility of sequencing of a new Convention Centre Precinct. This flexibility allows government to respond to priorities and look for opportunities to deliver future elements in partnership with the Commonwealth.

The ACT Government is progressing planning and concept design work to support this vision, including an operational needs analysis, concept design and high-level cost estimates, with build commencement expected by 2026-27.

Early concept design of a transformed Canberra Theatre Centre



Early concept design of a transformed
Canberra Theatre Centre



CANBERRA CIVIC AND CULTURE DISTRICT

A redeveloped theatre centre, including a new major theatre, and reconsidering the location and expression of Canberra Museum and Gallery's presence in the district will be integral elements of capitalising on the opportunity to develop a unique and world-class Civic and Culture District. These elements align with the ACT's Statement of Ambition for the Arts 'for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital'.

A reimagined presence for the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG), with fit for purpose contemporary facilities and incubator and creation spaces to explore and experiment in cross and trans-disciplinary work across traditional boundaries and art forms, increased digital capabilities, interactive experiences and growing the social history collection to reflect the evolving and changing face and history of Canberra and the region

The revitalisation of the north building frontage and reconsideration of the location and expression of CMAG, will directly support the objective in a form that inspires and excites.

Canberra Convention Centre

The 2019 Infrastructure Plan identified the need for Canberra, as a major population centre and the national capital, to have a convention centre capable of hosting a wide range of industry, commercial, tourism and community events.

A new convention centre would be a premier destination for business events, support Canberra as a knowledge economy, create jobs in the visitor economy and enhance Canberra's reputation. The 2019 plan outlined 2 options for a convention centre:

- the development of a new National Convention Centre in partnership with the Commonwealth
- an upgrade of the Canberra Convention Centre within the coming decade.

The government recommendation is to proceed with building a new Canberra Convention Centre in the city centre.

The benefits of upgrading the existing NCC are limited given the size and restraints of the current site and the condition of the building. It is possible that a significant investment would not yield a capacity that will serve the needs for convention space over the next 20 to 30 years.

Servicing the city and the region, a new Canberra Convention Centre would have the capacity to attract and host significant business events with large-scale banqueting. It will be an important element of the Canberra Civic and Culture District, which is also home to high quality hotels, with delegates able to stay and be entertained near the centre. A new convention centre would also play an important role in putting Canberra on the map as a global destination.

The ACT Government will look to invest in this infrastructure in the medium to long term, with funding from the Commonwealth necessary to build it to a national scale; and the potential to build it sooner if a Commonwealth funding commitment is made. As a first stage of a Convention Centre precinct, the government will look to construct a new entertainment pavilion, around which additional convention capacity can be delivered over the medium term.

Interim upgrades to maintain the functionality of the existing NCC may be needed to ensure there is no gap in the availability of convention facilities. An operational needs analysis will be undertaken in the next 2 years, while the ACT Government continues to work with industry to develop a more detailed concept for the new convention centre. During this time, the government will also seek to develop a partnership approach with the Commonwealth to support investment in the convention centre. This work will be essential to support future government decisions on the best option for realising the convention centre vision in the long term.

A new or enhanced Canberra Stadium

This sector update reconfirms the government's vision for a new Canberra Stadium. The 2019 Infrastructure Plan highlighted the need for a new stadium, after which the government identified 3 options:

- develop a new stadium on the existing site owned by the Australian Sports Commission
- co-locate a new stadium with other exhibition and community facilities at EPIC
- redevelop the existing Civic Pool site on Constitution Avenue.

Since 2019, several studies have been undertaken on the option for a city stadium on the current Civic Pool site. Unfortunately, while some early studies were promising, subsequent analysis found that it was not feasible to locate a stadium on that site.

Stadiums require a north-south orientation, meaning significant compromises would need to be made to the stadium's design, functionality and patron experience to make it fit on the site.

The location and the surrounding road network would also pose significant challenges for moving crowds in and out of the stadium. Nearby roads would need to be closed to accommodate pedestrians, which would have flow on effects for traffic management. Friday night games would be particularly challenging in terms of managing the inflow of patrons to the stadium at the same time as normal peak hour around the city.

