



## ACT Government

# 2003-2004 BUDGET

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### FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT BELCONNEN TOWN CENTRE MASTER PLAN

ACT Minister for Planning Simon Corbell today announced a range of new initiatives that will deliver priorities identified in the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan.

“Planning is about improving the quality of our community life, making things happen on the ground. Master Planning is a significant example where community, business and planners work together to review the detailed planning for a specific area, to plan for a more sustainable future and improved amenity,” Mr Corbell said today.

“However, in recent years, many people have contributed their time and creativity to the development of master plans, only to see them gather dust on a shelf. The Stanhope Government is determined to use these master plans as a framework for change in an area, using infrastructure development and orderly land release to realise the objectives of these plans.

“The Belconnen Master Plan was launched in August 2001 and I am pleased to announce that the 2003-2004 Budget allocates \$2.46 million for a variety of initiatives to deliver key works identified in the Master Plan, providing the necessary infrastructure for sustainable further development and improving the amenity of the Town Centre,” Mr Corbell said.

“The initiatives include:

- \$60,000 for design of a new Belconnen bus interchange to facilitate the revitalisation of Belconnen town centre as proposed in the Master Plan, delivering significant planning and transport benefits for the town centre and Belconnen residents. The new interchange will deliver a higher level of comfort and security for commuters, more like an airport departure lounge than the current interchange. The new interchange will also allow better routing of bus services to serve the needs of people in the town centre.
- \$1.2 million for a new signalised intersection to provide traffic access to the Town Centre from Belconnen Way and provide direct access from Catchpole Street into Lathlain Street. This will provide much improved access to the Town Centre and the Belconnen markets and will significantly improve traffic flow in the Southern area of the Town centre. The work will enable the release of commercial land in the area providing significant opportunities for additional business to locate in the area, providing a boost to activity and employment. Work is expected to commence in February 2004 and be completed by June 2004.
- \$200,000 design study will look at how Cohen Street can be extended to improve traffic flow around the Belconnen Town Centre. Extending Cohen Street from Lathlain Street to Emu Bank is an important east-west connection through the town centre and would improve traffic movement through the town centre and would particularly relieve traffic congestion on Emu Bank. It would improve

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pedestrian access from the retail trades area to the main shopping centre, and allow further consideration of relocating and improving the bus interchange.

- \$1 million to build an extension to the water main along Ginninderra Drive and down Aikman Drive to provide needed infrastructure for the eastern side of Lake Ginninderra, boost water pressure and supply to the Town Centre and provide fire-fighting capability along Aikman Drive. This work delivers the necessary infrastructure to realise the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan, particularly enabling the development of Section 87 Block 6 providing much needed older persons accommodation. Construction will commence in approximately February 2004 and should be completed by June 2004.

**Statement ends.**