



ACT
Government

Australian Capital Territory

Budget 2023–24

Budget at a Glance

Chief Minister's Message

This Budget is the fourth since the wellbeing framework was released. We continue to strengthen the ties between the framework, our policy development and the budget process – measuring what matters most and targeting investments to improve our wellbeing.



This is highlighted by the investments we are making in this Budget.

This Budget delivers better health care, more housing and cost of living relief to the Canberra community. It continues our record of investment in life-long learning, nation-leading climate action and a safe and welcoming community.

We are investing in the infrastructure needs of the fastest growing jurisdiction in the nation with our largest Infrastructure Investment Program on record. We are ensuring that we are building the hospitals and schools that maintain our standard of living beyond anywhere else in the country.

As more and more people are calling Canberra home, this is supporting a strong local economy. The Territory is at full employment, real wages growth is forecast

over the coming years, we are about to deliver our 33rd consecutive year of economic growth and we have achieved our 250,000 jobs target two years early.

The Budget also comes at a time of historically high national and international inflation and continuing global economic uncertainty. We are delivering local solutions to cost of living pressures by introducing new measures and expanding existing ones – including \$800 in direct support for 43,000 households.

This Budget reflects the priorities and aspirations of our growing community – the best place in the country to live, to work, to study and to call home.

Andrew Barr
Chief Minister, Treasurer

A focus on Canberra's wellbeing

Canberra is growing fast. We recognise there are many factors that influence the wellbeing of our community.

A focus on wellbeing guides how we consider the issues that confront us, how we develop policy, how we measure activities and outcomes to deliver further improvements, and how we invest in our community.

A strong economy is an important element for a thriving community, but the wellbeing framework allows us to measure more than just economic indicators.

Placing a broader wellbeing perspective on our Budget helps to better target spending on initiatives that will deliver better overall outcomes for our people, our environment, and our institutions. This is crucial for the long-term health and sustainability of our fast-growing city and will lay strong foundations as we continue to mature into the city we want to be.



Budget overview

The 2023–24 Budget is delivering more services for Canberra’s growing population, working to assist with cost of living pressures, improving wellbeing, and supporting economic growth – which creates more local jobs.

Despite recent robust growth in the ACT economy and low unemployment, interest rates increases and cost of living pressures are expected to continue to dampen household consumption and business investment in the short term. As a result, forecast Real Gross State Product has been lowered to 2¼ per cent in 2023–24, but is expected to gradually return to trend and grow by around 3½ per cent in 2026–27.

The ACT’s population is expected to grow over 2023–24 as a result of strong net migration driven by Canberra’s robust labour market and high liveability.

Short-term economic challenges arising from high inflation and tighter monetary conditions are expected to slow national and international growth.

However, public investment is expected to grow strongly in 2023–24, supported by the ACT Government’s investment in social and affordable housing, upgrades to Canberra Hospital, Light Rail Stage 2 and the new Woden CIT campus.

The budget deficit in 2023–24 is now estimated to be \$442.7 million, and the 2022–23 deficit is broadly consistent with the forecast at the time of the 2022–23 Budget. Significant improvement in the fiscal position is forecast in the coming years, resulting in a surplus of \$141.9 million by 2025–26.

All key balance sheet metrics for 2023–24 and the outyears – net debt, net financial liabilities and net worth – are expected to remain broadly consistent with the 2022–23 Budget Review update.



