



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

\$104.7 MILLION FOR **2003-04 NEW CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM**

The 2003-04 ACT Budget provides \$104.7 million in the New Capital Works Program for major infrastructure projects and upgrades to essential services and facilities, compared to \$91.2 million in 2002-03, Treasurer Ted Quinlan said.

“In this budget, we have increased the value of new capital works commitments by 15 per cent over the 2002-03 program,” Mr Quinlan said.

“\$58.4 million of the New Works Program will be spent in 2003-04. On top of this, \$93.7 million will be spent next financial year on works in progress from previous years. The total cash expenditure for 2003-04 will be \$152.1 million.”

The capital works funding would be spent on constructing and upgrading emergency services infrastructure, roads, sports and recreation facilities and on restoration of areas of Canberra damaged by the bushfires.

Major features of the new program include:

- \$8.3 million to construct a new Belconnen Joint Emergency Services Centre, with another \$828,000 to refurbish and set up a West Belconnen Joint Emergency Services Centre;
- a \$40 million planning provision in the 2004-05 financial year for the planning and construction of a new or upgraded convention centre. This provision is in addition to the \$250,000 in the 2003-04 capital works program for further feasibility and design works;
- \$2.5 million for a new permanent library to service the Kippax area, and \$540,000 to refurbish the Woden Library;
- \$2.85 million towards continuing the upgrade program of sportsgrounds, pools and recreation facilities, including the National Hockey Centre’s wet synthetic field;
- \$13.2 million for the much needed upgrade of the Quamby Detention Centre;
- \$2.4 million to progress Stage 2 of the construction of a new lined landfill cell at Mugga Landfill;
- \$3 million for the implementation of neighbourhood improvement projects for the suburbs of Braddon, Deakin, Lyneham, O’Connor and Turner; and another \$500,000 for the refurbishment of Holder shops;
- \$2.1 million to upgrade the Kingston and Gungaherra Creek stormwater systems; and
- \$500,000 for the Landscape Upgrade Program to promptly undertake work that improves the safety, accessibility and amenity of Canberra.



The Treasurer said the budget allocated \$18.8 million in capital works for ACT roads. \$8 million is provided for the upgrade of Fairbairn Avenue over two years and \$1.8 million to extend Aikman Drive from Emu Bank to Eastern Valley Way. A further \$2 million will be directed towards increasing the load capacity of a number of bridges across the ACT.

Mr Quinlan also said \$500,000 would be spent to continue the program of bike path and footpath improvements and another \$500,000 for the successful Playground Safety Program, ongoing since 1991, to upgrade safety in public play areas for Canberra families.

“In public housing, \$9 million will continue a major fire safety program for major flat complexes, with another \$6 million for the on-going program of upgrading these complexes. In addition, a total of \$26 million has been allocated to the repair and maintenance of ACT Housing’s 11,450 properties,” he said.

“This capital works program provides funds for important projects that will build our city and our community. These budget initiatives improve the lives of all, wherever they live and work in our Territory,” Mr Quinlan concluded.

Statement ends.