The surrounding residential buildings would be severely impacted by noise and have access restricted around events. There are also a number of technical constraints, including the need to relocate significant in-ground infrastructure. A structure of this size, height and mass would have a sizeable environment impact, including to wind flow through the city and the shadow cast over public and private space.

Collectively, these factors would contribute to a poor game day experience and atmosphere for patrons, teams, nearby residents and the broader ACT community.

The ACT Government's preferred option is to develop a modern stadium within the AIS precinct. The ACT Government is liaising with the Australian Sports Commission with an intent to partner together to revitalise the AIS precinct into a vibrant hub for high performance sport and innovation, with a significantly redeveloped or new stadium as a key feature.

The possibility of situating the stadium at EPIC will be considered as part of the revitalisation strategy for EPIC, should the AIS option not prove feasible.

The development of a new, or significantly enhanced, Canberra Stadium would see more undercover seating and spectators closer to the playing field. Change rooms for players would also be improved.

It may also encourage more fans from around Australia to visit Canberra to see their teams play away matches, and equip the ACT to host more international sporting event fixtures.

The ACT Government, in partnership with the Australian Sports Commission and in consultation with major stadium users, will undertake a study to inform which of these options is best to pursue:

1. a new build on a different site in the precinct that would enable the current stadium to operate while the new stadium is being built
2. demolition of the existing stadium and the building of a new stadium on the existing site
3. staged, significant upgrades to the existing stadium.

This analysis will provide certainty around approach, cost and timing. The goal is to agree on the approach for the stadium development with the Australian Government, with the project proceeding within a 5–10-year timeframe.





Kingston Arts Precinct – Staged development

The future arts precinct in Kingston will become a definitive destination for Canberra's visual arts and culture. It will bring together a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art space, 6 visual arts organisations as well as resident artists, and a dynamic program of creative activity. In addition to purpose-built facilities for the anchor arts organisations, the precinct will include outdoor event space for 5,000 people, 2,000 sq m of retail space, accommodation for visiting artists, a gallery, workshop space, meeting rooms and a theatrette.

As work progresses, consideration will be given to opportunities for upgrading ancillary buildings and amenities in the precinct. The potential for the Fitters Workshop to be used as a unique venue for music and other live performance will be explored.

The Suburban Land Agency is well advanced with the design for the new Arts Precinct, with construction completion expected in 2026–27.

Upgrading local arts facilities

To achieve the ambition of art and culture everywhere for everyone, the ACT Government is upgrading local arts facilities and investing in sustainable and connected arts venues and precincts. These support quality, engaging and innovative art that is accessible to all and enliven Canberra's public spaces.

Canberra is home to numerous arts organisations and facilities which grow our artistic and creative capability and capacity and are highly valued by local communities.

Continued support for these important groups and assets – including both programs and upgrading existing infrastructure – ensures artists, creatives and audiences continue to receive a world-class offering.

Gorman House Arts Centre will be a particular focus in the next few years in preparation for its 100th birthday in 2024.

Built as a hostel for government workers in the 1920s, the Gorman House Arts Centre is occupied by some of the ACT's key arts organisations, smaller arts groups and individual artists. The centre offers intimate performance spaces, dance studios and workshops, a gallery, artists' studios, small offices for arts organisations and meeting rooms.

Significant improvements are proposed to be completed by 2024, including:

- works to upgrade the building's condition and accessibility
- sustainability measures such as use of insulation and efficient electric-powered heating and cooling systems
- dance and theatre spaces for rehearsal and performance, including a new contemporary theatre space in Block A and a multipurpose space in Block F
- staffed reception points on 2 street frontages to improve visitor wayfinding
- community meeting spaces.

The ACT Government has also committed \$2 million in the 2021–22 Budget for upgrades to Tuggeranong Arts Centre Theatre. Improvements will enhance the theatre experience for both patrons and performers including improved audio visual, back of house and theatre accessibility. Construction is expected to commence in mid-2023.

