

**PAPER NO. 1:
SPEECH**



BUDGET
2010-2011

GUIDE TO THE BUDGET PAPERS

Structure and content of the 2010-2011 Budget Papers

The 2010-2011 Budget is presented in four papers plus a reader's guide.

PAPER NO. 1: **SPEECH**

The Treasurer's speech to the Legislative Assembly highlights the Government's Budget strategies and key features of the Budget.

PAPER NO. 2: **A BUDGET FOR OUR GROWING CITY**

A summary of the overall budgetary position together with information on the Government's expenditure priorities in key service delivery areas.

PAPER NO. 3: **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Summarises the 2010-2011 Budget and forward estimates for the general government sector, the public trading enterprise sector and the total Territory Government. Details of the projected 2010-2011 Budget results are provided, as well as background information on the development of the 2010-2011 Budget, including economic conditions and federal financial relations.

Also provides an overview of the Territory's Infrastructure investment program and details of the 2010-2011 expenditure, revenue and capital initiatives.

The Appropriation Bill 2010–2011 is appended.

PAPER NO. 4: **BUDGET ESTIMATES**

Information on each department and Territory authority and corporation is provided. This includes output classes (where relevant), descriptions of functions, roles and responsibilities, together with major strategic priorities. Full accrual financial statements and notes are provided for the general government sector as well as details of the Territory's public trading enterprises.

READER'S GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

The guide provides readers of the Budget Papers with useful information to assist in understanding and interpreting the Budget.

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BUDGET 2010-11

Budget Paper 1 – Treasurer’s Speech

A Budget for Our Growing City

Mr Speaker, the 2010-11 ACT Budget is a Budget about the growth of Canberra.

It is about meeting our community’s needs and preparing our city for the future.

This is a responsible Budget that seeks to balance the growth in demand for our services with the restraint necessary to return our Budget to surplus.

In every Budget the Government faces the challenge of meeting competing pressures and this Budget seeks to strike the right balance.

Since self-Government we have been becoming increasingly self-sufficient and the Government continues to take decisive action to ensure that we keep the ACT on a strong financial footing.

In this Budget the ACT Labor Government’s investments will support sustainable growth for our community and continue to invest in what our community really needs: better schools and health care, support for the most vulnerable, promoting positive action on climate change, protecting our environment and developing valuable community infrastructure.

We are taking bold and forward-thinking action on developing our city for the future through our focus on infrastructure development, transport innovation, land supply programs and investments in our health and education systems.

Our capital program remains at record highs, to support growth in services, the economy and invest in the growth of the city.

Mr Speaker, this Government has listened to the community and is responding to the needs of local business to support their growth.

We commenced early our consultation process for the 2010-11 Budget and have continued to engage with the community, stakeholders and representatives of industry in confirming our priorities and developing our Budget. In response to feedback from industry we will continue to drive our capital works program to provide certainty to the sector.

We are a Government that is not afraid of making tough decisions and will look to drive future improvements in the way we fund Government services for our growing city.

Mr Speaker, the ACT Budget was dealt a blow with the global financial crisis, and now we have to grapple with the outcomes of the GST carve-up from the Commonwealth Grants Commission and its adjustments to the ACT's relativities.

The Government took the right decision last year to support jobs and investment through the worst of the financial crisis, rather than slash and burn funding and services. In an uncertain economic environment, we took deliberate steps to stabilise the economy. We avoided sharp adjustments in order to preserve services and support consumer and business confidence.

We did not take knee-jerk actions and our approach has been vindicated.

Mr Speaker, we have seen the positive effects of cyclical recovery and our local economy has performed strongly over the past 12 months in part through the Commonwealth's stimulus measures and the local initiatives in which the ACT Government invested.

Despite the recovery in our economy, the losses sustained by our Budget will take longer to remedy. The origins of this structural deficit were in the fiscal shock of the global financial crisis and deficits were accepted on a temporary basis. The Budget's underlying deficit is forecast to peak in 2010-11.

The net operating balance for 2010-11 is a deficit of \$83.9 million. By the last of the out-years we expect the deficit to have reduced to \$50.3 million.

