

CITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE (CED)

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION DETAILS

Position title: Senior Director,
Landscape Strategy and Partnerships

Classification: Senior Officer Grade A

Position number: P72230

Division: Environment, Planning and
Policy

Business Unit: Office of the Landscape
Architect

Location: Dickson / flexible

Reports to: Government Landscape
Architect, Environment, Planning and
Policy

Date last reviewed: August 2026

Position Requirements:

DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW

The City and Environment Directorate (CED) brings together the people, services and systems that shape Canberra's future. We are a new directorate with a bold purpose: to deliver smarter, more connected services that respond to the needs of our Territory and community.

CED was established to align planning and transport, improve efficiency of development decisions, support environmental management, consolidate city services operations, and strengthen how government connects with the community. Our work spans the natural and built environments, city and transport services, and regulatory and customer service functions.

We are here to:

- Deliver streamlined, customer-focused services.
- Align planning, transport and environmental stewardship.
- Consolidate operations for greater efficiency and impact.
- Make government services more accessible, transparent and trusted.

At CED, we put people and place at the centre of everything we do. Whether shaping policy, maintaining public spaces, designing transport networks or supporting regulatory access, our people contribute to a connected, inclusive and resilient Canberra.

BUSINESS UNIT OVERVIEW

The Office of the Landscape Architect (OLA) is a new and exciting addition to the ACT Government, established to help shape the long-term future of the ACT's landscapes, from urban centres and renewal precincts to peri-urban interfaces, rural lands and natural environments. Reporting to the Deputy Director-General, the OLA is supported by a dedicated team that works collaboratively across Environment, Heritage and Parks; Climate Change, Energy and Water; and Planning Policy Divisions.

As Australia's first Office of the Landscape Architect, we have a unique opportunity to influence how the Territory grows, adapts and thrives in the decades ahead. Our work recognises that landscape is more than parks and open space. It is the living framework that connects people, nature, culture and place.

Working across government, industry, academia and the community, we develop practical, evidence-based approaches to landscape planning and delivery. Our work brings together expertise in planning, urban design, ecology, climate adaptation, biodiversity, heritage and public health to create greener, healthier and more resilient places for all Canberrans.

A key focus of the OLA is leading the development and implementation of the ACT Landscape Plan, which will provide a shared vision for the Territory's landscapes and help align planning, climate, biodiversity, heritage and community wellbeing priorities. Through this work, we seek to ensure Canberra's outdoor environments continue to support thriving communities and a high quality of life.

We believe the best outcomes are achieved through collaboration. The OLA values strong partnerships, genuine engagement and co-design with community, industry and First Nations stakeholders. We foster a culture that is inclusive, curious and future-focused, where diverse perspectives are welcomed and innovation is encouraged.

Joining the OLA means becoming part of a small, dedicated team with a big vision, helping create a lasting legacy for the ACT's landscapes and future generations. If you are passionate about creating positive change through landscape, we would love to hear from you.

What we offer

- The opportunity to be part of a pioneering team shaping Canberra's future through landscape-led thinking. Your work will help create more resilient places that benefit communities, biodiversity and future generations.
- A collaborative environment with a small motivated team that values curiosity, inclusion and shared learning, and who encourage you to develop your skills and expertise.
- A flexible workplace (with working from home arrangements currently in place) with brand new, state of the art accommodation enabling activity-based work in a fun and creative environment.

POSITION PURPOSE

The Senior Director Landscape Strategy and Partnerships will play a pivotal role in establishing Australia's first Office of the Landscape Architect and shaping its influence across the ACT Government. During this critical three-month establishment phase, you will help lay the foundations for a new office by setting up governance, stakeholder engagement and strategic foundations required to support the development and implementation of the ACT's first Landscape Plan.

Working closely with the Government Landscape Architect, you will help build trusted relationships across government, industry, academia, community organisations and First Nations stakeholders, helping to develop a shared vision for Canberra's future landscapes. The role will lead strategic engagement with Ministers, Directorates, senior executives and key stakeholders, positioning the Office of the Landscape Architect as a respected centre of expertise in landscape planning, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, living infrastructure and placemaking.

The position will establish governance, communication and reporting frameworks, identify opportunities for collaboration, and support the integration of landscape priorities across planning, urban development, environmental management, heritage and climate policy. The role will leave a lasting foundation that enables the Office of the Landscape Architect to operate effectively and influence long-term decision making across the Territory.

DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES

In this position, you will work with the Government Landscape Architect to undertake the following:

1. Office establishment. Establish the operational, governance, communication and stakeholder engagement foundations of the Office of the Landscape Architect.
2. Strategic partnerships. Build and maintain productive relationships across ACT Government Directorates, local government entities, research institutions, industry bodies, community groups and First Nations organisations.
3. Ministerial and Executive Engagement. Develop and coordinate with Ministers, Executive Leaders and senior decision-makers to promote the role and strategic value of the Office.
4. Stakeholder and Community Engagement. Design and oversee a stakeholder engagement approach that supports the development of the ACT's first Landscape Plan and fosters broad participation in landscape visioning.
5. Strategic coordination. Identify and facilitate opportunities to align landscape planning objectives with urban planning, climate adaptation, biodiversity, living infrastructure, heritage and wellbeing initiatives.