Ongoing heritage restoration works are proposed to Ainslie Arts Centre, which remains a key arts facility and heritage asset for Canberrans in the Inner North. Works will include restoring the North-West wing to its original layout which will provide users with improved natural light and collaborative office spaces, as well as improvements to the building entrances to improve accessibility.

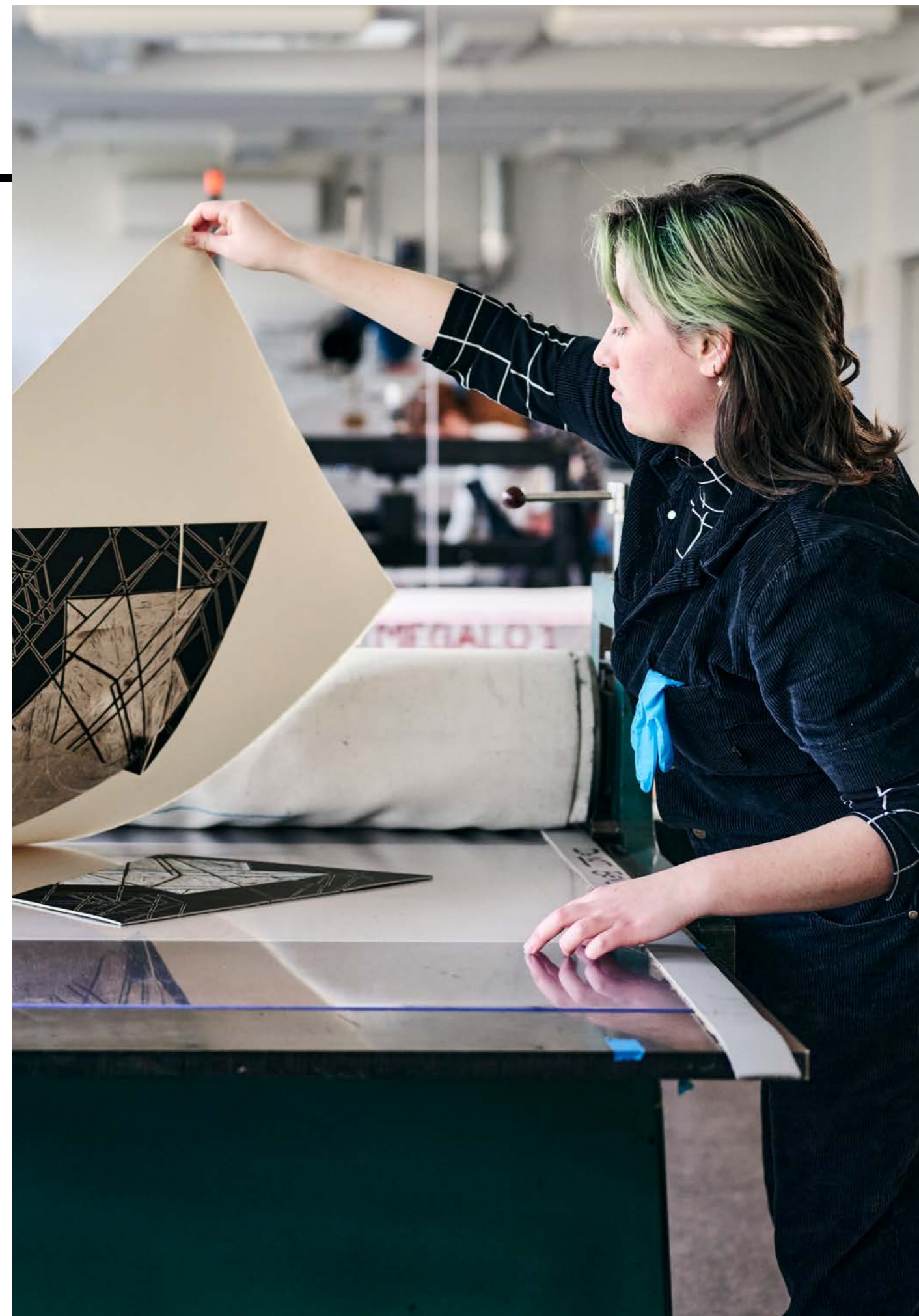
Arts Infrastructure Plan

Consultation for the *Arts, Culture and Creative Policy* found that supporting Canberra's existing arts facilities and venues was deemed important to ongoing growth as Australia's arts capital. During 2023, the ACT Government will work with the arts sector and the managers of ACT arts facilities to develop an Arts Facility Strategy that will prioritise ongoing government investment in existing assets.