Mr Speaker, there remain risks going forward. Trends in Commonwealth Government investment in the Territory will play a key role in our economic performance in the medium term. In 2010-11, when we expect the Commonwealth to start to restore its own budget position, moderation in the growth of the ACT's State Final Demand is expected.

However, with the global and national recoveries happening earlier than previously expected, the ACT economy is expected to benefit, through a recovery in household wealth as well as in consumer and business confidence.

The forecast for State Final Demand (SFD) in 2009-10 has improved considerably to 3¾ per cent compared to the original budget forecast of 2 per cent. The forecast for Gross State Product (GSP) for 2009-10 now is growth of 1 per cent, compared to the budget forecast of ½ per cent.

Unemployment is currently at 3.8 per cent, a figure that has remained more or less static through the 18 month downturn period. This is among the lowest in the country.

Combined with solid population growth in Canberra, and the targeted investment of the ACT Government, we expect to sustain the momentum of our local economy.



Budget Plan

Mr Speaker, in the 2009-10 Budget, the Government adopted a Budget Plan to return the budget to surplus over a period of seven years.

Towards the aims of the Budget Plan we readjusted our spending and achieved savings.

However, Mr Speaker, we did not make sharp adjustments and we maintained our investment in vital community services and infrastructure and supported business confidence, a strategy also employed by the Commonwealth and most other Australian jurisdictions. This approach was broadly endorsed across our community and allowed us to support our local economy and our growing city through a strong and targeted capital investment program.

This approach has paid dividends to our local economy and has assisted us in achieving the small surplus of \$54.2 million expected for 2009-10.

Mr Speaker, our Budget Plan was designed to be flexible and to be able to respond to changing circumstances and adjust to external factors.

The revenue outlook has improved since the last Budget, with the increase in the GST pool, housing market revenue and income from financial assets. The underlying revenue, however, will remain flat over the three years from 2007-08 to 2010-11.

Mr Speaker, in this Budget we are continuing our response to the effects of the global financial crisis. Our savings strategy going forward will continue our Budget discipline and produce efficiencies. These are essential to our plan to return to surplus.

The Expenditure Review and Evaluation Committee provided advice to the Government and we will continue its function in reviewing our budget processes going forward.

Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those ACT Public Servants in our agencies and departments who worked on the savings task and assisted the Expenditure Review and Evaluation Committee.

The public service has shown great leadership and innovation in approaching the savings task with the community front-and-centre in mind. Through their creativity and engagement in the process, we have been able to ensure minimal impact on services as a result of the savings task.

Mr Speaker, in this Budget we have set new targets to reflect our changed circumstances.

We are bringing forward our return to surplus target by two years to 2013-14. We have done this because our economy is recovering, our revenues are increasing and we are exercising strong budget management to drive efficiencies in Government spending.

Over the past 12 months we have driven our savings task and achieved \$48 million worth of savings towards our target.

We have now reset our targets and incorporated revised savings over the forward estimates that have a reduced impact on the community and the services we deliver. Around two thirds of the savings required to return the budget to surplus are incorporated in this Budget. The remaining savings will be achieved in future budgets.

Savings will be achieved through a number of targeted actions including the application of an efficiency dividend across government, wages restraint, reduction in the provision for unforeseen expenditure (Treasurer's advance) which has been mitigated through our substantial investment in services growth, and the deferral of the street tree planting program.

We are introducing some limited increases to fees and charges in this Budget. Parking fees will increase, in line with our objectives to encourage a shift to alternative modes of transport. We are also increasing some of our regulatory activities and corresponding fees to cover these costs. Additional revenue is expected through improved compliance with the Change of Use Charge.

In returning the Budget to surplus, the Government remains committed to preserving and enhancing priority services to the community.

Mr Speaker, this is a Budget that provides for modest new spending to meet the needs of our growing community. However, our budget maintains fiscal restraint in an environment of flat underlying revenue.

We remain committed to the vision for Canberra we set out before the 2008 General Election. We will press ahead with our agenda to build a better city and a stronger community but will do so in the context of our budgetary position and will prioritise our new initiatives based on areas of greatest need.

