



Australian Capital Territory planning system

Two organisations are responsible for planning in the ACT—the **ACT Planning and Land Authority** (ACTPLA - an ACT Government authority) and the **National Capital Authority** (NCA - a Commonwealth Government agency).

ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) - role and function

The key piece of planning legislation in the ACT is the **Planning and Development Act 2007**, which is administered by ACTPLA. The ACT Minister for Planning is **Andrew Barr MLA**.

ACTPLA has administrative responsibility for control of development on 'Territory land'. It has many functions, with its core function planning for Canberra's future growth in partnership with the community.

ACTPLA has statutory roles—performed under various pieces of legislation, the most important of which is development assessment under the **Planning and Development Act 2007**, and the organisation advises the ACT Government on land, planning and building policy.

The key statutory planning document used by ACTPLA is the Territory Plan, which provides the policy framework for the administration of planning in the ACT. The purpose of the Territory Plan is to manage land use change and development in a manner consistent with strategic directions set by the ACT Government, Legislative Assembly and the community. It must not be inconsistent with the National Capital Plan.

[Click here to show map of Territory areas \(ACTMAPI\)](#)

ACTPLA also has many less well-known functions including:

- **building regulation**
 - **leasing**
 - **land information**
 - **Territory Plan administration**
 - **urban design and spatial planning policy.**
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- ACTPLA **engages regularly with the community** including on new policy directions, including variations to the Territory Plan, and other matters. ACTPLA notifies major development applications and takes into account submissions made as part of the assessment of these applications.



The Canberra Spatial Plan

The **Canberra Spatial Plan** is the key strategic planning document for directing and managing urban growth and change for the next 30 years and beyond.

National Capital Authority - role and function

The key piece of Commonwealth legislation dealing with planning and approvals is the **Australian Capital Territory Planning and Land Management Act 1988**. This legislation is **administered** by NCA. The Minister for Home Affairs, the **Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP** is responsible for the Act.

The National Capital Authority (NCA) has administrative responsibility for control of development on designated land which is identified in the National Capital Plan (NCP), as being “areas of land that have the special characteristics of the National Capital”.

[Click here to show map of designated areas \(ACTMAPI\)](#)

The National Capital Plan (administered by the NCA)

The National Capital Plan is the strategic plan for Canberra and the Territory. It ensures that *'Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance'*.