Over the next 5 years, a needs analysis for arts centres at Gungahlin and Woden will be undertaken to inform further infrastructure decisions.

This will include consideration of opportunities to incorporate a dedicated art space in the planning of the proposed Gungahlin Community Centre. A hub for textiles-based artforms will also be explored.

Options for art-makers' spaces and use of existing buildings to assist artists to create and perform will also be explored.



Lanyon Homestead

The Government will make improvements at Lanyon Homestead, an iconic Canberra landmark which contains a collection of significant historic buildings, domestic gardens, a significant pastoral and natural landscape and intact Aboriginal sites of exceptional significance to the region.

The Government has committed \$8 million in funding to deliver improvements, which include:

- Converting the former Nolan Gallery into staff workspaces and collection storage
- Conserving, removing and replacing trees
- Upgrading key access roads
- Conservation works on buildings in the Shearer's Precinct, and
- Converting sleeping quarters buildings into artist spaces

Construction is expected to commence in 2024.

Looking into the future, the Government will consider opportunities to:

- Establish a demonstration site at Lanyon Homestead for regenerative agricultural practices and sustainable local urban food production and consumption
- Establish an Endangered and Rare Trades Centre that offers demonstrations, workshops and training in rare and forgotten craft and artisan trades
- Undertake Stage 2 of current adaptive reuse of Shearer's Precinct, which involves the conservation and reuse of Shearer's Living Quarters (and auxiliary buildings) as art workshops, studios and visitor amenities and accommodation.

Major sporting projects and facilities

While decisions are made about the best approach for Canberra's main stadium, the government will undertake a program of upgrades at GIO Canberra Stadium to support spectator experience, improve amenity for hirers and players, and meet work health and safety obligations.

Projects will include:

- the replacement of the turf to maintain an elite-grade playing surface
- additional and larger video replay boards to improve the spectator experience
- redesigning the change rooms to meet the number and technical requirements for elite female and male athletes.

Manuka Oval will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2024 and the ACT Government will continue to invest in further developing the oval as the best boutique cricket and AFL venue in Australia, building on its heritage and positioning near the Parliamentary Triangle. This includes a new video replay board, new amenity blocks and entrance upgrades. Manuka Oval will soon also be undergoing turf replacement to maintain its first-class pitch to international standards.

Community sporting facilities

The facilities embedded in our neighbourhoods are vital to keeping our communities healthy, connected and passionate about sport and maintaining an active lifestyle. The government will continue to deliver core suburban sporting facilities such as sportsgrounds in new suburbs and to upgrade existing facilities to ensure they remain fit for purpose.



The ACT's District Strategies help inform the analysis of current and future demand for community space and facilities, to help identify and prioritise projects over the long term.

We already know there is demand for indoor multi-sport courts facilities in Woden and Gungahlin. Analysis of options for these facilities will be priorities. The Government will also look for opportunities to partner with community and other organisations to support local sporting infrastructure development. An example of this is the ACT Government's \$300,000 contribution in 2023 to a Commonwealth-ACT-University of Canberra co-funded project to assist with the development of a Sports Hub feasibility study and business case.

Over the next five years, the ACT Government is investing in key projects to support local and community sports, including:

- delivering a new Gungahlin Tennis Centre
- upgrading Phillip District Enclosed Oval
- Constructing a new Dragon Boat Facility at Grevillea Park

- progressing Stage 1 of the Stromlo District Playing Fields
- re-surfacing Canberra's district netball courts
- renewal and maintenance of neighbourhood ovals and district playing fields.

The ACT Government will also invest in the expansion of basketball facilities at the Belconnen Basketball Stadium to meet current and projected future demand generated by increased community participation in the sport.

Across the coming decades, the ACT Government will look to support sport and recreational facilities across the city, including new and upgraded sportsgrounds, indoor community sports facilities, aquatic facilities, and sporting facilities in schools, which would support community activity outside of school hours. These projects will be identified over time, including through community consultation in 2023 as well as in response to needs identified as part of the development of the district strategies.

Community sporting facilities – Tuggeranong ice sports facility

The 2019 Infrastructure Plan indicated the government's support for an ice sports facility on Canberra's southside. Since then, an expression of interest process has been completed to identify the commercial partner for this facility in Tuggeranong.

The facility will include two international-standard ice sheets for figure skating, broomball, speed skating and ice hockey and will be able to host up to 3,600 spectators. It will also have curling sheets – the first of its kind in Australia. An indoor rock-climbing facility will offer all three Olympic disciplines of lead, speed and bouldering.

Construction work will commence following appropriate design and planning processes and the facility is anticipated to be delivered by 2025.

Community sporting facilities – Home of Football at Throsby

The ACT Government has committed \$29 million to deliver the Home of Football at Throsby in partnership with Capital Football. The facility will include multiple outdoor football fields, indoor futsal courts, office space for Capital Football staff and associated amenities.

The project will deliver state-of-the-art facilities, which will provide Canberrans with world class indoor and outdoor football options in the ACT. It has been designed to support a range of community and high-performance programs for Capital Football and its affiliated clubs and provide valuable open space for public recreational use.

Planning and design is continuing to progress, informed by community consultation undertaken in 2021 on the early designs and estate development plan.

A new Civic Pool

The Canberra Olympic Pool was built in 1955 as a seasonal aquatic facility comprising of an outdoor 50-metre pool, dive pool and toddlers' pool.

Since then, various modifications have been undertaken in the facility to transform it into a year-round leisure facility that our community has enjoyed for over 60 years.

The Civic Pool has now reached end of life and will need to be decommissioned.

The construction of a new pool to service people living in the Civic centre will remain a priority to replace the ageing Civic Pool and ensure that we will continue to meet demand for aquatic facilities as housing density increases in the city.

The Government will explore feasible locations for a new pool facility in the short term.

National Arboretum Canberra

The 2019 Infrastructure Plan indicated that further investment in infrastructure for the National Arboretum would be considered over the next 5 years and longer term, including the potential for improved offerings through an upgraded restaurant and Margaret Whitlam Pavilion.

Upgrades to the National Arboretum facilities remain a long-term priority. However, planning is underway now for a second access road to the National Arboretum, which is important to manage its increasing numbers of visitors.

In the Masterplan for the Arboretum, several projects to enhance visitor experience have been identified for consideration, including:

- a luxury eco-lodge to add to Canberra's diverse hospitality offerings and nature-based activities
- designated 'glamping' areas to accommodate 100 guests in new circular tented 'dorms' arranged in a new forest garden, designed to appeal to corporates or wedding groups, whilst also providing affordable accommodation for school camps.

Artist Impression;
Throsby Home of Football





These projects will be explored and pursued over the coming years in partnership with potential investors, in the case of the eco-lodge, or should budget funding be identified.

University of Canberra Stromlo Forest Park

Set on 1,200 hectares, University of Canberra Stromlo Forest Park is a multi-use recreational sporting facility attracting a wide range of tourists, user groups and residents. The park boasts a purpose-built event pavilion, a 1.2 km criterium cycling circuit, a 2.5 km grass cross country running track, a network of equestrian trails, pump track, and over 50 km of mountain bike trails suitable for riders of all abilities.

Since the release of the 2019 plan, the government has delivered on the construction of an aquatic centre at the park, which opened in August 2020 and includes a heated indoor 50-metre swimming pool, splash park, heated program pool, gym and café.

This sector update identifies a further opportunity to improve the community offering at this key sports facility. Amongst immediate priorities, the government is investing in sealing the University of Canberra Stromlo Forest Park carpark and is undertaking a feasibility analysis for the inclusion of dive facilities at the Aquatic Centre.

In the medium term, the ACT Government will consider opportunities to progress the Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan and develop more commercial activities at the park, including potential accommodation and commercial village infrastructure. As part of this work, additional access roads will be explored to improve the safe movement of people into and around the site.