Similarly, we will continue our productive relationship with the ACT Greens Party on implementing the progressive agenda set out through the Parliamentary Agreement and will continue our engagement with our colleagues on priority setting for new initiatives.

Mr Speaker, through this Budget we are investing in vital infrastructure to support a growing city, with a strong residential land release program, improved municipal services and facilities and better transport options.

The Government has been working closely with industry and business to respond to their needs in relation to local capital investment. A series of roundtables have been held on topics such as land release, planning, transport and capital works.



Mr Speaker, Canberra businesses have weathered the slowdown and face the future with optimism. Business investment, housing finance and dwelling commencements continue to be among the highest in the country.

The strategy we put in place last year has improved the timely delivery of vital community infrastructure. As Treasurer, I have led this process and over the past year have met monthly with Chief Financial Officers from our departments to review progress, address delays and ensure our capital program is on track. This discipline will continue as we drive our community investment and support our growing city into the future.

Borrowings of up to \$450 million are included in the Budget to partially fund the infrastructure program. Although the Budget Update projected potential new borrowings of up to \$550 million, this figure has been revised down across the forward estimates period.

Mr Speaker, this level of debt is prudent and affordable. The Territory's balance sheet remains strong, as a result of responsible financial management.

We have budgeted for affordable pay increases for our workforce. We will continue to exercise wage restraint.

Mr Speaker, through this budget we are investing in the growth of Canberra, through delivering quality services and building valuable infrastructure so our city is ready for the future.

Mr Speaker, the Government is investing in those services essential to our community. New expenditure initiatives total around \$238 million over four years. Around two thirds of this expenditure is targeted towards meeting the growth needs of our city.

I now turn to the particulars of the key initiatives contained in the 2010-11 Budget.

Our Community's Health

Mr Speaker, in the 2010-11 Budget the ACT health budget will exceed one billion dollars for the first time.

Based on current growth projections, expenditure on health services could equate to the total ACT Budget by 2042. This is a nation-wide challenge and has been recognised by the Commonwealth in the development of its health and hospitals reforms.

The national health and hospitals reforms place health funding in the Territory on a more sustainable footing. They reduce the pressure of health cost growth on the ACT Budget over the medium term.

From 2014-15 to 2019-20, the reforms are estimated to provide at least \$248 million in benefits to the ACT. Over the next four years, the Territory health system will be enhanced through Commonwealth investment of around \$90 million.

The future of cooperative federalism is positive and has the potential to build on these kinds of new arrangements where funding and responsibility is more fairly shared between the Commonwealth and the Territory and where the outcomes are positive for the ACT.

Mr Speaker, these reforms are a long term commitment to sustainable health funding.

However, the ACT Government in this Budget is responding to the health needs of Canberrans now.

This Budget allocates an additional \$177 million over four years in recurrent funding to health services.

This includes an investment of \$41.5 million for increased activity. The Government is responding to increasing demand for critical care and acute care services in our public hospitals and will deliver more elective surgery, enhanced health services for older Canberrans, better support for mental health and improved services for cancer patients.

We are funding the operating costs of the \$13 million, 16-bed Surgical Assessment and Planning Unit at Canberra Hospital.

800 additional elective surgery operations will be performed in 2010-11 with our \$14.7 million injection into these services.

An additional \$10.5 million is provided in 2010-11 to increase capacity within the Intensive Care Unit at the Canberra Hospital. This will allow the service to provide up to 20 beds and improve care for patients. Two new High Dependency beds at Calvary Hospital are also being funded through \$11.4 million over four years.



An additional 22 sub-acute beds will be opened over the next four years through a \$26 million Commonwealth investment, under the national health reforms. This will significantly expand sub-acute services.

To continue to meet the growth in demand for ongoing cancer care, additional funding of \$4.2 million over the next four years has been allocated. This funding will enable the Capital Region Cancer Service to meet growth in demand in 2010–11.

The Budget also includes Commonwealth funding of \$27.9 million over three years for a new Integrated Cancer Centre. The Centre will improve cancer services by integrating care into a patient centred facility.

Mental health remains a priority for the Government. Mental health services in the ACT will receive an extra \$4.2 million over the next four years to help meet demand for services and support the mental health workforce. This funding will go towards promotion, prevention and early intervention, high quality community based clinical and psychosocial support services, community sector recovery and rehabilitation services, additional out of hours support and improve services for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A further \$4.2 million over four years is allocated to measures aimed at preventing or reducing risk factors for chronic disease such as diabetes.

Home and Community Care is receiving additional funding of \$9.5 million to assist frail older people and younger people with a disability to remain at home rather than entering an aged care or other residential facility. Additional funding of \$4.2 million over four years is also provided for the Aged Care and Rehabilitation Service.

A number of new infrastructure projects support this Government's commitment to rebuild our healthcare system to support our growing community.

In addition to the Integrated Cancer Centre, \$14 million will fund the expansion and refurbishment of the Tuggeranong Health Centre.

The Capital Asset Development Plan is a blueprint for the redevelopment of the ACT health system. This Budget provides \$19.1 million to further support the construction program needed to redevelop clinical services.

Education and Training

Mr Speaker, the education and training initiatives in this Budget further strengthen our schools, support students and teachers and provide additional opportunities to develop Canberrans' skills. More funding is allocated for students with a disability, teachers, colleges and to support new schools.

In this Budget we are providing \$1.1 million over four years to increase the participation of young people in education and training.

Students with disabilities will receive additional support, with \$1.6 million over four years to address a number of the recommendations contained in the Shaddock Review of Special Education.

The Swimming and Water Survival Skills initiative provides additional funding of \$300,000 over four years for swimming lessons for primary school children who would not normally be able to participate because their parents are unable to afford the cost.

To support students and staff in the new Harrison High, Kambah Preschool to Year 10 and Gungahlin College, recurrent funding of \$14.5 million over four years has been allocated.

Mr Speaker, new schools are needed as our population grows. Forward design will be undertaken for Franklin Early Childhood, Molonglo Primary and Bonner Primary Schools, with funding of \$5.2 million. Funding of \$5.3 million is also allocated to expand the Red Hill Primary School. A second gymnasium court is being funded at Harrison High School, with \$2 million in 2011-12. To increase traffic safety around schools, \$1.3 million has been also been provided.

An independent, statutory ACT Teacher Quality Institute is being established with \$3.9 million in funding over four years. The Institute will oversee teacher registration and accreditation against nationally recognised standards.

Building on the ACT's high standard of vocational education and training, further funding of \$9.1 million over three years provides for 4,839 additional worker training places. This initiative is funded under the Productivity Places Program National Partnership.

The provision of publicly delivered vocational education and training programs through the CIT at Gungahlin has been strengthened, with funding of \$3.3 million over four years. Funding of \$250,000 has also been provided to investigate expanding CIT training services at Tuggeranong.



Transport for Canberra

Mr Speaker, an efficient and sustainable transport system is the cornerstone of any well functioning and connected city.

The 2010-11 ACT Budget provides a massive down-payment on the future of the Territory's transport system through a comprehensive \$97 million funding package for all modes of transport.

The Transport package outlines the Government's vision for a sustainable transport system. It invests in new roads, transit ways, bus frequency and bus stations, road safety, new pedestrian and cycle paths, real-time passenger information, and park/bike-and-ride facilities for an efficient, reliable and integrated transport network to respond to the needs of our growing community.

Our new initiatives will reduce congestion, allow people to move around the city easily and safely and encourage sustainable transport choices. New roads, cycle ways, walking paths and pedestrian crossings, improvements to the bus system, and modelling for future transport needs are funded as part of the Transport for Canberra Plan with capital investment of \$86.3 million over four years.

Significant investment is made in public transport to better connect our growing city. Network 10 will commence in October 2010 and Network 11 in July 2011, with \$6.1 million over four years in funding. The REDEX pilot service is being incorporated into the permanent ACTION network.

