



Australian Capital Territory

Budget 2011-2012

Media Release

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Investing in our sporting and event venues

The ACT Government will deliver significant investment to upgrade and enhance Canberra's major sport and recreation venues in this year's Budget, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Andrew Barr MLA announced today.

"Investing in valuable community assets is a priority for the ACT Government with over \$11.2 million committed to upgrade Manuka Oval, Canberra Stadium, Stromlo Forest Park and Exhibition Park in Canberra, Mr Barr said.

The 2011-12 Budget initiatives include:

- \$3.9 million for upgrades to Manuka Oval including temporary seating;
- \$2.8 million for upgrades to Stromlo Forest Park;
- \$2.2 million for upgrades to Canberra Stadium, including ticket gates;
- \$1.4 million for improvements to Exhibition Park in Canberra; and
- \$500,000 for upgrades to the Fairbairn motorsport complex.

"The \$3.9 million for upgrades to Manuka Oval support the hosting of regular Greater Western Sydney AFL matches and a significant cricket match as part of the Centenary of Canberra celebrations in 2013. The forward design will cover upgrades to the Hawke and Bradman stands, new media and corporate facilities and upgrades to entry facilities.

"It will also cover up to 4,300 temporary seats that will be incorporated into Manuka Oval's development plans. The Budget provides \$2.5 million for the purchase of these seats which will bring total venue seating capacity to around 15,000.

"To further build on Canberra's reputation for hosting high-level sport the Budget provides a \$330,000 grant over three years to Cricket ACT to host an annual Sheffield Shield and Ryobi Cup limited overs match for the coming three years at Manuka Oval involving the NSW team. This investment includes the provision of coaching clinics and other activities with players to encourage healthy lifestyles, particularly for children," Mr Barr outlined.

The Budget also provides \$2.8 million to provide design work for a range of infrastructure upgrades – such as road, car park, power and water at Stromlo Forest Park that will be necessary for future commercial and public investment. These could include low cost school accommodation, a gondola base station, a community facility and additional pavilions.

Exhibition Park in Canberra will also have \$1.37 million in improvements carried out, including on the popular Budawang Pavilion which hosts events such as the Lifeline Bookfair, as well as upgraded and new toilets and showers.

“As our city grows and ages, it is also important that we look to anticipate future needs of our community and how to get the best out of our sporting facilities and event venues,” Mr Barr concluded.

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