



Australian Capital Territory

# Budget 2011-2012

## Media Release

No. 6

### Taking care of our trees and threatened species with \$7.5 million in Budget initiatives

The ACT Government today underlined its intent to protect the Territory's unique natural heritage with \$7.5 million in new Budget initiatives focusing on trees, woodland restoration and threatened species, the Chief Minister and Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Jon Stanhope, MLA announced today.

Mr Stanhope said the new funding reflected the vastness of the natural environment under ACT Government control.

"The ACT has more than 700,000 trees within the public urban spaces of Canberra, the largest urban tree population managed by one jurisdiction in Australia.

"The 2011-12 Budget allocates \$6.2 million over four years that will fund programs to care for young trees as well as proactive maintenance of older trees. This will improve the overall health of our urban forest for generations to come," Mr Stanhope outlined.

An additional \$1 million over four years will deliver on-ground enhancement of the ACT's nationally significant Box-Gum woodlands.

"We are also putting in place \$300,000 over three years to support planning and research that will improve the conservation of threatened species and communities.

"This will include the mapping of vegetation communities, plant species conservation and addressing gaps in our knowledge around the presence and distribution of native mammal species, Mr Stanhope said

Mr Stanhope said the ACT was rightly known as Australia's Bush Capital and the new measures outlined in the 2011-12 Budget would ensure that reputation was carried on well into the future.

"These initiatives complement the ongoing ACT Government work addressing the conservation of our natural environment.

“From looking after our waterways, to reviewing the way we look after our trees, the Government is a proven and keen custodian of our urban and rural environments” Mr Stanhope concluded.

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**Media Contact:**

**Jess Wurf**

**Ph: 6205 0504 (w) 0411 772 700 (m)**

**[jess.wurf@act.gov.au](mailto:jess.wurf@act.gov.au)**