



ACT Government  
**2005-2006 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**PLANNING LAND FOR CANBERRA'S FUTURE GROWTH**

The 2005-06 ACT Budget provides a further \$300,000 to achieve key initiatives under *The Canberra Spatial Plan*, Planning Minister Simon Corbell announced today.

The plan determines the areas for future residential growth within the Territory.

Mr Corbell said today that the Budget supported the intensification of urban development within 7.5km of the city, affordable housing options and the revitalisation of Civic.

"This next instalment of ongoing funds will be used to further assess the feasibility of Molonglo Valley for urban development, and to bring to fruition the City central area as the dynamic heart of Canberra," he said.

"This funding will progress work already undertaken by the Government in the Molonglo Valley including an initial suitability study in partnership with the National Capital Authority and investment in 3D modelling technology to assist in detailed planning of the area."

Mr Corbell said in the coming year more detailed studies would be undertaken, including:

- the Molonglo Structure Planning Study to assist in determining the principles and land use policies that will guide ecologically sustainable development;
- the Stormwater Management Strategy to determine a preferred approach;
- the Roads, Earthworks and Non-Hydraulic Infrastructure Study to investigate engineering opportunities and constraints within the Molonglo region; and,
- a transport study to inform regarding mobility options for the region.

This is in addition to the on-going implementation of other initiatives arising out of the Spatial Plan including:

- Canberra Central Program;
- Sustainable Transport Plan projects;
- Planning System Reform; and
- Regional Management Framework.

The Government will also initiate a wide public consultation process on the findings of the Molonglo suitability studies in late 2005.

Mr Corbell said these studies will ultimately facilitate more opportunities for housing choice and accommodate future population growth in the Territory.



“It is anticipated that development in Molonglo Valley will complement existing urban areas and protect environmental features, with land release expected in the next five to 10 years,” he said.

“Continuing work under the Canberra Spatial Plan will provide housing for Canberrans in the future and limit the expansion of Canberra’s urban footprint through a sustainable approach to urban consolidation and renewal.

“This builds on the funding that the Government has already allocated for the City. The Canberra Central Program will encourage investors and developers to provide innovative new buildings and entertainment attractions while also boosting employment opportunities and promoting local pride in the Territory.”

**Statement ends**