Where our money goes

Health

\$2.3 billion

Environment,
sustainable development
and climate change

\$217 million

Justice

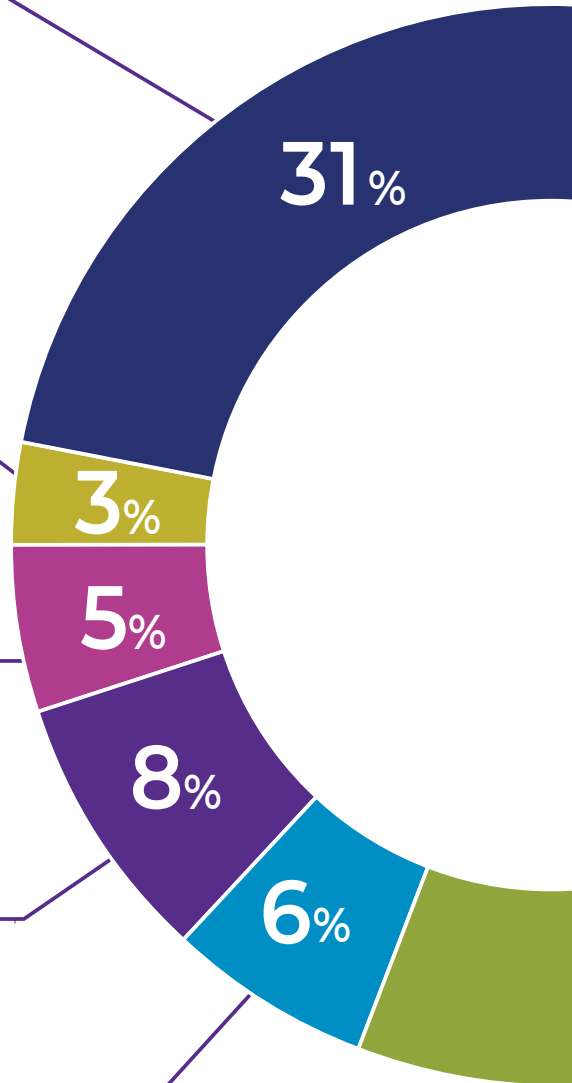
\$362 million

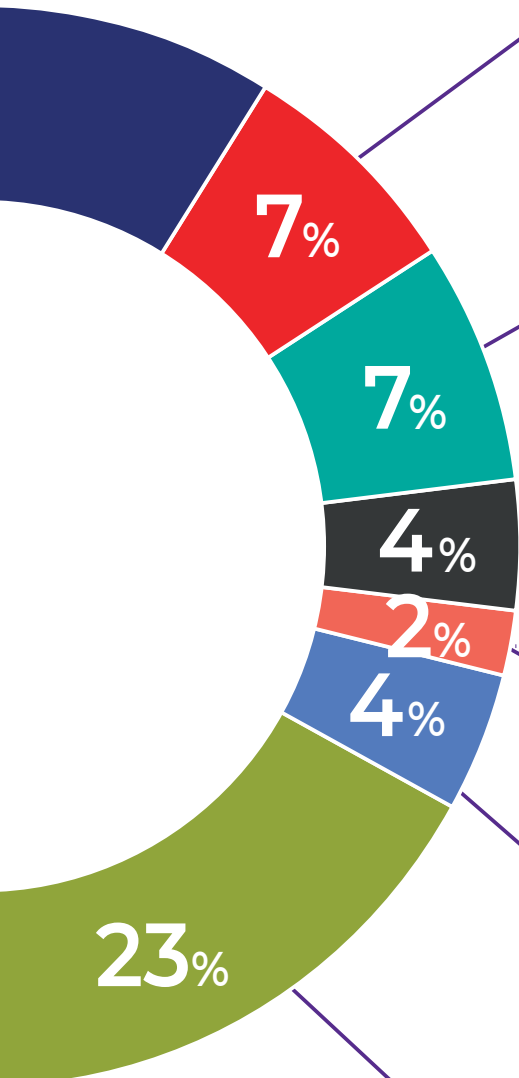
Community services

\$581 million

Emergency services
and policing

\$480 million





City services

\$556 million

Access Canberra and government services

\$521 million

Transport

\$322 million

Economic development

\$164 million

Housing

\$286 million

Education

\$1.7 billion

Health and community wellbeing

Our health is intricately linked to our wellbeing across many aspects of our lives, including our engagement with education and employment and our ability to participate in the community.

It influences our connections with others, our relationships and our resilience during periods of upheaval. The Government is committed to supporting the health of all Canberrans and recognises the impact of effective health services and supports on wellbeing across the Territory.

Improving health outcomes across the Territory means recognising the impact of both physical and mental health on our overall wellbeing and ensuring that Canberrans are supported to live a healthy lifestyle as well as being able to access the services and supports they need, when they need them.

That is why **the 2023–24 Budget provides more than \$540 million** in funding for health and community wellbeing initiatives.

This brings expenditure on health and community wellbeing to \$2.3 billion in 2023–24 and funding for health and community wellbeing infrastructure projects to more than \$350 million in 2023–24.