This Budget includes funding of \$2 million to improve bus services and facilities in the City. Three new major bus stations are also funded, including around \$1.7 million for Gungahlin, \$3.2 million for Erindale and \$100,000 for a Barton bus station feasibility study.

An investment of \$1 million is made for the installation of up to 50 bus shelters, and \$1.8 million over three years for the Major Stops Program. New Park and Ride facilities will also be introduced at EPIC and Erindale with funding of \$4.1 million over four years. Bike and Ride facilities are being established in Belconnen, Harrison, Phillip, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin, with funding of \$700,000.

This Budget includes \$12.5 million in funding for a Real Time Passenger Information System. An additional \$600,000 over four years recurrent funding has been provided to operate the system which monitors the location of buses and displays this information at major stations.

Bus priority lanes will be introduced on Canberra Avenue with funding of \$8.2 million over four years and on Northbourne Avenue, with a major bus station in Dickson through funding

of \$4.3 million over two years. This option is also being explored for Flemington Road with \$750,000 over two years.

Funding of \$7.3 million over two years also provides for Stage 1 of a transit way between the City and the ANU and minor bus priority works at the intersection of Haydon Drive and College Street.

The Transport for Canberra plan also includes an investment of \$1 million for walking and cycling infrastructure and \$3.5 million for path lighting in the city.

To meet growing demand on the Canberra road network, this Budget includes funding to increase the capacity and condition of roads. Funding of \$1 million will upgrade the intersection at Phillip and Majura Avenue in Hackett, \$7.2 million is provided to upgrade the Cotter Road between Tuggeranong Parkway and Yarra Glen and \$7 million to upgrade the intersection at Barry Drive and Clunies Ross Street, along with a number of critical intersection upgrades.

A further \$205,000 is being provided to undertake transport modelling for Woden and future Molonglo road developments. To improve safety on our roads, funding of \$2.4 million over three years has also been provided for variable message signs.



Community Services for a Growing City

Mr Speaker, this Budget provides further support for older Canberrans, the homeless, those with mental illness or a disability, young people in the justice system, children who need care and protection and families in need of assistance.

The Government is providing additional funding of \$2.4 million over two years to better support people with profound or severe disabilities. Support of \$425,000 over four years is also being provided for families with autistic children.

The Government has honoured its commitment to reduce red tape and minimise administration for carers accessing support. Funding of \$424,000 over four years is provided to the Carers Advocacy Service to streamline access to services for carers in the community. This Budget also provides greater access to respite services for older carers, with funding of \$1.7 million over four years.

The Government is implementing a working with children and vulnerable people checking system. The ACT will be the first jurisdiction to require people working with children and vulnerable people to be checked for criminal and other offences.

Over four years, \$1.8 million is allocated to increase the Energy Concession by \$20, raising the maximum household concession to \$214.87 per annum. This measure will assist low income and other disadvantaged households meet the costs of living.

Funding of \$2 million over four years further supports implementation of the Sexual Assault Reform Program and the Family Violence Intervention Program. This will enhance the community support available for women and children experiencing violence.

The Government recognises that it is essential to provide children in the care and protection system with a safe home. An additional \$5.7 million over four years has been provided to support the increasing number of children who need to be provided with out of home care. In 2009, there were 494 children in out of home care.

To meet the complex needs of young people in the justice system and ensure their safe care and rehabilitation, the Government has provided additional funding of \$7.1 million over four years for the ongoing operations of the Bimberi Youth Detention Centre.

Services for young children and their families are being enhanced, including coordinated services and intensive case management for vulnerable families. The Government is also working with the Commonwealth to implement national reforms in the early learning and childcare sector, with funding of \$1.5 million over four years.

Additional funding of \$208,000 over four years supports emerging multicultural communities with language grants and activities for young people and refugees, at risk of social isolation.

Working with the Indigenous community, the Government is providing \$100,000 over two years to research and compile the genealogies and family histories for each of the acknowledged traditional Aboriginal clans in the Territory.

Mr Speaker, we are continuing our investment in community facilities in this Budget, with \$3.2 million over two years for parking upgrades at the eight Regional Community Facility Hubs. The former Flynn school site is being redeveloped as a childcare centre, accommodating up to 120 places at a cost of \$4 million.

