



ACT Government

2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS AIDS WATER MANAGEMENT

ACT Budget funding for land development infrastructure will deliver a range of water sensitive urban design works as part of the ACT Government's land release program and implementation of the ACT Water Strategy.

Planning Minister Simon Corbell announced today that the ACT Government had committed to spending on land development infrastructure to \$13.9 million over four years in the 2004-05 ACT Budget.

"The Government will spend \$10.75 million on capital improvements for land releases, a further \$2.4 million augmenting trunk infrastructure and \$0.75 million for public realm improvements over the four years of this Budget," Mr Corbell said. "The ACT Planning and Land Authority will oversee these projects as part of preparing land to be ready for release by the Land Development Agency.

"The projects funded help deliver *Canberra Plan* commitments to ensure residents have good transport access and live in high quality suburbs. As a result of the Water Strategy, several projects will be implemented with a better understanding of the relationship between land development and water sensitive urban design.

"We aim to design and manage our mains water, sewer, storm water and urban water bodies to imitate as closely as possible the water behaviour which existed before urban development. This may be encouraging storm water to soak into the soil, retaining run off in the landscape as long as possible so it does not collect pollutants, and using wetlands to treat urban run off which has become polluted. The more we adopt water sensitive urban design, the less impact our urban living will have on our water resources."

Major projects funded in this year's ACT Budget include:

- \$3 million - \$2 million of that in 2004-05 – for a new pond in Bonner to improve stormwater run off quality and provide flood protection for Forde and Bonner;
- \$1.5 million in 2004-05 to support the released East O'Malley residential development with construction of a water quality control pond and retardation facility, plus traffic improvements. A further \$500,000 is allocated for 2005-06;
- \$1.2 million in 2004-05 to provide access to the new suburbs of Forde and Bonner by upgrading two intersections on Horse Park Drive;
- \$2 million - \$1 million in 2004-05 – for stormwater infrastructure and to build a road between the Federal Highway and Aspinall Street to service development in North Watson;
- \$2 million to extend Cohen Street from Lathlain Street to Benjamin Way in 2004-05 and \$1 million in 2005-06 as part of works proposed in the *Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan*.

Statement Ends.