\$540m

for health care, including:

\$270m

for public health care

\$30m

to expand mental health services

\$80m

for better care in the community

\$160m

for health infrastructure



The 2023–24 Budget funds:

- > the first stage of operationalising the new Critical Services Building at Canberra Hospital and support for the transition and expansion of services from Calvary Public Hospital Bruce to North Canberra Hospital;
- > additional endoscopy, outpatient and paediatric services and elective surgeries, and the establishment of a Canberra Health Services Adult Gender Service;
- > the development of the Watson Health Precinct, the operational costs of residential treatment services for eating disorders and the design and construction of a new community-based health service in South Tuggeranong;
- > more support for mental health services, a package of measures to reduce harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and funding to continue the second Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) team; and
- > the detailed design of a new Northside Hospital, the design and construction of a 12-bed palliative care ward at Canberra Hospital, and upgrades of critical communications infrastructure, nurse call systems and fixed duress alarms.

Health infrastructure

We are ensuring that our health services continue to expand to cater to our growing Canberra community so that all Canberrans have access to health care where and when they need it.

That is why we are investing more than \$870 million in health infrastructure over the next five years to construct new facilities, expand and upgrade existing facilities and continue planning for the future.

More than

\$870_m

investment in health infrastructure

The Government will shortly release the Health Infrastructure Plan with further details. Major projects underway and announced in this budget include:

2023

- > Eating Disorders Residential Treatment Centre in Coombs – construction commenced
- > Redevelopment and expansion of the Watson Health Precinct – construction scheduled to commence
- > A new Northside Hospital – planning and design commenced

2024

- > Critical Services Building, as part of Canberra Hospital Expansion – scheduled to open
- > Eating Disorders Residential Treatment Centre in Coombs – scheduled to open
- > Community-based health centre in South Tuggeranong – construction to commence
- > Acute Palliative Care Ward, Canberra Hospital – construction to commence
- > Community-based health services in the Inner South – planning and design to commence
- > Community-based health services in North Gungahlin – planning and design to commence

2025

- > Upgrade and expansion of endoscopy services at Canberra Hospital – construction to commence
- > A new Northside Hospital – construction to commence

2026

- > Redevelopment and expansion of the Watson Health Precinct – scheduled to open
- > Community-based health centre in South Tuggeranong – scheduled to open
- > Acute Palliative Care Ward, Canberra Hospital – scheduled to open
- > Upgrade and expansion of endoscopy services at Canberra Hospital – scheduled to open

A new Northside Hospital

We are investing \$64 million for the detailed design of a New Northside Hospital that will deliver the required capacity to meet future demand and improve the overall resilience of our Territory-wide health system.

It will bring together a range of contemporary hospital services and holistic consumer-centred care to meet the growing and changing needs of the Canberra community now and into the future.

Artist impression:
new Northside Hospital



Education and life-long learning

A quality education is fundamental to our full participation in society and sets us up for better wellbeing outcomes across all aspects of our lives.

The Government is committed to ensuring that children and young people have access to, and are supported to participate in, quality education close to their homes.

The Government recognises the importance of positive early childhood experiences to children's immediate wellbeing, including access to education and social support. Early years experiences can also have a significant impact on future resilience, as well as health, learning and social development outcomes.

The 2023–24 Budget provides \$400 million in additional funding over four years to support education and skills.

This brings expenditure on education and skills to \$1.7 billion in 2023–24 and funding for education and skills infrastructure projects to more than \$360 million in 2023–24.

The 2023–24 Budget funds:

- > the delivery of three-year-old preschool, which will ensure that all three year olds in the ACT can access one day per week of free quality early childhood education, commencing in January 2024;
- > measures to reduce workload pressures for teachers, the expansion of the Safe at Schools Taskforce, and Inclusion and Career Coaches at high-priority schools in the Tuggeranong region;

- > a new college in Gungahlin, the modernisation of Telopea Park School, more infrastructure upgrades across Canberra schools and improved community access to school facilities;
- > feasibility, planning and design work for a new college in the Molonglo Valley, the modernisation of Fraser Primary School, the expansion of Forrest Primary School and the expansion and modernisation of North Ainslie Primary School; and
- > upgrades to the Canberra Institute of Technology's (CIT) information and communications technology (ICT) systems and trades training equipment.

\$230m

in additional funding for schools and education facilities

\$52m

in additional funding for skills and training



Set up for Success – Three-Year Old Preschool

Children’s neurological pathways develop most rapidly between the ages of 0–5 years.