This Budget also builds on the homelessness and affordable accommodation initiatives funded under the ACT Affordable Housing Action Plan Phase 1 and 11. A further \$391,000 over two years is provided for outreach support to sustain tenancies for low income families in the private rental market. An additional \$2.5 million in capital funding is also allocated for ten new houses under the A Place to Call Home initiative.



Supporting Jobs and our Local Economy: Infrastructure, Land Development and Capital Works

Canberra needs new infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing city. As indicated earlier, strategic capital investments are being made in health, education, transport and to support other government services.

The Government continues its unprecedented investment in capital works with more than \$394 million in new capital initiatives over four years. The total capital program over four years is just over one and a half billion dollars.

There is over \$317 million for new capital works, \$45 million for capital upgrades, around \$24 million for Information and Communication Technology and almost \$7 million for plant and equipment.

A growing city needs more land for housing, business and to support its community. The Government has a comprehensive and long term land supply and release strategy in place to meet current demand for housing and respond to changing needs.

This budget provides \$8 million over four years to increase the supply of land ready for release. Funding of \$3.6 million over four years has been provided to accelerate land development, with an additional \$1.7 million provided for coordination of the capital program to support the land release program.

Planning for land development in Molonglo Valley is well under way. Funding of \$17 million is provided to construct two ponds in the new suburb of Coombs. The north south arterial road, John Gorton Drive, is provided with a further \$11 million. Funding of around \$1.8 million will be provided for a number of road infrastructure and stormwater management feasibility studies.

Funding of \$400,000 over two years is provided to undertake planning and design studies for the Erindale Group Centre, Tuggeranong Town Centre and Pialligo.

To improve the amenity and safety of our city, more than \$22 million over four years has been allocated for additional repairs and maintenance. Improvements will also be made to Lake Ginninderra facilities including playground and picnic areas and path lighting with \$1.3 million in funding.

The new Gungahlin Library will be established with funding of \$2.9 million over four years for new stock and improved provision of Internet access.

Mr Speaker, through this Budget the ACT Government is continuing its approach of maintaining an environment that supports local jobs and businesses.

To support future industrial land release, this Budget provides \$130,000 for technical investigations into commercial and industrial land supply options, including in the Eastern Broadacre area.

Funding of \$403,000 over four years is provided to streamline development and environmental assessment and approvals processes, national licensing of tradespeople and development of a National Construction Code. This work is being undertaken as part of the COAG national seamless economy reforms.

Mr Speaker, supporting local jobs continues to be a priority, with additional funding of \$210,000 over two years provided to help promote information sharing, and collaborative approaches to skills and future workforce issues in the Territory.

This Budget also includes \$1.8 million to support Canberra's growing digital media, film and television production industry through an ACT Film Industry Fund.



Community Safety and Justice

As Canberra's population continues to grow, so too does the need for enhanced law enforcement and justice services.

Mr Speaker, in this Budget we are investing \$5.1 million over four years to provide an additional 10 police officers to strengthen enforcement of liquor licensing, and also introducing a risk-based approach and mandatory Responsible Service of Alcohol training. These initiatives support law and order reforms and will make our entertainment precincts safer.

To improve road safety, \$4.1 million over four years will fund an Automated Number Plate Recognition team. This establishes an ACT Policing team to identify unregistered, uninsured or stolen vehicles. Around 40 per cent of fatal collisions in the ACT involve either an unregistered car or an unlicensed driver.

Further road safety programs are funded, including point to point speed cameras with \$1.4 million.

The ACT Ambulance Service is supported, with \$5.1 million over four years for additional clinical support and communication centre staff. The initiative will improve emergency service response times.

Additional funding of \$1.2 million over four years in operating and \$2.6 million in capital funding has been allocated for the rollout of a Mobile Data Solution Project. This will strengthen timely access to information for all emergency services front line crews.

All Canberrans will benefit from a \$3.8 million capital and \$5.2 million recurrent investment over four years in the second stage of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for new bushfire prevention programs.

