



ACT Government  
**2004-2005 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FOR  
THREATENED SPECIES RESEARCH**

Research into threatened species will be greatly advanced in the ACT through the injection of significant Budget funding, Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment Jon Stanhope said today.

The Chief Minister said the 2004-05 Budget allocates \$582,000 over the next four years to fund threatened species research, including a post-graduate scholarship.

"The Government is maintaining its commitment to support research priorities identified in ACT Threatened Species Actions Plans (*Nature Conservation Act 1980*) and ACT components of National Recovery Plans," said Mr Stanhope.

"These plans have identified research priorities essential to conservation management actions and long-term recovery of ACT threatened species, through partnerships with external research organisations.

"Sadly basic knowledge about the ecology and management needs of our threatened plants and animals is often lacking or fragmented.

"We need specialist studies such as these to support recovery actions and to increase our chances of saving these species from further harm or eventual extinction."

The Government's research priorities include:

- habitat requirements for threatened and declining woodland birds to assist conservation management of nature reserves and other woodlands;
- effects of habitat fragmentation on viability of populations of grassland reptiles and other fauna;
- impacts of urbanisation on water quality, aquatic biota and riparian communities; and
- post-fire restoration ecology of upland wetland communities.

"As part of this initiative the Government will be offering a new scholarship for a post-graduate student to progress research in accordance with the priorities identified.

"This funding will also enable the Government to enter into partnerships with Universities and other research organisations to undertake research projects beyond the normal the capacity or responsibility of Government.

"The Government has demonstrated its strong commitment to research projects designed to assist the recovery of threatened species such as the Northern Corroboree Frog Captive Breeding Program; the program to re-establish the Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby population, and studies on the Grassland Earless Dragon and we will continue that commitment in 2004-05," said Mr Stanhope.

**Statement Ends**

