

ACT Government

BUDGET 2007-2008

Taking the Territory forward

MEDIA RELEASE

No. 88

BUILDING ON A WORLD-CLASS SPORTING FACILITY

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation Andrew Barr today announced the Government would further enhance its investment in Stromlo Forest Park, with additional funding of \$1.754 million over four years in the 2007-08 Budget.

"This funding will provide extra support for the promotion, development and operation of the Park as a facility for the community and as a world-class event and sports venue," Mr Barr said.

"It provides us with the opportunity to capitalise on hosting national and international events, such as the 2009 World Mountain Bike and Trials Championship, and further cement Canberra's reputation as a world-class event location."

Mr Barr said this funding came on top of the \$7.6 million committed by the Government for the establishment of the facility.

"Since its opening last year, Stromlo Forest Park has already proven itself to be a world-class facility, which is a popular venue for local, national and international events, as well as for the community in general," Mr Barr said.

"Every weekend you will see families enjoying the facilities — side-by-side with local and national champions.

"A purpose-designed cross-country running track, criterium circuit and on-road cycling loop, mountain bike trails, equestrian trails, and walking tracks provide Canberrans with numerous avenues to enjoy their sport, or exercise of choice."

Mr Barr said the funding would allow for the further development of the Park.

"The venue has already hosted successful events including the National Mountain Bike Championships and the Canberra Tour. It will also host the Scott 24-hour mountain bike event and the Junior National Roads Championships later this year," Mr Barr said.