While a range of activities are underway now, or planned for the next 5 years, making decisions on delivery of all

these components may extend across multiple periods in the indicative infrastructure pipeline.

EPIC precinct staged redevelopment

The 2019 Infrastructure Plan recognised the need to maintain the status of EPIC as Canberra's preeminent large format event space in the years ahead.

This update confirms EPIC as Canberra's festival hub, able to host major events, including large concerts, and community activities within a fit-for-purpose precinct.

EPIC is ideally located on the main routes in and out of Canberra to Sydney and Melbourne, which is important for event organisers. It is conveniently close to light rail to assist with mass-transit of event and festival goers.

Identified as a first step to create a more seamless and vibrant precinct, the government is progressing master planning to revitalise the EPIC precinct into a more modern, sustainable hub for hosting Canberra's major festivals, events and outdoor concerts.

The proposed redevelopment of EPIC will begin with the refurbishment of Fitzroy Pavilion. Supported by funding in the 2023–24 Budget, a refurbished Fitzroy Pavilion will feature upgraded catering facilities and amenities, suitable for hosting larger scale community and multicultural events. Design is now underway, with construction expected to be completed within the next 12 months.

A reinvestment strategy is also being developed for EPIC. This is considering unlocking surrounding under-utilised land to offer better experiences for patrons and easier operations by venue hirers. The strategy is expected to be completed in the next 5 years and will be gradually implemented over the next decade or so.

2019 Indicative Project Pipeline	Update
<p>New Canberra Theatre</p>	<p>A redeveloped Canberra Theatre Centre, including a new major theatre, is essential to the city's performing arts future and the Government has committed funding for detailed design and community consultation on this project, which is now in the design phase.</p> <p>The government's plan is for a renewed Canberra Theatre Centre with greater capacity for larger and more varied visiting productions across the performing arts. From dance to opera, comedy to ballet, the new Centre will open up the range of offerings for Canberra while providing stronger support for the growth of the capital's live performance industry. This includes a major refurbishment of The Playhouse, adapting the existing Canberra Theatre to become a flexible space, and significantly expanding the Courtyard Studio.</p> <p>The new Canberra Theatre Centre will be part of a revitalised Canberra Civic and Culture District that will see increased activation of Civic Square and the surrounding area.</p>
<p>Sportsgrounds and recreational facilities upgrades</p>	<p>Upgrades have been delivered to sportsgrounds and recreational facilities across the ACT, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Manuka Oval (including grandstand improvements and the northern camera deck) — Tuggeranong Rowing Club (improved facilities) — Boomanulla Oval in Narrabundah (improved facilities) — Mawson 2 and Kambah 201 (floodlighting installation) — Kambah 2, Stirling 1 and Woden Park (improved facilities) — Hawker Softball Centre (floodlighting upgrades) — Curtin and Charnwood District Playing Fields (female friendly upgrades) — Melba Neighbourhood Oval (upgrade of cricket facilities) — Irrigation and drainage upgrades to ovals in Nicholls, Higgins, Curtin, Stirling, Amaroo and Rivett <p>Construction is underway for a new Dragon Boating facility at Grevillia Park, along with an upgrade to the Philip District Enclosed Oval. Further upgrades for Manuka Oval are in design development/delivery stages, including 3 new amenity blocks, entrance upgrades and a new video replay board. The sealed carpark at University of Canberra Stromlo Forest Park is on track for completion by 2025. See key priorities for more information.</p>