Enhancing their learning at this critical stage of development creates a foundation for life-long learning, skill development and wellbeing, with life-long economic benefits to individuals and society. Extensive national and international research shows that universal access to high-quality early childhood education and care is also one of the few proven strategies for improving outcomes for all children.

That is why we are investing \$50 million to ensure all three year olds in the ACT can access one day per week of free quality early childhood education, 48 weeks a year, from January 2024. This initiative forms part of our Set up for Success: An Early Childhood

Strategy for the ACT, which was funded in the 2021–22 Budget, and is partially supported by the Commonwealth Government’s Child Care Subsidy.

This investment also helps to support the ACT’s Early Childhood Education Care workforce (ECEC) by funding quality improvements through upskilling staff, improving wages and conditions, supporting professional development, and increasing the delivery of activities for children. This investment not only produces long-term positive impacts for children’s learning and development, but also supports parents’ workforce participation by contributing to a supply of high-quality ECEC in the ACT.

More support for families and vulnerable children and young people

Positive interactions with parents, carers and the community during the early years of a child's life and into adulthood play a crucial role in fostering positive wellbeing and a young person's sense of belonging in the community.

Supporting families through strong partnerships between caregivers, community organisations and Government will deliver better outcomes for children and young people, their families and the wider community.

Early intervention and support services are delivered in partnership with local community organisations and service providers and include culturally safe and inclusive programs, parenting programs, advice and support, specialist clinical, therapeutic and early intervention services, and community development and education programs.

The 2023–24 Budget provides additional funding of \$40 million to enhance and expand existing services for children and young people, including:

- > the delivery of 300 hours per child per year of early childhood preschool education commencing in 2024, ensuring long-term positive impacts for children's learning and development;
- > the requirement for clinicians to undertake face-to-face autism spectrum disorder assessments in addition to the clinical intervention supports for children with developmental vulnerability and delay provided in the 2022–23 Budget Review;
- > the continuation and establishment of child and youth mental health support programs;
- > the establishment of a dedicated First Nations Family Support team within Child and Youth Protection Services to improve culturally safe practice and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families; and
- > further investment in property to enable the delivery of contemporary best practice therapeutic residential care for children and young people who cannot remain safely with their family and who are not able to be placed in foster or kinship care.

Creating jobs and supporting businesses

In March 2022, the Government launched *CBR Switched On* which outlines the Territory's economic development priorities to 2025.

In addition to creating a city focused on liveability, sustainability and wellbeing, this mission-led strategy brings a commitment to facilitating investment, supporting innovation and economic growth and attracting and retaining a skilled workforce.

Our ambition is to position Canberra as a city where innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship are encouraged and celebrated to create an environment where the best minds come together to solve problems. The knowledge economy presents growth opportunities for the ACT's universities and innovative industries to capitalise on the Territory's inherent economic strengths. This focus will create jobs and dynamic businesses that will drive economic diversification and growth, now and into the future.

The ACT Infrastructure Plan Update is a proactive investment plan that supports and promotes the anticipated growth of the region and ensures Canberra's reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities is maintained. Consistent with this, the 2023–24 ACT Infrastructure Investment Program of a record high of \$8.2 billion over the five years to 2027–28 delivers the services our community needs today while laying the foundation for population and jobs growth to ensure Canberra's continued prosperity.

\$49m

**in new funding
over four years to
support jobs and
economic growth**

The ACT Infrastructure Plan Update

In 2019, the ACT Infrastructure Plan set out a long-term vision to support the growth of Canberra, underpinned by the fundamental principle of maximising economic and social benefits for our community for many decades to come. This principle has helped achieve our employment target of 250,000 jobs by 2025 well ahead of schedule.

The same principle is reflected in the ACT Infrastructure Plan Update, which outlines the Government's infrastructure priorities over the next 20 years for a vibrant city with an anticipated population of 500,000 by 2030.

It is a proactive investment plan which supports and promotes the anticipated growth of the region and ensures Canberra's reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities is maintained.

The Plan will be released as seven sector-specific documents over the next 12 months, with the Entertainment, Arts and Sports, and Health sectors being the first releases, followed by Education; Transport; City Services, Recreation and Community Facilities; Climate Action, Energy and Environment; and Housing, Land Release and City Planning.

