



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

CUTTING RED TAPE AND CONTINUING LABOR'S PLANNING REFORM

The ACT Government has made a further commitment to reforming the ACT planning system in the 2004-05 Budget, Planning Minister Simon Corbell said today.

"The Government has committed additional funding, \$250,000 in 2004-05 and \$100,000 in 2005-06, to ensure that the planning system delivers responsible decisions within a simpler framework," Mr Corbell said.

"Continued planning reform was a vital element of the Statement of Planning Intent I tabled in the Legislative Assembly last December. Incremental changes to planning and land administrative arrangements during the decade since the Land Act was first introduced have resulted in a system that is no longer as efficient and user-friendly as it should be.

"During the next two years, the Government will focus on further reforms that provide greater clarity and certainty for developers and the community alike, within a more timely and administratively more efficient manner." Key elements to be considered include:

- Providing an incentive based planning system that removes repetition and duplication in both statutory documentation and administrative processes;
- Promoting more accountable planning outcomes through fully integrated policy settings;
- Providing clearer and simpler guidance about the design expectations for new development, both complex and simple, including sustainability outcomes.
- Further enhancing community participation in the development of planning policy, whilst obtaining an appropriate balance between the interests of proponents and neighbours in relation to individual proposals;
- Exploring with the National Capital Authority ways in which any unnecessary overlaps in process between Commonwealth and ACT planning can be removed;
- Simplifying the process for routine and technical Territory Plan variations;
- Reducing the need for full-scale planning assessment of individual developments in greenfield areas by developing whole-of-estate strategic development assessments and improved master planning for those areas;
- Examining what the ACT can adopt from proposals for alternative development assessment models, which would include the structure of the Territory Plan, being considered by the National Development Assessment Forum; and
- Implementing a revised framework for granting and administering concessional leases following conclusion of the review presently underway.





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Consistent with the *The Canberra Plan* and the directions established in *The Canberra Spatial Plan* and *Economic White Paper*, , an initial focus will be to address planning system impediments to attracting appropriate development in Civic and the town centres,” Mr Corbell said.

Extensive industry and community consultation will be integral to developing specific proposals to any further reform program.

“The reforms will build on the progressive improvements to the ACT’s planning, development and building assessment systems achieved in recent years. These include creation of the ACT Planning and Land Authority, the Land Development Agency, the Planning and Land Council, improved mediation and appeals procedures and the development of modern, integrated licensing legislation for a broad range of construction occupations.”

Statements Ends.

