



**ACT**  
Government

Australian Capital Territory

# BUDGET 2016-17

FOR CANBERRA

Media Releases



## 2016-17 ACT BUDGET – FOR CANBERRA

The 2016-17 ACT Budget is a budget for an even better Canberra. This Budget delivers more services today and in coming years. It builds on our plan to secure a better future for Canberra.

The last few ACT budgets have supported our economy through the years of cuts from the Federal Liberal government. Recent economic data has confirmed that the Territory economy is now rebounding strongly and the Territory budget is doing the same, with a **\$300 million** improvement in the budget.

While the Budget invests more across our city with more nurses, more teachers and more support for vulnerable Canberrans, the Government is securing a better future for Canberra through a return to balanced budgets as outlined in previous years.

### Strong budget management and economic growth for Canberra

The ACT Government has invested significantly in recent years to ensure Canberra weathered the storm of the Commonwealth's cuts.

This strategy has worked. Our unemployment rate is now the lowest in the country, economic activity is growing at the fastest rate of any state or territory, our retail trade figures are the strongest in Australia and service exports are booming, with strong growth in education.

The strong economy means our budget position is improving, with the territory budget to return to balance in 2017-18 and budget surpluses in 2018-19 and 2019-20 as previously outlined in past budgets.

We are returning the budget to balance by investing in our community and diversifying our economy.

Through the Government's support for local businesses in the *Confident and Business Ready Strategy*, our economy is creating jobs and diversifying.

This Budget delivers a four-year infrastructure program worth **\$2.9 billion** – which provides the services and facilities Canberrans need now and into the future while creating jobs and economic activity.

The 2016-17 ACT Budget invests **\$8.8 million** to support our tourism sector in anticipation of direct international flights to Singapore and Wellington that take off in September 2016. The Government is also continuing with our tax reform agenda, with another increase to the payroll tax threshold to **\$2 million**, which lowers the tax burden for Canberra businesses to support local jobs. Since 2012, the ACT Government has given every Canberra business with a payroll over \$2 million a tax cut of \$34,250 to invest in their business.

This Budget fully abolishes insurance tax – an unfair and inefficient tax. Stamp duty is again cut, delivering on our promise to reduce the burden of this unfair tax and improve housing affordability in the ACT. From tomorrow, the buyer of a \$500,000 home will save \$7,040 in stamp duty compared to before our tax reform began.

### More nurses and teachers for Canberra

Health and education will always be the top priority for the ACT Government and this Budget delivers more nurses and more teachers for our hospitals and schools. This Budget will invest **\$1.6 billion** into our local health system, with **\$139 million** for more nurses and doctors as part of **\$237 million** in new funding for better health services. This is on top of the **\$212 million** investment for Canberra's newest public hospital at the University of Canberra.



# BUDGET 2016-17

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The Government is also investing **\$1.16 billion** into our education system, including **\$55 million** in new initiatives, to ensure Canberra's schools remain the best in the country. Our public school system is growing, and this year's Budget creates more students places for Canberra families and employs more teachers.

## Increased support for Canberra's most vulnerable

Increased support for our community's most vulnerable is the centrepiece of the 2016-17 Budget.

The Government is dedicating **\$27 million** in new funding to building a safer community and helping Canberrans in need. This is on top of the **\$510 million** the Government will invest in supporting Canberrans who need a helping hand.

This includes a **\$21.4 million** Safer Families Package – the single largest new funding initiative in the ACT's history to tackle family violence.

The ACT Government is also investing an extra **\$35 million** over four years into the concessions program to support those Canberrans who need it most. This reflects the Government's commitment to a fairer, more sustainable, more accessible and better targeted concessions program.

## Better roads and transport for Canberra

The Government is continuing to build an integrated, city-wide transport network – with this Budget funding better roads and new buses on more routes.

The Government is investing more to improve roads right across Canberra, including the duplication of **Horse Park Drive** in Gungahlin, the duplication of **Aikman Drive** in Belconnen, the duplication of the **Cotter Road** to link Weston Creek and Woden, and the duplication of **Ashley Drive** in Tuggeranong.

The Budget invests **\$10 million** for 20 new buses, as well as new bus services in Weston Creek and Molonglo and a free 'City Loop' service. Work will also begin this year on the first stage of the city wide light rail project – which will form part of Canberra's integrated public transport network and reduce congestion on Canberra roads.

## Investing in municipal services for Canberra

Suburbs across Canberra will see the benefits of even more mowing, weeding and local shop upgrades in this year's Budget, with a new investment of **\$14.2 million** to ensure Canberra remains the most liveable city in the world.

The Budget funds a pilot program for the Canberra-wide rollout of green bins for garden waste. The pilot program will be available to residents in Weston Creek and Kambah from 2017.

This Budget also spends more on better facilities for Canberrans – including significant investments in sporting facilities, playground upgrades and a new pool at Stromlo Forest Park.

## \$1.6 BILLION INVESTMENT IN HEALTH SERVICES FOR CANBERRA



The 2016-17 ACT Budget invests a record **\$1.6 billion** to provide more doctors, more nurses and better health services for Canberra. The record investment in better health services for Canberra is almost one third of the entire ACT Budget.