Cost of living

Cost of living increases are being felt across Australia, and the ACT is not immune. Consultations on the 2023–24 Budget highlighted the need to support the community through recent cost of living pressures, with a particular emphasis on supporting our most vulnerable Canberrans.

This is why we are investing in key areas in the 2023–24 Budget to support the wellbeing of the Canberra community and those most in need, through providing:

- > an additional \$177.1 million over four years to support Housing ACT to maintain and grow portfolio numbers while continuing to provide maintenance and tenancy services;
- > \$37.8 million over four years to provide additional support to 43,000 low-income households facing escalating living costs;

- > \$20.0 million over four years for the continued expansion of specialist homelessness service capacity;
- > establishment of the \$11.5 million Future of Education Student Equity fund to provide direct financial support to Canberra families experiencing financial vulnerability;
- > \$430,000 in 2023–24 to continue the Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Humanitarian Fund;
- > additional investment in social and affordable housing, including the Ginninderry Build-to-Rent-to-Buy initiative that will provide up to 22 affordable properties for at-risk and vulnerable women; and
- > funding to continue the Vulnerable Household Energy Support Scheme to provide support for community housing providers, eligible private rental providers, and low-income homeowners to install energy efficient insulation and replace gas appliances with electric alternatives.



Secure and affordable housing

Improving housing affordability is a challenge in Canberra and across the country. A wide range of factors have resulted in rising costs to rent or buy a home.

In response to this need, this Budget has an ambitious housing agenda, investing an additional \$345 million to continue delivering a comprehensive package of housing measures.

We are increasing housing stock across the board with a range of new initiatives designed to increase access, choice and affordability. Alongside tax incentives, land release and planning system reform, this Budget focuses on bolstering the community housing sector and encouraging Build-to-Rent developments. This Budget also continues the Growing and Renewing Public Housing program, the largest per capita investment in public housing in Australia.

The National Housing Accord brings Commonwealth, state and territory governments, industry and the community together. This year's ACT Budget makes the most of this significant collaboration – with the new \$60 million Affordable Housing Project Fund, we are well placed to meet our ambitious target to deliver 600 affordable rental homes by 2025–26.

As the implementation plan for the Housing Accord is finalised, we look forward to making further announcements with the Commonwealth Government.

\$345m

for housing and homelessness,
including:

\$265m

to strengthen social
housing assistance

\$62m

to increase affordable rental
housing and home ownership

\$19m

to improve housing choice
and quality



Strengthening social housing assistance

The ACT Government continues to demonstrate a commitment to providing public housing, with 6.2 per cent of households supported by public housing compared to 3.1 per cent nationally.

The ACT Government has over 11,500 social housing dwellings, providing homes for more than 21,500 people.

As part of the Growing and Renewing Public Housing program, 1,000 public housing properties are set to be renewed and 400 new public housing homes added to the portfolio by 2026–27. By the end of 2023–24, it is expected that around half (700 dwellings) will have been delivered via construction and market acquisitions.

The 2023–24 Budget provides:

- > an additional \$55.9 million for the Growing and Renewing Public Housing program. This investment supports the delivery of the ACT Housing Strategy 2018 and its goal to strengthen social housing assistance by delivering safe and affordable housing to support low-income and disadvantaged Canberrans;
- > \$177.1 million for Housing ACT operations, repairs and maintenance. This investment will help ensure that public housing in Canberra is safe, comfortable and meets the needs of tenants;
- > \$20 million over four years for the continued expansion of specialist homelessness service capacity; and
- > funding to continue the Vulnerable Household Energy Support Scheme to provide support for community housing providers, eligible private rental providers, and low-income homeowners to install energy efficient insulation and replace gas appliances with electric alternatives.

Affordable Housing Project Fund

- > The ACT Government has made a significant investment in this Budget through the creation of the \$60 million Affordable Housing Fund.
- > The Fund includes a funding allocation for three projects being delivered under the 2022–23 Build-to-Rent Prospectus Request for Proposal (RFP) process. These projects will deliver 160 community housing owned or managed affordable rental properties for a minimum of 15 years.
- > The Affordable Housing Fund also includes a grant of \$4.5 million dollars for the Ginninderry Women’s Housing Initiative, a Build-to-Rent-to-Buy pilot program. This innovative project will deliver up to 22 affordable rental dwellings for low-income women in Strathnairn to transition from renting to home ownership.
- > Community housing providers and Build-to-Rent operators with shovel-ready projects are invited to submit proposals for financial support as part of the Affordable Housing Fund in 2023–24.

The ACT Government will work closely with the community housing sector in 2023–24 to leverage the Commonwealth Government funding and assistance available through the National Housing Accord and Housing Australia Future Fund by identifying a pipeline of suitable sites for affordable and social housing.



Community support, social inclusion and safety

Across our community, wellbeing is supported by a sense of belonging to a community where we are connected, safe, valued and can express ourselves.

The support of our community plays a vital role in fostering wellbeing, including through access to services provided by community sector organisations.

The Government recognises the challenges that people in our community are facing with the increasing cost of living and knows that these challenges can have a greater impact on the wellbeing of the more vulnerable members of our community. It recognises the importance of community sector support at these times.

The 2023–24 Budget provides more than \$355 million for new initiatives to improve community support, social inclusion and safety.

This brings expenditure on community support, social inclusion, justice and safety to \$1.4 billion in 2023–24 and funding for infrastructure projects to more than \$90 million in 2023–24.

\$355m

for new initiatives to improve community support, social inclusion and safety, including:

\$144m

for community support and social inclusion

\$161m

for emergency services

\$41m

for justice system reforms and human rights

\$21m

to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The 2023–24 Budget funds:

- > \$37.8 million over four years to provide additional support to low-income households facing escalating living costs and additional indexation funding for community sector organisations to reflect the recent Fair Work Commission Annual Wage Review;
- > enhancements to youth justice, child and youth protection, and early childhood services;
- > new or expanded programs to prevent gendered violence, including \$9.4 million over four years to further invest in frontline domestic, family and sexual violence services;
- > the recruitment of an additional 126 ACT Policing personnel by 2027–28;
- > implementation of a modernised and more patient-centric service delivery model for the ACT Ambulance Service; the construction of a new joint ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Fire and Rescue emergency services station in the Molonglo Valley, and wellbeing improvements for ACT Fire & Rescue staff and volunteers;
- > the expansion of the Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List from 35 participants to 42 participants, enhanced rehabilitation opportunities for detainees and safety and wellbeing improvements and at the Alexander Maconochie Centre; and
- > additional support for the ACT's community based legal assistance sector and Legal Aid; the ACT Human Rights Commission and the ACT Civil & Administrative Tribunal.



Environment, climate and transport

We know that Canberrans are willing to make climate-conscious choices that reduce emissions and improve sustainable outcomes for our environment, and the Government remains committed to keeping energy costs low and supporting our environment as we shift towards a more sustainable future.

Accessible services and places also support our daily lives and improve our wellbeing. Improving our transport networks and active travel opportunities help position Canberra as a liveable and sustainable city while generating economic opportunities and ensuring a vibrant cultural and social environment for both Canberrans and visitors.

The 2023–24 Budget provides more than \$285 million for new initiatives to support the environment, climate action and transport.

This brings expenditure on the environment, climate and transport to \$539 million in 2023–24 and funding for infrastructure projects to more than \$465 million in 2023–24.

\$1.9_b

for roads, public transport
and active travel

\$330_m

for climate action and environment
capital works projects

The 2023–24 Budget includes:

- > an extension to the Sustainable Household Scheme which provides interest-free loans on sustainable household devices, and provisioning for the construction of an organic waste recovery facility;
- > the implementation of the Urban Forest Act 2023, a continuation of the Healthy Waterways project to address high-priority water quality problems, improvements to biosecurity and nature conservation programs, further support for the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, and ongoing rapid response mowing activities;
- > ongoing delivery of light rail to Woden; additional bus drivers and support for Transport Canberra employees; active travel improvements and programs and measures to increase the uptake of zero emissions vehicles; and
- > \$85 million to electrify government owned and operated buildings. The project will replace gas with electric heating and hot water systems across a range of Government buildings such as our schools, hospitals, emergency services and government offices.



Getting back on board public transport

Public transport is key to making Canberra a more connected, sustainable and vibrant city. However, the pandemic has had a significant impact on public transport patronage and passenger expectations.

