

PREFACE

The 2004-05 Budget

The 2004-05 Budget reflects a number of key events that occurred during the 2003-04 financial year.

Ministerial Portfolios

Financial Statements presented in the 2004-05 Budget Papers reflect the current composition of the administrative orders. This is further outlined in the Structure of the ACT Government and Classification of ACT Entities chapters. The Ministerial portfolio's are summarised below.

Mr Jon Stanhope	- Chief Minister - Attorney-General - Minister for Environment - Minister for Community Affairs	Mr Ted Quinlan	- Deputy Chief Minister - Treasurer - Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism - Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming
Mr Bill Wood	- Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services - Minister for Urban Services - Minister for Police and Emergency Services - Minister for the Arts and Heritage	Mr Simon Corbell	- Minister for Health - Minister for Planning
Ms Katy Gallagher	- Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services - Minister for Women - Minister for Industrial Relations		

Emergency Services Authority

On 1 July 2004, the Emergency Services Authority (ESA) will be established by the *Emergencies Act 2004*. The new ESA will perform all of the functions currently undertaken by the Emergency Services Bureau within the Department of Justice and Community Safety, relating to the provision of emergency services to the ACT, including:

- prevention and mitigation:
 - monitoring legislative and community compliance;
 - providing public information, education and awareness;
 - ensuring public safety and incident prevention; and

- emergency response:
 - providing trained and appropriate, strategically located and maintained resources that are prepared and ready to respond to emergencies;
 - providing emergency response services to the community; and
 - testing emergency response procedures.

Supplementary Appropriations 2003-2004

The Appropriation Act 2003-2004 (No.2) was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 25 September 2003. The Act provided additional appropriations totalling \$28.046m for the Government's immediate response to the McLeod Inquiry, and additional capacity in relation to other bushfire requirements not directly related to the McLeod Inquiry and a number of Enterprise Bargaining Agreements.

A report on the inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2003-2004 (No.2) was presented by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts 2003-04 on 23 September 2003. The Government's response to that report was tabled on 25 September 2003 and the Bill was debated and passed later that day.

The Appropriation Bill 2003-2004 (No.3) was presented to the Legislative Assembly on 11 March 2004, providing additional appropriations totalling \$107.912m to support a number of initiatives under the Canberra Plan, to meet the costs associated with several wage negotiations, and providing funding to Housing ACT to address homelessness and housing affordability. The Appropriation Bill 2003-2004 (No.3) is expected to be passed by the Legislative Assembly in the sitting week commencing 4 May 2004.

The 2004-05 Budget Papers are prepared on the basis of the inclusion of items noted in the Appropriation Act 2003-2004 (No.2) and Appropriation Bill 2003-2004 (No.3) within the estimated outcome column for 2003-04.

Accounting for the January 2003 Bushfire

Relevant revenue and expenditure arising from the bushfire have been treated as 'extraordinary items' as required under Australian Accounting Standards Board 1018.

For effected agencies, this will result in the appearance of additional line items within the financial statements presented in Budget Paper No. 4, to represent these extraordinary items.