This Budget includes **\$139 million** for more nurses, more doctors and more allied health professionals as part of **\$237 million** in new funding for better health services for Canberra.

This Budget will see a further investment of **\$50 million** over four years for better mental health services. This includes 60 new health staff for the Secure Mental Health Unit which will open later this year.

Construction is also underway on the **\$212 million** University of Canberra Public Hospital, which will be Canberra's third public hospital and provide better access to high-quality healthcare.

### More doctors, nurses and health professionals for Canberra

This Budget delivers **\$139 million** for more nurses and doctors, with **170 new health staff** over four years, including **22 more doctors, 91 more nurses and 34 more allied health professionals**.

This includes:

- **\$29 million** to fund 54 new health staff for the expanded Canberra Hospital Emergency Department;
- **\$5.3 million** to expand the Trauma Service at the Canberra Hospital to provide better care for trauma patients with seven new doctors and nurses;
- **\$5.3 million** to deliver two additional special care nursery beds and eight new health staff at the Centenary Hospital for women and children;
- **\$5 million** for better acute stroke services and access to treatment in the ACT with four new health staff;
- **\$4.6 million** for one additional intensive care unit bed at the Canberra Hospital and nine new health staff;
- **\$4.2 million** to improve access to a number of outpatient services, including neurology, cardiology, respiratory and sleep services with 10 new staff;
- **\$2.1 million** to expand palliative care services by providing an additional paediatric palliative care nurse to address the needs of children and young adolescents;
- **\$2 million** for an additional emergency department specialist physician at Calvary Hospital;
- **\$1.3 million** to provide deep brain stimulation treatment for people with Parkinson's disease; and
- **\$1.3 million** for an extra 300 endoscopic procedures each year. This expansion will help meet a growing demand for services and help reduce elective surgery waiting times.



## New and improved health facilities for Canberra

**More than \$111 million will be invested over four years to build better health infrastructure and provide more health services for Canberra.**

This funding comes on top of the ACT Government's investment of **\$212 million** for Canberra's newest public hospital at the University of Canberra.

The funding in the 2016-17 ACT Budget will be allocated as follows:

- **\$100.5 million** to upgrade and maintain facilities at Canberra Hospital, Calvary Hospital and other health buildings to ensure they continue to meet the future health needs of our community;
- **\$7.3 million** to establish a new clinical genomic service to develop personalised medicine for patients;
- **\$2.4 million** to build accommodation to support people with mental health issues and help them recover in the community;
- **\$1 million** to plan for and improve health information communication technology; and
- **\$360,000** to investigate options for a new city health centre.

## Investing in better mental health services for Canberra

**Mental health will receive a major \$50 million boost in new funding over the next four years to provide Canberrans with better and more tailored services.**

The investment will include:

- **\$43.4 million** for 60 new health staff at the Secure Mental Health Unit to open later this year;
- **\$3 million** to establish a Young People's Mental Health Treatment Team for young Canberrans experiencing, or at high risk of developing, serious mental illness;
- **\$2.7 million** for two new beds and four new staff to expand the Adult Mental Health Unit, increasing the number of beds available from 35 to 37; and
- **\$1 million** to boost services provided in the non-government sector for community mental health services and suicide prevention.

## Delivering health services to the most vulnerable

**This Budget provides over \$11 million in new funding over four years to improve the health services provided to our most vulnerable Canberrans.**

This includes:

- **\$6 million** in additional funding to support drug services to minimise the harm caused by drug use in our community;
- **\$1.3 million** to expand existing outreach health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT and surrounding areas; and
- **\$1.3 million** to improve access to sexual health services and blood borne virus vaccination, testing and treatment for vulnerable communities.

## BETTER EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR CANBERRA

**\$1.16 billion**   
on our education system

**44,000+** students taught by  
**3,300+** teachers 

**\$55 million**   
for new Education initiatives

**1,404** new students  
in 2016 

**\$20 million**   
to expand Gungahlin schools

Canberra's public schools are among the best in the country – and the 2016-17 ACT Budget is investing **\$1.16 billion** in our education system to ensure our children are given the best education possible.

The ACT Budget will employ more teachers for Canberra schools, adding to the more than 3,300 teachers teaching over 44,000 students across the capital.

The government will invest **\$55 million** in new initiatives to improve our schools and state-of-the-art facilities, as well as strengthen the capacity of schools to support students and their families with complex needs.

The government is also investing **\$20 million** to expand schools in Gungahlin, with 680 new student places across Canberra's fastest growing region.

### Delivering better education facilities right across Canberra

The Budget dedicates **\$41.5 million** to improve facilities and administration for schools across the ACT.

