



ACT Government  
**2003-2004 BUDGET**

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**PROTECTING CANBERRA'S HERITAGE  
OUR OLDEST BUILDING TO BE PRESERVED**

Budget 2003-04 contains funding to conserve and protect Duntroon Dairy, Canberra's oldest building, Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment, Jon Stanhope, said today.

The budget contains funding of \$50,000 to assist in conserving, managing and interpreting Duntroon Dairy, which is situated on the lower south west slopes of Mount Pleasant.

"Duntroon Dairy was constructed in approximately 1832 to provide a facility for the production of dairy products for the Duntroon Estate.

"It is believed to be the oldest existing structure in the ACT and demonstrates a way of life on a remote pastoral property where self sufficiency was a requirement.

"Aboriginal artefacts found at the site indicate that it was one of the places where local Aboriginal groups camped near the Molonglo River.

"The construction and siting of the building is distinctive, using locally obtained fieldstones and timber.

"The Dairy's drainage system was technically advanced for its time and the inclusion of a well as a cold storage facility was an innovative design for the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

"Given its age and design, the Dairy is a key historic site for the ACT and is one of our best kept secret places.

"A conservation and management plan for the Dairy was completed in 2001, and an interpretation plan drafted in 2002.

"This funding will allow for the enhanced conservation of this significant historic building and the surrounding site.

"It will also cover the promotion of Duntroon Dairy as a key historic tourist site, allowing the building to assume its rightful place in Canberra's cultural and historic landscape," said Mr Stanhope.

Statements ends.