6. Governance and reporting. Develop governance arrangements, reporting frameworks, implementation roadmaps and communications products to support the Office's ongoing operation and influence.
7. Understand and work within the ACTPS Code of Conduct and ACTPS values of respect, integrity, collaboration and innovation, and model behaviour consistent with the ACTPS Respect, Equity and Diversity framework.
8. Maintain records in accordance with the Territory Records Act 2002 and Privacy Principles.

SELECTION CRITERIA (CAPABILITIES)

Provide concise evidence of your **skills, knowledge and behaviours** against the duties above and the ACTPS Shared Capability Framework.

Skills

1. **Strategic leadership and program establishment.** Demonstrated ability to establish new initiatives, programs or organisational functions, including governance, reporting, communications and stakeholder engagement arrangement
2. **Stakeholder engagement and partnership building.** Highly developed ability to engage diverse stakeholders, facilitate complex discussions and build productive partnerships across government, community, industry and First Nations groups.
3. **Communication and influence.** Exceptional written and verbal communication skills, including experience preparing strategic advice, facilitating executive discussions and influencing policy and organisational outcomes.
4. **Government strategy and policy.** Sound understanding of government decision-making processes, strategic planning, policy development and public sector governance.
5. **Passion for place and sustainability.** Knowledge of the intersections between landscape planning, urban growth, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, living infrastructure, heritage and community wellbeing.
6. **First Nations Engagement and Collaborative Practice** Understanding of culturally informed engagement approaches and the importance of meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in planning and policy development.
7. **Initiative and delivery focus.** Acts with professionalism, integrity and accountability, delivering high-quality outcomes within tight timeframes while maintaining focus on strategic objectives.
8. **Values driver leadership.** Commitment to ACTPS values, Respect, Integrity, Collaboration, Innovation, and to workplace health, safety and wellbeing.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS / QUALIFICATIONS

Desirable

- Experience leading strategic planning, organisational establishment or major reform initiatives within government or comparable organisations.
- Demonstrated experience working with Ministers, senior executives and complex stakeholder environments



- Experience engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and incorporating their perspectives into policy and strategic planning processes
- Experience developing governance, performance, reporting and implementation frameworks
- This position **does not** require a Working with Vulnerable People Check.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Officer

Dr Gweneth Leigh, Government Landscape Architect, Environment, Planning and Policy

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For further information about CED, its roles and functions, employment conditions, office locations and other related resources, please visit [City and Environment Directorate - ACT Government](#).

WORK ENVIRONMENT DESCRIPTION

The following work environment description outlines the inherent requirements of the role of Senior Director Landscape Strategy and Partnerships (position number P72230) and indicates how frequently each of these requirements would be performed. Please note that CED is committed to providing reasonable adjustment and ensuring all individuals have equal opportunities in the workplace.

ADMINISTRATIVE	FREQUENCY
Telephone use	Frequently
General computer use	Frequently
Extensive keying/data entry	Frequently
Graphical/analytical based	Frequently
Sitting at a desk	Frequently
Standing for long periods	Occasionally
Designated workstation	Never
<i>The position in an activity based work environment</i>	

STANDARD HOURS	FREQUENCY
Flexible working hours (access to flex time)	Frequently
Fixed or specified start/finish times	Occasionally
Expected to work extensive hours over a significant period due to the nature of the duties	Never
Access to Accrued Days Off (ADO's)	Never
Peaks and troughs	Occasionally
Frequent paid overtime	Occasionally
Rostered shift work	Never

SOCIAL DEMANDS	FREQUENCY
Work with others towards shared goals in a team environment	Frequently
Work in isolation from other staff (remote supervision)	Occasionally
Working in a call centre environment	Never
Working directly with the public	Occasionally

PHYSICAL DEMANDS	FREQUENCY
Distance walking (large buildings or inter-building transit)	Occasionally
Working outdoors	Occasionally

MANUAL HANDLING	FREQUENCY
Lifting 0 – 5kg	Occasionally
Lifting 5 – 10kg	Occasionally
Lifting 10kg+	Never
Climbing	Never
Reaching	Never
Bending/squatting	Never
Push/pull	Never
Sequential repetitive movements in a short amount of time	Never

TRAVEL	FREQUENCY
Frequent travel – multiple work sites	Occasionally
Frequent travel – driving	Occasionally
Frequent travel – interstate	Never

SPECIFIC HAZARDS	FREQUENCY
Working at heights	Never
Exposure to extreme temperatures	Never
Operation of heavy machinery e.g. forklift	Never
Confined spaces	Never
Excessive noise	Never
Low lighting	Never
Handling of dangerous goods/equipment	Never
Working with asbestos	Never
Potential to encounter agitated customers	Occasionally
Exposure to potentially distressing case material	Never

OTHER	FREQUENCY
Uniform required	Occasionally
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required	Never