- Better schools for Gungahlin, including:
  - expansion of the facilities at Harrison School, Neville Bonner Primary School and Palmerston Preschool for the start of the 2017 school year; and
  - expansion of the facilities at Amaroo School for the start of the 2018 school year.
- Better schools for Belconnen, including:
  - better preschool facilities in Weetangera and Hawker; and
  - a contemporary learning space at Maribyrnong Primary.
- Better schools for Tuggeranong, including:
  - an upgraded library and science laboratories at Calwell High;
  - improved parking and traffic management at Wanniasa Hills Primary; and
  - a food technology area upgrade at Lake Tuggeranong College.
- Better schools for Woden, including:
  - a replacement roof for Mt Stromlo High.
- Better schools for the inner suburbs, including:
  - new facilities at Alfred Deakin and Campbell High Schools;
  - upgraded science facilities at Dickson College; and
  - upgraded learning spaces at the Woden School.

- The ACT Government is also investing **\$10 million** for a modern, fully integrated school business system that will streamline parent interaction with schools.

## Delivering better education to Canberra students

The Budget invests an additional **\$24.7 million** to further improve the standard of education being provided to all of our students in schools across Canberra.

The ACT Government is investing:

- **\$21.5 million** to strengthen the capacity of schools to support students with complex needs and their families, in response to recommendations made in the *Schools for All* report;
- **\$1.2 million** to undergo quality assurance in all public schools;
- **\$1.1 million** to support the provision of special needs transport to and from Canberra schools for students with disabilities;
- **\$300,000** to strengthen Ngunnawal culture and history in schools by encouraging schools and students to engage with traditional owners, improve access to Ngunnawal cultural resources and increase cultural awareness;
- **\$300,000** over three years in teacher scholarships to support post-graduate learning and additional teacher expertise in science, technology, engineering and maths; and
- **\$250,000** for school modernisation planning to respond to the future needs of public schools.



## INCREASED SUPPORT FOR CANBERRA'S MOST VULNERABLE



Increased support for vulnerable members of our community is the centrepiece of the 2016-17 ACT Budget for Canberra.

The ACT Budget invests more than **\$510 million** to support Canberrans who need a helping hand.

This includes **\$120 million** for disability services, such as our ongoing support for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The ACT Government will also spend more than **\$94 million** for Child and Youth Protection Services and **\$184 million** for housing and homelessness support.

The ACT Government has listened to the community and is dedicating an unprecedented **\$27 million** in new funding to building a safer community and giving a voice to all those in need.

This includes a **\$21.4 million** response to family violence – the single largest new funding initiative in the ACT's history on addressing family violence in our community.

### Safer families for Canberra

**The ACT Government is investing \$21.4 million over four years to tackle the issue of family violence in our community. This is the single largest spend on the issue of family violence in the ACT's history.**

This new funding includes:

- **\$3 million** for a full-time Coordinator-General for Family Safety and a dedicated safer families team to lead the whole of government effort to improve outcomes for victims of family violence. This work will be done through collaboration, information sharing, awareness raising and working in partnership with the community;
- **\$2.6 million** to deliver coordinated case management and services for families who have experienced family violence, helping ensure they get the support they need;
- **\$2.5 million** to establish a team to analyse and provide advice to child protection services as they undertake their complex work to support vulnerable children and young people;
- **\$2.5 million** to enhance the Director of Public Prosecutions' capacity to institute and conduct prosecutions of alleged family violence perpetrators and to increase the Legal Aid Commission's ability to provide legal assistance to victims of family violence who cannot afford the cost of private legal representation;
- **\$2 million** to fund services that provide support and referrals to specialist drug and alcohol treatment services to prevent these issues resulting in violence in the home;
- **\$1.5 million** to implement important law reform that will include broadening the definition of family violence to include economic and emotional abuse;
- **\$1.2 million** in additional funding for the Domestic Violence Crisis Service and the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre to continue providing vital crisis, outreach, education and support services to the community;

- **\$1.2 million** for translating and interpreter services at the ACT Law Courts which is proven to be a key factor in improving access to justice for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- **\$1.2 million** to boost ACT Policing's capability to help victims apply for Domestic Violence Orders;
- **\$964,000** for an innovative residential behaviour change program for men who use or are at risk of using violence;
- **\$770,000** for training frontline staff so they can better identify family violence and provide assistance to people at the first point of contact;
- **\$315,000** to fast-track financial assistance for people who need to leave a violent relationship;
- **\$120,000** for the Trauma Understanding and Sensitive Teaching in Schools program which supports the continuation of a system-wide public school program to effectively and sensitively assist students dealing with the impacts of trauma;
- **\$50,000** to develop a tool for information sharing across government and non-government services to better protect the wellbeing and safety of children and families; and
- **\$20,000** donation for the Tara Costigan Foundation to establish a support service for families experiencing violence.

## Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Government will invest **\$2.3 million over four years to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Canberra.**

The Budget outlines:

- **\$1.3 million** to expand existing outreach health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT and surrounding areas;
- **\$694,000** over four years for legal reforms to address the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system;
- **\$149,000** to forge stronger connections with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Canberra, so they are able to share their views and concerns on matters of significance with the Government;
- **\$107,000** to offer additional mentoring and training to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in the ACT public service; and
- **\$100,000** for grants and programs that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

## Preparing for national disability reform in Canberra

**This Budget will provide \$1.2 million to prepare for the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. This is in addition to the \$22.3 million ACT Government contribution to the Scheme.**

Initiatives include:

- **\$718,000** for the final stages of the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the ACT; and
- **\$446,000** to support existing disability organisations in the community sector to prepare for the Scheme.

