



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA



Message from the ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope MLA

It gives me great pleasure to invite delegates to Canberra, the Nation's Capital, for the 3rd Urban Design Conference.

As a planned city, Canberra is an ideal location for the Urban Design Conference. Canberra's design is the result of the inextricable ties between its landscape setting, the city structure and the politics of our nation and the Territory. Walter Burley Griffin, in his winning and visionary plan for the Capital, set out a city of boulevards and parks that were all informed by his understanding of democracy. He set out to design a city that expressed in its 'physical form' the democratic experience.

Those of us lucky enough to call Canberra home believe Griffin truly succeeded in his vision to create an 'ideal city'.

The magic of the Griffin plan that is evident in Canberra today is the strong community spirit and our jealous protection of the unique qualities of the 'Bush Capital'.

These qualities, and the structure of our city, intertwined as it is with the landscape, will serve us well in establishing a more sustainable city. Indeed, I believe that Canberra has the capacity to become a model for other Australian cities in meeting the challenges of climate change.

We are also genuine in our endeavour to create places that are good for people. Places that help support community identity, social cohesion and cultural diversity.

All this must be achieved alongside enhancing the quality of our urban places, maintaining the great liveability of our city and continuing to enrich our social and cultural lives. Not easy when, like every other city in Australia we must deal with the changing demographics of our population and a volatile world economy.

This conference will be an excellent opportunity for design professionals to exchange ideas and experiences, to be imaginative, creative and visionary, and to help redesign our future. I trust that those joining us in the Nation's Capital will be inspired to also explore the perceptions of who we are as a nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jon Stanhope'.

Jon Stanhope MLA
ACT Chief Minister

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY