



# BUDGET 2009-2010 INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **New one-stop shop to help householders**

The ACT Government has announced a \$19.1 million investment in projects that encourage Canberrans to reduce their carbon footprint, including their energy and water consumption, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Simon Corbell, said today.

As part of the *switch your thinking!* initiative, the ACT Government will provide a one-stop shop of information and advice on its programs and rebates to help Canberrans reduce their energy and water consumption and waste.

“To date it has been difficult to find information on programs and rebates available to Canberra residents,” Mr Corbell said.

“This new initiative brings together information on the Government’s rebates and programs at the one point making it easier for Canberrans to reduce their carbon footprint.

“Information on government programs such as Toiletsmart, enabling property owners to replace their single flush toilets with water efficient ones, and Gardensmart, which helps residents reduce their water through advice on plants, garden design and maintenance, will be available from the one site.

“The *switch your thinking!* strategy provides easy to understand information for both householders and businesses in the ACT.”

This initiative will include:

- Information – virtual tours, tips for householders and businesses, updates on events and services, community noticeboard announcements, details of water and energy consumption in the ACT, factsheets, media releases;
- Advice – submit a question via phone or web;
- Booking and coordination of audit services; and
- Rebates and assistance applications.

This fulfils a commitment made through the Labor-Greens Parliamentary Agreement.

“The rebates and assistance programs aim to increase awareness of our environment, and encourage behavioural change in the community,” Mr Corbell said.

“Officers from the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water will now work on developing and implementing *switch your thinking!* in the ACT.

“Once it is in place, it will be a great resource to help Canberrans discover how they can live more sustainably and help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.”

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