## Support for low-income households

As part of the 2016-17 Budget, the ACT Government is making an unprecedented investment to make sure the most vulnerable members of our community receive the help they need. This includes investing an extra \$35 million over four years into the concessions program.

Concessions play an important role in supporting around 30,000 Canberra households and the need for support is increasing.

## Protecting our children and young people

The Budget sees a new investment of \$2.2 million to strengthen the child protection response to family violence.

This includes:

- **\$1.3 million** over four years to ensure the safety of children through a reportable conduct scheme for employees, ensuring investigations into allegations of child abuse are undertaken appropriately and are independently reviewed;
- **\$800,000** to provide better support for children and young people in care; and
- **\$100,000** to ensure the efficient and effective management of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

## Renewal of Canberra's public housing

The ACT Government is continuing with the biggest renewal of our city's public housing stock in Canberra's history.

Development of new public housing properties is one of the biggest initiatives in the 2016-17 Budget, with funding allocations of **\$169 million** in 2016-17 and **\$391 million** over the four years to 2019-20.

The public housing renewal program will replace 1,288 public housing dwellings over the next four years, with modern, comfortable, more energy efficient accommodation.



## BUILDING A STRONG AND DIVERSE ECONOMY FOR CANBERRA



- \$2.9 billion** for new infrastructure
- Payroll tax threshold lift to **\$2 million**
- Insurance Tax **abolished**
- Further **stamp duty cuts**
- ACT Budget **return to surplus** by 2018-19

Building a strong economy that is growing and creating jobs is one of the ACT Government's highest priorities – and the 2016-17 Budget continues to support growth in the Territory.

The ACT Government took proactive and targeted action to support economic growth in the Territory during the deep cuts the Commonwealth made to its jobs and spending. This strategy has worked and our economy is rebounding. Service Exports, retail trade and building approvals are all rising and the unemployment rate is the lowest in the Australia.

The strong economy means our budget position is improving– with a **\$300 million** improvement in the budget and a return to balance in 2017-18 as identified in previous budgets. We are returning to balance not by slashing jobs and services, but by investing in our community and diversifying our economy.

This Budget invests **\$2.9 billion** in a four-year infrastructure program. This will deliver new facilities and services for Canberrans, create jobs and boost activity in our economy.

The Budget also supports local businesses, continues to reform taxes, boosts key areas of the economy such as tourism to bring bigger and better events to Canberra and continues the city's digital transformation.

### Growing the Economy

**This Budget funds more than \$10.1 million over two years to support local business, innovation and investment.**

The ACT Government is committed to diversifying our economy through our support for our growing business community and tertiary education sector.

The funding includes:

- **\$6.6 million** over two years for the continued implementation of the ACT Government's business development strategy, *Confident and Business Ready: Building on Our Strengths*. This includes:
  - **\$5 million** over two years to Data61 to position Canberra as a major player in the development of the national cyber security sector;
  - **\$750,000** to support the development of industries including cyber security, space and spatial economy, sports technology, health innovation, ICT and e-government and the National Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Precinct;
  - **\$600,000** over two years to ensure the continued successful operation of the CBR Innovation Network by supporting its relocation to new premises over the coming 12 months;
  - **\$100,000** to continue to promote the CBR brand; and

- **\$120,000** over two years to work with the Fulbright Commission to sponsor student and professional exchanges between Canberra and the USA with a focus on innovation.
- **\$2.7 million** over two years for The Intelligent Regulator, a pilot project to simplify regulatory approval processes to make it easier for local businesses to do applications and get renewals;
- **\$500,000** to continue the Light Rail Business Link Program that builds the knowledge, skills and capacity of the local industry to respond to opportunities emerging through the city wide light rail project; and
- **\$250,000** for Screen ACT in attracting and supporting the diverse range of television and movie productions in the ACT.

## Boosting tourism for Canberra

**The 2016-17 ACT Budget includes \$7.3 million over four years to promote Canberra as a tourism destination in key domestic and international markets. Tourism delivers \$1.7 billion in domestic and international overnight visitation expenditure to the ACT economy each year and employs 14,700 Canberrans.**

This initiative will support VisitCanberra to promote Canberra as a leisure tourism destination in key domestic and priority international markets through its *One good thing after another* campaign. It also supports direct international flights to Canberra through the development and implementation of co-operative marketing campaigns with Singapore Airlines that target both consumer and trade partners in priority markets.

