



Building Our City

The sustainability of our economy, our population, and our services to the community depend on timely investments in the Territory's infrastructure. Since 2001-02, the Government has made major investments in the Territory's infrastructure, with record capital works programs. The Government has also invested heavily in the maintenance and upkeep of our existing assets, with an annual maintenance program increasing on average by 8 per cent per annum. Planning for the future of the city and the needs of its people has also been a priority, to ensure that Canberra remains a great place to live.

Infrastructure investments need to be complemented by investments in services. Since being elected, the Government has made substantial investments in health, education, child protection, community safety, disability and emergency services. These investments were necessary to strengthen the quality of key community services.

The Government in the 2008-09 Budget is embarking on a major program of investment in infrastructure to ensure the Territory's infrastructure is not eroded over time and will serve the needs of the Canberra community into the future. The investment program will increase the productive capacity of our economy, reducing future costs, providing for growth in the economy and giving Canberra a competitive edge against other urban centres.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Government has planned for and supported the growth of the city through:

- significant land releases across Canberra, increasing the supply of affordable land in response to the Affordable Housing Action Plan;
- the completion of the Gungahlin Drive Extension and other road connections, providing improved access from Gungahlin to other suburbs of Canberra;

- the construction of the Canberra Glassworks in Kingston;
- investment in the Schools Renewal and Upgrade Program, delivering new pre school to year 10 schools in Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and Belconnen, and upgrading 72 schools;
- the construction of a new correctional facility in the ACT which will operate according to human rights principles; and
- implementation of measures to secure the Territory's water supply, including enlarging Cotter Dam.

ACT 2008-09 BUDGET – READY FOR THE FUTURE

The 2008-09 Budget's \$1 billion *Building the Future* Infrastructure Investment Program, along with the annual capital works program, provides an unprecedented investment of almost \$1.5 billion in infrastructure, which includes:

- \$300 million through a first tranche investment, to establish a health system for the future;
- \$250 million for the Territory's transport system to increase its efficiency and meet the needs of a growing economy;
- \$100 million for improvements to urban amenities;
- \$100 million for adaptation to climate change initiatives;
- \$50 million for cutting edge Information and Communications Technology;
- a \$200 million boost to the existing capital works program, to support growth, particularly in the land supply program; and
- over \$31 million in feasibility studies to plan for future ACT infrastructure needs.





FACTSHEET No: 2

ACT BUDGET 2008-09 INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE	WHAT DO THESE INITIATIVES DELIVER FOR THE FUTURE?
HEALTH \$300 million over four years for works including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a suite of mental health facilities at The Canberra Hospital including an Adult Acute Inpatient Unit, Secure Adult Unit and a Mental Health Assessment Unit (\$37.6 million), plus forward design for a young person's unit; • construction of a Women's and Children's Centre of Excellence (\$90 million); • a new Community Health Centre in Gungahlin (\$18 million); and • an Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit at Calvary Hospital (\$9.4 million). 	This investment will establish a health system for the next decade, taking into account new technologies and different models of care. It will provide improved health services for Canberrans.
TRANSPORT \$250 million over five years for integrated transport systems initiatives spanning roads, parking, efficient and disability standard compliant buses, public transport services and cycle paths. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$49.5 million for the ACTION bus fleet replacement program; • \$20 million for the Flemington Road Duplication; • \$21 million for upgrades to Tharwa Drive and the Airport Roads; and • bus lane and priority measures and the new 'Park and Ride' and 'Bike and Ride' facilities. 	The integrated approach to enhancing the transport system will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the efficiency of the transport system; • address traffic congestion; • minimise the level of transport emissions; • provide better transport options for the community; and • improve social outcomes for the community.
CLIMATE CHANGE \$100 million over five years for adaptation to climate change including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Million Trees' at the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens (\$10.6 million); • \$3 million towards energy efficient street lights; and • a \$20 million future commitment to additional tree plantings across the Territory, in addition to the tree plantings being undertaken across Canberra as part of this Budget. 	These initiatives will contribute to the Government's commitment in the Weathering the Change strategy to a 60 per cent reduction in emissions by 2050.
IMPROVING URBAN AMENITIES \$100 million for improvements to urban amenities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$53 million enhancement to the TAMS capital upgrade program, which is working towards improving the urban amenity of our city; and • \$3.2 million for the community paths program. 	The capital upgrades program provides for significant improvements to the look and feel of our city, including investment in amenities in areas used by the community such as public toilets and barbeque sites. Further, the program will provide for upgrades to pavements, shopping centres, playgrounds and parks, maintenance of open space and landscaping, improvements to lighting, and additional street signage.
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY \$50 million for cutting edge Information and Communication technology including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$16.7 million to fund Information and Communication Technology initiatives across the Government, including the roll out the fibre optic cabling to government primary schools to support high speed internet usage. 	These projects will both upgrade information technology systems in government schools to improve learning, and in the ACT Public Service to facilitate better service to the community.
OTHER CAPITAL WORKS \$200 million boost to the existing capital works budget including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$24.6 million towards regional community facilities and neighbourhood halls; • \$16.9 million for the construction of the new Belconnen Police Station; and • \$8.6 million toward the redevelopment of the Lyneham Sports Precinct. 	These initiatives will provide the community with modern, up to date facilities and infrastructure.

BUDGET 2008 - 2009

Further information

Department of Treasury
 Finance and Budget Division
 GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601
www.treasury.act.gov.au