



## A Vibrant City and Great Neighbourhoods

Canberra is the best city in Australia in which to live, and the Government is committed to ensuring that Canberra remains a vibrant city with great neighbourhoods now and into the future.

Recognised for its well-planned neighbourhoods, great outdoor activity areas, national parks, lakes, sporting facilities and playgrounds, first rate roads and public transport, Canberra is a city with a strong community spirit. The Government is a supporter of festivals and local community events, such as *Celebrate in the Park*, *ParkLive*, *roundtown* and *Party in the Park* to name a few.

Our city is also a great place to visit, attracting around 2 million domestic overnight visitors and 1.7 million domestic day visitors in the year ending September 2007. Visitors make a contribution to our economy and support the ACT's tourism industry.

The Government is committed to ensuring Canberra remains a city with a great cultural life, and natural and built beauty.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

The Government has invested heavily and developed programs to ensure Canberra remains the best place to live, work and visit including:

- continuing to invest in major festivals and events such as Floriade, the Autumn Balloon Spectacular, the National Multicultural Festival and the Fringe Festival;
- a renewed commitment to investing in quality public art throughout the city;
- investing \$30 million in the refurbishment of the National Convention Centre;
- the development of the Civic Library and the Canberra Theatre Lane and Childers Street projects;
- investing in the redevelopment of City West;

- the transformation of Civic into a modern precinct in cooperation with local businesses;
- completing the 9 kilometre Gungahlin Drive Extension, including a major upgrade of the Glenloch Interchange;
- 100 new buses over the next four years;
- Network 08: a comprehensive review of ACTION bus services through consultation with the community, resulting in more efficient routes as well as a streamlined and upgraded timetable;
- investing in drought proofing sporting facilities;
- the development of world class sporting facilities such as Stromlo Forest Park as part of the Government's ongoing support for tourism through the development of tourism attractions and marketing;
- the construction of the Discovery Centre at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve; and
- ensuring that new suburbs are modern and environmentally sustainable.

### ACT BUDGET 2008-09 – READY FOR THE FUTURE

The 2008-09 Budget ensures that Canberra remains a city with a great cultural life and natural and built beauty by investing in:

- community events and festivals;
- transport, including the replacement of the ACTION bus fleet and implementing the enhanced bus Network 08;
- arts, including public art;
- libraries; and
- sporting facilities, including drought proofing ovals.





# FACTSHEET No: 6

## ACT BUDGET 2008-09 INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE	WHAT DO THESE INITIATIVES DELIVER FOR THE FUTURE?
\$110 million over four years for a better transport system including the replacement of the Belconnen Bus Interchange and the duplication of Athllon Drive, Tharwa Drive and Flemington Road.	Investing in quality transport systems is an investment in road safety, reduced traffic congestion and reduced greenhouse emissions. An efficient transport system is also vital for the economic future of our city. This investment will also improve the 'Park and Ride' program making public transport an even better option for Canberrans.
\$50 million dollars over four years for the replacement of 100 new efficient wheelchair accessible buses.	This initiative will deliver improvements to environmental sustainability through the replacement of older buses within ACTION's current fleet.
\$13 million over four years for the new ACTION network.	This funding will further improve the ACTION 08 bus network.
\$22.2 million over four years to support sport in the ACT, including \$8 million for the "Where will we play?" initiative, \$8.6 million for the Lyneham sporting precinct development, \$1.2 million in 2008-09 for Phillip oval and \$1 million for Harrison district playing fields.	This investment will ensure Canberrans continue to have access to world-class sporting facilities and will continue to be the most active and healthiest community in Australia.  This investment will also ensure the ACT can continue to host world class sporting events. A feasibility study will also commence on a swimming pool for Gungahlin and an upgrade of the Erindale Leisure Centre.
\$6.1 million over four years for community events and festivals, including \$4.3 million for the Centenary of Canberra, \$761,000 for the ACT Festival Fund and continued support for the Australian Science Festival.	Canberra's full calendar of festivals and events are an important part of the city's cultural life and provide entertainment for Canberrans while being a major contributor to our tourism industry.  The ACT Government is also investing to ensure the Centenary of Canberra in 2013 will be an event enjoyed by every Canberran and one which makes every Australian proud of our national capital.
\$13.9 million over four years for arts, including more than \$5 million for public art and \$1.9 million for the ACT Arts Fund.	This investment provides a more interesting environment for Canberrans and visitors by investing in public art throughout the city and ensuring the ACT arts community can continue to add to the culture of our city.
\$10 million over four years to build a new library at Gungahlin, and support and increase library collections.	Libraries are important places of learning and also places of gathering and social interaction. This investment will ensure ACT Libraries can continue to offer comprehensive collections of books, CDs, DVDs and internet access to more Canberrans.
\$2 million over four years to improve the amenity of Canberra's suburbs and shopping centres.	This investment makes Canberra's suburbs more attractive and liveable.
\$3 million in 2008-09 for City West Infrastructure.	City West will now be a vibrant precinct.
\$2.8 million for Belconnen Lakeshore Refurbishment Stage 3.	This will complete the Belconnen Foreshore refurbishment integrating the recently completed promenade with the lake edge through boardwalks and piers over Lake Ginninderra.
\$843,000 over four years (\$140,000 capital) for tourism initiatives including events assistance and the visit Canberra web site.	Canberra is seen by tourists as a great place to visit.

# BUDGET 2008 - 2009

### Further information

Department of Treasury  
 Finance and Budget Division  
 GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601  
[www.treasury.act.gov.au](http://www.treasury.act.gov.au)