This funding includes:

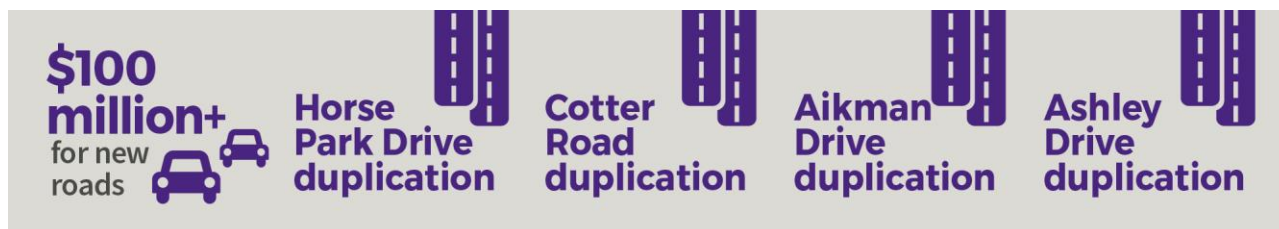
- **\$1.5 million** to support significant community events in the Territory such as Enlighten and Canberra Day celebrations;
- **\$410,000** to upgrade security and safety at the Canberra Theatre Centre to ensure it remains the premier performing arts venue for the region; and
- **\$50,000** to promote the staging of a major show in Canberra, building on the success of major shows such as *Le Noir* and *The Illusionists 1903* in recent years.

## Fairer, simpler and more efficient taxes

**This Budget continues the ACT Government's tax reform agenda, to make the Territory's taxation system fairer, simpler and more efficient.**

Insurance tax will be abolished from 1 July 2016 and payroll tax has been cut – with the threshold rising from **\$1.85 million** to **\$2 million** in this Budget. Stamp duty will also be cut in this year's budget, delivering on our promise to reduce this highly inefficient tax. From tomorrow, the buyer of a \$500,000 home will save \$7,040 in stamp duty compared to before tax reform began in 2012.

## BUILDING BETTER ROADS FOR CANBERRA



The ACT Government is investing more than **\$111 million** into building the roads that Canberrans need, while also maintaining the city's existing world class road network.

There are road improvements right across the city – from Gungahlin and Belconnen to Weston Creek and Tuggeranong. These upgrades form part of the Government's commitment to providing more transport options for Canberrans.

Our commitment to invest in our city's roads also creates jobs in the construction sector and reduces congestion as our city grows. The government is also attracting economic growth into the capital by increasing our freight capacity with better connections to freight hubs including Canberra Airport.

### Better roads for Canberra

The 2016-17 ACT Budget invests more than **\$111 million** to improve roads right across Canberra.

- More than **\$32 million** will be invested on better roads for Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Molonglo, including:
  - **\$28.9 million** to complete the duplication of Cotter Road between the Tuggeranong Parkway and Yarralumla Creek; and
  - **\$3.5 million** to complete the full duplication of Ashley Drive between Ellerston Avenue and Johnson Drive.
- More than **\$71 million** will be invested in better roads for Gungahlin and Belconnen, including:
  - **\$57 million** to complete the duplication of Horse Park Drive between the Federal Highway and Mulligans Flat Road;
  - **\$9.8 million** to duplicate Aikman Drive between Ginninderra Drive and Emu Bank – a key piece of infrastructure for Canberra's next public hospital at the University of Canberra; and
  - **\$4.5 million** to extend Ernest Cavanagh Street from Hinder Street to Manning Clark Crescent.
- **\$8.4 million** will be invested in road safety and maintenance measures, including:
  - **\$6.9 million** for road maintenance and landscape features on the Majura Parkway and Gungahlin Drive; and
  - **\$1.5 million** to provide traffic signals at the intersection of Hindmarsh Drive with Launceston Street and Eggleston Crescent in Woden, as well as safety improvements at the intersection of Hindmarsh Drive and the Tuggeranong Parkway southbound off-ramp.
- The 2016-17 ACT Budget also invests more in road infrastructure, including:
  - **\$6.5 million** to undertake bridge strengthening works on freight routes and to assess bridges on the wider road network to allow increased access by heavy vehicles; and
  - **\$250,000** for a feasibility study on an access road linking the Cotter Road and Dudley Street intersection as part of the Canberra Brickworks Estate precinct development.



## BETTER TRANSPORT FOR CANBERRA

<p><b>20</b> new buses</p> 	<p>New city bus loop service in CBD</p> 	<p>new direct bus service for <b>Weston Creek</b> to Civic</p> 	<p><b>108</b> </p> <p>schools to benefit from Walk to school and Active streets programs</p>	<p><b>Light Rail</b> </p> <p>funded and under way</p>
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An integrated public transport system is vital to ensure Canberrans have a quick and reliable way of getting around our city. The 2016-17 Budget reaffirms the ACT Government's commitment to building Canberra's public transport system – to provide Canberrans with options to travel around the city and to avoid the congestion experienced in other cities.

The 2016-17 Budget provides a new **\$70 million** investment in better public transport with more buses, new bus services, better walking and cycling and support to build the city wide light rail project.

The Budget also funds the creation of Transport Canberra, a new agency responsible for integrating buses with the light rail network. Transport Canberra will build a single ticketing system for Canberra's public transport network, as well as a central contact for information and coordinated timetabling.

These budget initiatives over the next four years will make daily travel around Canberra more convenient, affordable and reliable for the whole community.

### Better buses for Canberra

The Government is investing **\$61.7 million** into the Canberra bus network to improve access and the frequency of buses across the territory.