2019 Indicative Project Pipeline	Update
<p>Construction of a new Canberra Stadium</p>	<p>A new, or significantly enhanced, Canberra Stadium will be required in the medium term. To accommodate the needs of local, national and international users, and Canberra's population growth over the expected 50+ year life of the asset, the stadium will require around 30,000 seats.</p> <p>After extensive feasibility studies of potential locations, the Government's preference is to partner with the Australian Sports Commission on a new or significantly renewed Stadium in the AIS precinct. Should this preferred option not proceed, an alternative option will be pursued in the future planning of EPIC.</p>
<p>Enclosed 7,500-seat capacity arena</p>	<p>A new indoor entertainment pavilion in the city centre is a priority project. Anticipated as the first stage of a new Convention Centre Precinct, a new pavilion will host a diverse range of live music, touring artists, exhibitions, events and performances. Work on detailed planning and concept design is being progressed to support this plan.</p>
<p>Delivering the Home of Football at Throsby</p>	<p>The Throsby Home of Football is a partnership project between the ACT Government and Capital Football. The facility will include multiple outdoor football fields, indoor futsal courts, office space for Capital Football staff and associated amenities. It has been designed to support a range of community and high-performance programs for Capital Football and its affiliated clubs, providing a dedicated football facility for the community to enjoy. Planning and design of the Throsby Home of Football is well advanced, following the Government's commitment of \$29 million for the facility.</p>
<p>Better Services – Weston Creek and Stromlo swimming pool and leisure centre</p>	<p>The new Stromlo Leisure Centre was opened to the public in August 2020. It has state-of-the-art pools, children's play area, gym facilities, creche, health club, café and more. The government invested \$34.8 million to deliver the centre. It is part of University of Canberra Stromlo Forest Park, a thriving hub for sport and recreation in the ACT.</p> <p>Site studies are underway to investigate options for the addition of diving facilities at the centre.</p>
<p>Better infrastructure – National Arboretum Canberra</p>	<p>The National Arboretum Canberra remains a key piece of entertainment infrastructure in the updated project pipeline. The ACT Government has delivered 4.7 km of road upgrades to support the National Arboretum since 2019. Planning is underway for a second access road to enhance its capacity to host medium to large events and improve access for growing visitor numbers.</p>
<p>Parks and reserve infrastructure renewal</p>	<p>This project has moved to the <i>City Services, Recreation and Community Facilities Sector</i> update.</p>

2019 Indicative Project Pipeline	Update
National Convention Centre	A new convention centre to further grow the events and convention industry continues to be a medium-term project. More details are provided in this update, including the plan for a Canberra Convention Centre in the city centre as a part of the Canberra Civic and Culture District.
Arts, Heritage and Tourism improvement program	<p>The ACT Government has progressed a number of projects included in this program, including Better Infrastructure Fund (BIF) projects across ACT Government directorates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Completion of the \$15 million Belconnen Arts Centre expansion in 2020 to support more performances, exhibitions and community events for the local arts community. — Kingston Arts Precinct has progressed to final design work, with plans for the precinct including studio, accommodation and gallery space for emerging artists, established artists and visiting artists. The ACT Government has committed \$78 million to deliver the Arts Precinct with construction expected to be complete in 2026/27. — Gorman House Arts Centre Centenary renovations are now in final design development. The ACT Government is delivering \$12.9 million for major heritage restorations and critical building upgrades at Gorman House Arts Centre supported by \$5 million in funding from the Australian Government <i>Investing in Our Communities Program</i>. Construction will commence mid-2023 for an 18-month period ahead of the 2024 centenary. — Design work for Ainslie Arts Centre upgrades is scheduled to commence following completion of Gorman House Arts Centre final designs. — Funding of \$2 million has been allocated to upgrade the theatre at the Tuggeranong Arts Facility, with construction expected to commence in mid-2023.
EPIC precinct future development	The ACT Government has engaged consultants for master planning work for EPIC. This work will ensure EPIC will be able to continue to host large exhibitions, concerts, conferences and large multicultural and community events along with a revitalised festival precinct. The work includes developing a reinvestment strategy to support future plans and options for increased commercial activities at EPIC. This master planning is due to be completed in mid-2023. In addition to this, the government has provided funding in the 2023-24 Budget to refurbish the Fitzroy Pavilion to provide a larger space for multicultural and community group events.
Better facilities for GIO Stadium	While planning for a new or significantly enhanced Canberra Stadium is underway, updates will continue at GIO Stadium to improve spectator experience and functionality for the major sporting teams that use the facility. Since 2019, female-friendly change rooms have been delivered, along with roofing and security upgrades. Other projects progressing include new video replay boards and turf replacements.





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