



ACT Government

2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

\$110 MILLION FOR NEW ACT PRISON

The Stanhope Government has fully funded the development and construction of an ACT prison - a first for an ACT Government, Chief Minister and Attorney General, Jon Stanhope, said today.

The 2004-05 Budget contains \$110 million over three years to construct the ACT prison.

"Many Governments have talked about the need for an ACT prison but my Government will fully fund the project, which is set to be complete by 2007, through the budget process.

"The new prison will replace the inadequate Belconnen Remand Centre the Symonston Temporary Remand Centre. It will also bring to an end the current arrangements of transporting ACT prisoners to NSW correctional facilities to serve their sentences.

"A Preliminary Assessment on the Hume site has already commenced and will be completed later this year.

"Work on the design is currently being undertaken by the Prison Project Office with Project Services, the business arm of the Queensland Department of Public Works, which has extensive experience in prison design and construction.

"A Request for Expressions of Interest will be advertised in the coming months for a Program Manager for the project.

"The detailed design process will continue with the engagement of a Design Consultant later this year and the completion of the design in June 2005. Building will commence in October 2005 and is expected to take approximately 72 weeks.

"As one of the largest capital works undertaken in the ACT since self government, the prison will result in a significant economic benefit to the ACT, both during its construction and during its anticipated operational life of 40 years.

"As a significant element of social infrastructure in the ACT, the prison project provides a unique opportunity to design and operate a correctional centre which sets new standards for such a facility.

"The construction of the correctional centre comfortably sits within the framework provided the *Canberra Plan* and its constituent documents, the *Social Plan*, the *Spatial Plan* and the *Economic White Paper*. The operation of the centre will be consistent with the *Human Rights Act*.

"My Government has funded and will build an ACT Prison that will have both social and economic benefits for the people of the ACT," Mr Stanhope said.

Statement Ends