This includes:

- The establishment of the new, free Transport Canberra City Loop to connect commuters travelling in Canberra's CBD;
- **\$43.8 million** over four years to deliver existing transport services and meet increasing costs as identified in the ACTION review;
- **\$10 million** over two years to deliver 20 new buses as part of the ongoing fleet replacement program;
- **\$3.5 million** over four years for improvements to public transport services in Weston Creek and the Molonglo region. This includes a new all-day direct service called the Weston Line providing improved connectivity between Woden, Cooleman Court in Weston and the City. To meet increasing demand, Wright will receive increased coverage and frequency and the Route 83 and Xpresso 783 services will be extended to include Coombs. These new services will help make public transport a more convenient option for commuters;
- **\$1.5 million** for the design and construction of a new Park and Ride facility in Wanniasa;
- **\$300,000** for improvements to the Woden bus station to provide a better bus station for the Woden town centre;
- **\$1.8 million** for workshop upgrades to make buses more reliable; and
- **\$900,000** for a 12-month trial of three electric buses on ACTION's regular on- and off-peak route services.
- A new bus depot in Woden to cater for growth in the Transport Canberra fleet. This work will provide a foundation for the future construction of a depot to enable Transport Canberra to manage buses more efficiently and reduce dead running.

## Light rail for Canberra

The 2016-17 Budget supports the integration of light rail into Canberra's public transport system. Construction will begin in 2016, with operations to commence in early 2019.

The ACT Government is building the first stage of the city wide light rail project. For every dollar we spend on light rail, the ACT Government will spend \$24 on education and \$33 on health.

To ensure the light rail network is integrated with buses, the Budget funds:

- **\$3 million** to progress the introduction of an integrated ticketing system for buses and light rail. Funding includes the development of a ticketing feasibility study and the opportunity to install new MyWay add-value machines in major bus stations through the Territory.

## Better infrastructure for walking and cycling

This Budget invests \$3.6 million for programs to make it easier for all Canberrans to move around our city through walking and cycling. Funding will also provide a safer environment for children to ride or walk to school.

Initiatives include:

- **\$2 million** to construct walking and cycling improvements around Woden Town Centre and Kingston Group Centre. These could include the introduction of shared zones, pedestrian crossings, wider paths, improved signage and lighting. The upgrades will improve these high priority walking and cycling corridors by making them more safe and accessible;
- **\$1 million** over two years to expand the popular Active Streets for Schools program to 25 more schools. Infrastructure improvements – such as parking improvements and better linemarking – will be rolled out around these schools to help make the journey safe and easy to follow. This will encourage more parents to provide opportunities for their children to walk or ride to school;
- **\$300,000** to design a pedestrian priority zone in Hibberson Street in Gungahlin. This shared zone will create an environment that puts pedestrians first. Feedback will be invited on a range of design options for this space;
- **\$175,000** for the Active Travel office within the new Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate to ensure active travel options are seamlessly integrated with buses, light rail and road projects; and
- **\$125,000** to expand the Ride and Walk to School program to an additional 56 schools bringing the total number of participating schools to 108. The program provides bikes to participating schools for students to use, offers basic bike maintenance lessons and helps teach children some basic road rules about how to stay safe on the way to and from school.

## Support for community transport

The Budget includes **\$600,000** for the continuation of the Community Transport Coordination Centre and popular flexible bus service which provides free travel to local shopping and medical centres for less mobile Canberrans. The Budget also includes **\$720,000** over four years for a new Schools Transport Co-ordinator who will be responsible for liaising with schools on all road safety, transport and active travel issues.

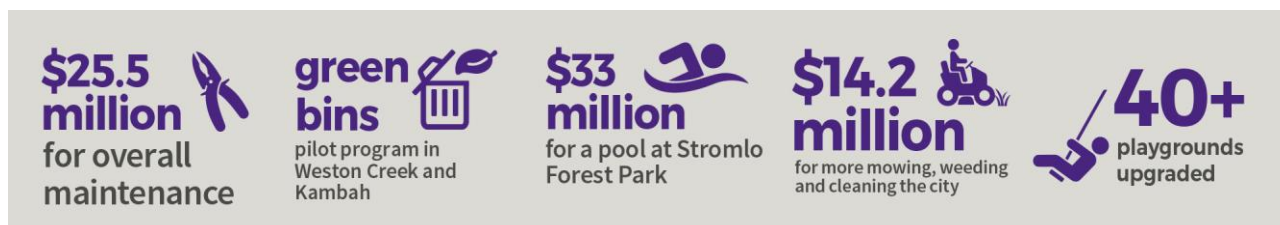
## An innovative transport network

The Government is investing \$2.6 million to improve our public transport system by exploring innovative approaches.

Funding will include:

- **\$2.2 million** over two years for organisation reform to improve business capability and systems;
- **\$260,000** over two years to deliver a bus fleet strategy that ensures best value for money for a modern and integrated bus network; and
- **\$150,000** to establish a Transport Innovation Fund that will support government collaboration with the community, researchers and external partners. Partnerships with these key stakeholder groups will:
  - Seek ideas and opportunities for innovative public transport service delivery solutions; and
  - Support trials and innovative start-up companies that can develop and test new approaches to solving some of Canberra's transport challenges.