Additional funding of \$624,000 over four years is provided for the National Emergency Warning System for early warning messages.

New court facilities are being established in the Magistrates Court with \$1.1 million over four years and \$1.6 million over four years allocated for an acting Judge and support staff. This Budget provides an additional \$1.6 million over four years for the Court Transport Unit to better support the safety and human rights of people in custody.

The Legal Aid Commission has been allocated funding of \$785,000 over four years for youth law services, and \$194,000 over four years to engage an Indigenous Liaison Officer.

Climate Change and Sustainability

The Government's record on climate change is recognised and this Budget builds on the significant work undertaken to date. Our new initiatives will further promote positive action on addressing climate change and make significant investments in protecting our natural environment, reducing energy consumption and preserving precious water resources.

Mr Speaker, in this Budget funding of \$2.6 million over four years is provided for measuring and reporting against the Government's greenhouse gas reduction target of zero net emissions by 2060.

Leading by example, the Government is increasing its uptake of renewable energy from 30 per cent to 32.5 per cent, with funding of \$1.3 million over four years.

The capacity and landfill cell life of the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre will be increased with funding of \$4.4 million for capital works and around \$1.8 million over four years to explore future feasibility options at the facility. An additional \$1 million over two years provides for a trial of bulky waste pickup, along with funding of \$335,000 over two years for resource recovery market development.

Mr Speaker, this year is the International Year of Biodiversity and this Budget allocates additional funding of \$1.3 million over four years for threatened species conservation.

Facilities at the internationally significant Jerrabomberra Wetlands are also being upgraded with \$2.3 million over three years. Weed control measures at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands are also supported with \$200,000.

Stormwater harvesting projects on Ginninderra Creek at Gungahlin and at Molonglo, with \$11.5 million, will assist in improving management of water resources and run off.

A Wood Heater Survey and Educational Awareness Campaign is being funded with \$100,000, and will encourage people to use less polluting systems.



Tourism, Culture and Sport

Canberra is a diverse and vibrant community with world class festivals, cultural experiences and sporting facilities. In this Budget we are investing in a range of activities, facilities and programs to further promote the arts, sporting and cultural life of our growing city.

These include more than \$22.6 million for the National Arboretum Canberra to develop visitor facilities and additional forest plantings with a particular focus on the planned Centenary of Canberra celebrations in 2013.

In addition \$1.9 million over four years will be invested to support Floriade and the continuation of the NightFest, which has attracted over 46,000 visitors since its inception two years ago, and upgrades to the Canberra Theatre Centre, the Street Theatre and Watson Arts Centre.

To help celebrate the Centenary of Canberra, \$100,000 is provided to commission an Australian composer to write music for the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

Canberra is an active city, with high levels of participation in sport and recreation. This Budget invests a further \$6.5 million over four years for complementary infrastructure work at the Gungahlin Wellbeing Precinct.

A number of sporting facilities are also being upgraded including the Lyneham Precinct, the Canberra Stadium, Manuka Oval, and Narrabundah Ball Park and funding is provided for design for the Belconnen Skate Park, Gungahlin Leisure Centre and Throsby Multisport Complex.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, this Government has an excellent record of strong financial management and has delivered a sustainable budget – financially, socially and environmentally – that will support our growing city and meet our community's needs.

We are working hard at supporting economic activity in our city. We are investing in our growing city in an orderly and sustainable manner. Across all portfolios we are delivering valuable community assets to help drive our economy, support jobs and prepare our city for the future.

Mr Speaker, our Budget maintains fiscal restraint and retains our commitment to savings and efficiencies going forward.

Despite the recovery in our economy, the losses sustained by our Budget will take longer to remedy.

However, this Government has brought forward our target to return to surplus by two years.

Mr Speaker, through this Budget we are also providing modest spending on new policy initiatives. We are investing in our education system, in community services and safety, in our natural environment and climate change measures and in the health and wellbeing of our growing community.

We are making a down-payment on the future transport system of Canberra and investing in the community infrastructure for our growing city's needs.

Mr Speaker, this is a Budget for a growing city.



SPEECH