



2020 ACT Legislative Election

Dear Mr Yallop

Thank you for your recent correspondence requesting the ACT Labor's position on matters important to the Hall Progress Association and the wider community.

The ACT Labor Government's focus now and if we are fortunate enough to be returned to government, is to protect Canberrans' jobs, keep Canberrans healthy and safe, and help the local economy recover from the devastating global impact of Covid-19.

A range of groups have recently made contact with MLAs and candidates seeking information on our policies ahead of the election on 17 October 2020. As the ACT Labor Party Secretary and Campaign Director, I am pleased to respond to you and other groups on behalf of the Labor Party, its MLAs and candidates.

I have attached ACT Labor's comprehensive Policy Position Statement, which covers the ACT Labor Government's achievements and the continuing direction a re-elected Labor Government would take across a broad range of policy areas and issues facing our community. Many sections of this Statement go directly to issues of interest to your organisation's members.

For example, ACT Labor's planning strategy will continue to protect the ACT's green spaces and surrounding natural bushland, by reducing urban sprawl and limiting growth to our town and group centres, and along major transport corridors. This will allow our suburbs to retain their low-density, tree-lined character.

ACT Labor plans to continue the ACT Planning Review and Reform Project to make the ACT's planning and development system easier to navigate, and generate better design outcomes. ACT Labor can guarantee that our proposed planning system reforms will make it more responsive to community needs and views.

ACT Labor will manage development and improve building quality as our city grows, by establishing an Australian-first property developer licensing scheme, a requirement for engineers to be properly registered, and bring building certification services back into the ACT public service.

ACT Labor will also preserve our existing nature reserves and continue to set aside land to protect our native plants and animals. For example, since 2016 the ACT Labor Government has expanded the Molonglo River Reserve and created the Franklin Grasslands Reserve. We have recently committed an additional 450,000 trees to meet our target of 30% tree canopy cover across Canberra.

We will also renew our efforts, working with the Canberra community, to combat climate change. After reaching our 100% renewable electricity goal earlier this year, ACT Labor is committed to reaching zero net carbon emissions for our jurisdiction by 2045, one of the most ambitious targets in Australia and the world. To help reach this goal, ACT Labor recently announced a commitment to deliver a \$150 million zero-interest loan scheme for households to install solar panels, batteries and energy-efficient heat pumps.

These are only some of the important policies contained within ACT Labor's comprehensive Policy Position Statement. I encourage you to share and discuss this document with your members, and other interested community members.

ACT Labor will be providing it to all interested organisations and publishing it on our website (actlabor.org.au), because we believe it is important for this active, informed electorate to be able to easily read and compare parties' positions ahead of an election. In addition to the Policy Position Statement ACT Labor will continue to make detailed policy announcements throughout the election campaign on issues that matter to Canberrans.

Thank you again for your interest in ACT Labor's policy platform. ACT Labor MLAs and candidates look forward to continuing to serve the community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa James

ACT Labor Campaign Director