## INVESTING IN BETTER CITY SERVICES FOR CANBERRA



The ACT Government is listening to what Canberrans want and that's why we are investing more money into better city services to enhance Canberra's reputation as the world's most liveable city.

The ACT Budget will fund a pilot program for the city wide rollout of green bins for garden waste. The opt-in pilot program will be available to residents in Weston Creek and Kambah from 2017.

The Budget includes more investment to ensure our city looks its best with more mowing, more weeding and more cleaning of our city's suburbs.

This Budget also spends more on better facilities for Canberrans including significant investments in sporting facilities, playground upgrades and a new pool at Stromlo Forest Park.

### Caring for our city

The ACT Government will invest **\$14.2 million in new funding over the next four years on more mowing, weeding and cleaning of our city.**

This will be delivered through a variety of initiatives including:

- **\$1.7 million** to fund a pilot program of the city-wide rollout of green bins for garden waste. The opt-in pilot program will be available to residents in Weston Creek and Kambah from 2017;
- **\$1 million** towards improving the look of our city through more mowing, weed removal, tree maintenance, lake cleaning and graffiti prevention as well as the cleaning of shopping centres and roadsides;
- **\$8.1 million** over four years for city services in our new suburbs, covering the maintenance of roads, paths, shopping precincts, parkland and playgrounds, as well as essential services such as waste and recycling collections;
- **\$400,000** to continue the popular bulky waste collection service for eligible concession card holders until 30 June 2017;
- **\$310,000** to improve landscaping and signage along Pialligo Avenue to help create a positive first impression for visitors travelling on the new direct international flights to Canberra;
- **\$1.7 million** for stage two of the National Arboretum Canberra water security project; and
- **\$1 million** for essential waste management infrastructure at Mugga Lane landfill.



## Better sporting facilities for Canberra

The 2016-17 ACT Budget includes more than \$40 million in new funding over four years on new and existing recreational facilities across Canberra.

This includes:

- **\$33 million** over four years to design and construct a pool at Stromlo Forest Park;
- **\$4.5 million** over four years to fund upgrades to the Narrabundah ballpark, including the refurbishment of the existing grandstand, realignment of the playing field and improvements to public amenities and car parking facilities;
- **\$1.8 million** over four years for additional irrigation and mowing of local sportsgrounds;
- **\$1.1 million** towards grants for local sports groups to repair and maintain community sporting facilities and grants to support grassroots football, including the 2016 Kanga Cup; and
- **\$400,000** for the *City to the Lake* project to plan for a new public swimming pool in Civic.

## Better community facilities for Canberra

A \$10 million investment will see a variety of vital upgrades made to community facilities around the city.

The Budget will deliver:

- **\$3.4 million** in parks and playgrounds across the Territory;
- **\$1.5 million** for improvements at shopping centres across Canberra which may include paving, landscaping and new street furniture. This will include upgrades at these four centres:
  - Tuggeranong Town Centre;
  - Charnwood shops;
  - Kambah shops (Marconi Street); and
  - Spence shops.
- **\$4.3 million** for the relocation of the Dickson motor vehicle inspection station to Hume providing employment opportunities in Canberra's south;
- **\$300,000** for improvements to the Woden bus station to provide a better bus station for the Woden town centre; and
- **\$558,000** for the first stage of the Woden cemetery upgrade to add 10 years to the life of the cemetery, which is due to reach capacity in 2018.

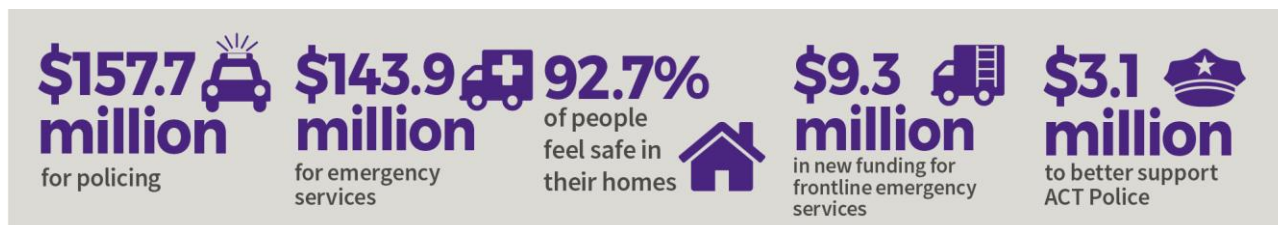
## Improved management systems

Almost \$4.9 million will go to supporting two major management system projects for roads and public libraries.

The projects are as follows:

- **\$2.6 million** over four years to implement a cloud-based asset management system to improve the management of \$10 billion worth of infrastructure such as roads and signage.
- **\$2.3 million** over two years to design and implement a new library management system to improve customer service for the ACT's more than 200,000 public library members.

## BUILDING A SAFER COMMUNITY FOR CANBERRA



The 2016-17 Budget does more to protect Canberra families and their homes.

The Budget contains an additional **\$32.5 million** of funding in police and emergency services in the ACT for 2016-17, taking our total investment to **\$302 million**.