During the pandemic, we kept Canberrans moving with interim bus timetables and the continuation of school bus services. We also invested in active travel and shared paths that make it easier for people to get around Canberra and to use a combination of transport modes. Since then, public transport patronage in Canberra has been returning towards pre-COVID levels but there is still some way to go. We have updated our Transport Recovery Plan to ensure what we have learned during COVID is incorporated into an improved model for future public transport.

Service improvements

Convenience and reliability remain key priorities for our public transport services. The Government is providing additional funding for more bus drivers and services on weekends to enable more services to be offered as our public transport workforce grows and changes.

A new ticketing system is on its way which will provide a range of convenient payment options as well as a new real time passenger information system and journey planner.

Integrated transport

We are delivering on some key actions outlined in our Active Travel Plan with \$26 million for upgrades and maintenance to the ACT's walking and cycling network. This includes the first stage of the Garden City cycle route

from Watson to Braddon that will connect with the City Loop cycle route, jointly funded with the Commonwealth Government. We are also investing in new and improved footpaths and in pedestrian crossings for several schools, and upgrading paths around Kingston and Lake Ginninderra. The Government will continue the School Crossing Supervisor program, Ride or Walk to School program, It's Your Move Safe Cycle program and the School Safety program. These measures will collectively help to improve access and connectivity and encourage use of active travel as well as provide infrastructure to keep our communities safe.

Building transport infrastructure

Work continues on extending the light rail network to enable benefits for a broader proportion of Canberrans. We have recently invested in more light rail vehicles, commenced upgrading the bus and light rail interchange at Woden and have begun preparing for future wireless running across parts of the network.

A better passenger experience

We are well on the way in our transition to a zero emissions bus fleet. We have 12 electric buses already in operation, we've signed contracts for 94 new electric buses to be progressively delivered in coming years and we're working with Evoenergy to upgrade grid infrastructure to supply the new Woden and existing Tuggeranong bus depots for charging of electric buses. We're investing in progressive training of drivers and workshop staff in this latest technology. These initiatives will enable Canberrans to take everyday action on climate change with a quieter and more sustainable public transport service.



Community infrastructure, venues and arts and culture

Canberrans value spaces to participate in a variety of events, entertainment, arts and sports activities.

Economy-boosting investment in infrastructure provides these spaces and increases our city's ability to attract tourists and major events and to support local artists, musicians, and related businesses.

The 2023–24 Budget provides more than \$184 million in new funding for community infrastructure, venues and events that promote arts and culture.

This brings funding for community infrastructure projects to more than \$600 million over the five years to 2027–28.

The 2023–24 Budget includes:

- > an expansion and upgrade of the Belconnen Basketball Stadium and upgrades to district netball facilities;
- > a new Gungahlin Community Centre with a combined community and youth centre;
- > streetscape upgrades across the City Precinct and at Dickson shops to improve accessibility, safety and stimulate economic activity;
- > additional support for the National Multicultural Festival;

- > improving the affordability of tickets and food at ACT Brumbies and Canberra Raiders matches at GIO Stadium; and
- > the continued transformation of the Canberra Museum and Gallery.

Across Canberra there are:

127

separate oval sites

890

individual hireable sporting fields

\$600_m

over the five years to 2027–28 for community infrastructure, venues and arts

Improving Canberra Theatre Centre

In 2022–23, we allocated \$62 million over four years to commence detailed design and planning for the Canberra Theatre Centre expansion as well as performing upgrades on existing theatres.

The Canberra Theatre Centre expansion will increase capacity, support more frequent and diverse productions, and bring us closer to our goal of hosting national and international events. A refreshed Canberra Theatre Centre is part of our vision for a thriving Canberra Civic and Cultural District which supports our economy and provides opportunities to congregate and connect.

We passed a significant milestone in May 2023 with the selection of a design partner consortium from a competitive tender process. The consortium

includes internationally recognised talent and will make the most of local insights by establishing a local office and partnering with Canberra’s industry leaders. The community will also have an opportunity to influence the project with consultation opportunities being planned for later this year.

This Budget also provides additional support for vocational training delivered by CIT for stage and theatre technicians, which supports the operations of the Canberra Theatre.

Early concept design of a transformed Canberra Theatre Centre



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Acknowledgement of Country



The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



Accessibility
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Australian Capital Territory

Budget 2023–24