### Improved emergency services for Canberra

**\$9.3 million in new funding will be spent on frontline emergency service support.**

This includes:

- **\$2.8 million** over two years to build a new ACT State Emergency Service station in Calwell;
- **\$2.6 million** over four years to operate a new helicopter for SouthCare aeromedical retrieval services and upgrades for the hangar;
- **\$2.5 million** over four years to increase capacity of the Emergency 000 centre and non-emergency patient transport;
- **\$922,000** to upgrade the ACT Fire & Rescue Fyshwick station and the ACT Rural Fire Service Guises Creek station as part of the Women in Emergency Services Strategy; and
- **\$518,000** over four years to upgrade the Emergency Services Agency website to continue to provide information, advice and warnings to the community during emergencies as well as fund the Emergency Alert system.

### Supporting Canberra's police officers

**This Budget invests \$3.1 million over four years to support ACT Policing's operations.**

- **\$3.1 million** over four years to provide improved security measures, including improved personal protective equipment and employing additional Protective Services Officers.

### Keeping Canberra's streets safe

**The ACT Budget makes an investment of \$7.1 million to go towards ensuring Canberrans are safe on the road and in the community.**

The initiatives include:

- **\$ 4.4 million** over four years to streamline and speed up the processing and review of traffic camera infringements through the new Traffic Camera Adjudication System;
- **\$2.3 million** over four years to expand the mobile camera program with two additional cameras/vans and four additional camera operators to ensure road safety; and
- **\$376,000** to undertake upgrades of the public safety CCTV across the city.

## Strengthening correctional capability

The ACT Government will invest \$13 million in ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) over the next four years to improve the Territory's capability for managing and rehabilitating offenders.

This includes:

- **\$3.6 million** over four years to implement an offender management system for ACTCS;
- **\$3.1 million** over two years to replace the existing ACTCS analogue radio system with a digital radio network connecting with the Territory Radio Network;
- **\$1.3 million** to undertake vital upgrades at the Alexander Maconochie Centre;
- **\$1.1 million** to continue the Extended Throughcare Program, which assists an offender's transition back into the community and reduces rates of recidivism; and
- **\$1.1 million** over four years to provide employment opportunities for detainees through the expansion of laundry operations at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



The ACT Government is a world leader in responding to global warming and caring for the environment. The Government has committed to powering the Territory through 100% renewable energy by 2020.

We are building on this reputation by protecting Canberra's unique natural environment with an **\$18 million** investment in the 2016-17 ACT Budget to improve water quality, manage environmental offsets and deliver sustainable development.

New initiatives will help protect and improve Canberra's famous 'bush capital' ecosystem by improving water quality, protecting local wildlife, building resilience against climate change and building new suburbs in a sustainable way.

The ACT Government will also improve the health of Canberra's lakes and waterways through a range of initiatives, including infrastructure projects such as wetlands, ponds, swales and creek stabilisation to improve water quality.

These measures ensure Canberra will remain the world's most liveable city now and into the future.

### Improving water quality across Canberra

The 2016-17 Budget will invest an extra **\$11.3 million** into protecting and improving the water quality of Canberra's lakes and waterways.

The funding includes:

- **\$5 million** to upgrade the Isabella Weir in Canberra's south, allowing residents to continue living and using land on the banks of Lake Tuggeranong;
- **\$4 million** to construct a new wetland to improve the water quality in Tuggeranong Pond and Lake Tuggeranong as well as downstream in the Murrumbidgee River; and
- **\$2.3 million** over four years, for the ongoing operation and maintenance of water quality projects in Canberra's six catchments.

### Increasing our resilience to climate change

**\$6.5 million** will be invested to help the community adapt to and combat climate change.

This funding includes:

- **\$2 million** in grants for low-income households to assist with the uptake of solar energy by overcoming upfront cost barriers;
- **\$200,000** to deliver actions contained in the ACT's Climate Change Strategy;
- **\$625,000** for the continuation of Actsmart programs to help businesses become more sustainable;
- **\$3.5 million** to extend the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme to help households become more sustainable. This is following successful initiatives such as the ActewAGL downlight program; and



- **\$150,000** for studies to identify best practice to overcome barriers and inform policies promoting the uptake of electric vehicles.

## Building a sustainable Canberra

The ACT Government will provide **\$5.2 million** over four years for environmental offsets associated with building new suburbs.

- The Government is investing **\$5.2 million** over four years for improvements to the natural temperate grasslands and their ecological communities, which are home to the golden sun moth, striped legless lizard and box gum woodland.

## Protecting our local wildlife

The 2016-17 ACT Budget provides **\$1.7 million** to protect local wildlife and support the welfare of Canberra's domestic animals.

This includes:

- **\$700,000** to fight priority invasive weeds and control pest rabbit populations;
- **\$700,000** to assist in managing the impact of overgrazing by kangaroos in Canberra's grassy ecosystems, home to endangered species such as the grassland earless dragon, perunga grasshopper and superb parrot; and
- **\$350,000** to construct four engineered log jams to improve water flow, increase channel depth and create an improved habitat for the critically endangered Murray Cod in the Murrumbidgee River at Tharwa.

