



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

WEST CIVIC REVITALISATION KICK START

The ACT Government will invest \$600,000 in 2004-05 to design the transformation of Childers St precinct in City West with better roads, streetscapes and a new park.

It is the first stage of the *Central Canberra Implementation Plan*, which was financed \$1.5 million over three years in last year's Budget to revitalise the Canberra Central area.

Planning Minister Simon Corbell said the Childers Street precinct design work would illustrate and describe in more detail the preliminary concepts outlined in the *Draft City West Master Plan* so that the improvements could be built in the future.

"The public realm improvements are necessary to attract the smart industries and business identified in the *Economic White Paper*, to support the mixed use development proposed for the area and improve links between the Australian National University and city," said Mr Corbell.

The design work funded in this year's ACT Budget will focus on:

- Making Childers St a divided road with a single travelling lane in each direction, kerbside parking on both sides and numerous street trees;
- Reinstating the Childers and Rudd Streets intersection across Marcus Clarke Street;
- A new 'linear' park at the junction of Childers and Alinga Streets;
- Servicing for future commercial and future mixed-use development; and
- Devising a stormwater system to show best practice in water sensitive urban design.

"This work will give the precinct a distinct and consistent street character and show off will demonstrate exemplary best-practice and innovation in environmental design that will make it an attractive area for businesses and people to be. The combination of design improvements will create a safer pedestrian route and an enjoyable recreation space for the area's office workers and future residents.

"The opportunities to implement water sensitive measures will improve water quality in Lake Burley Griffin and help to establish the Government's vision of City West being a model of sustainable urban development and leading edge in its design and management."

The Minister said the 2004-05 ACT Budget funding meant that Civic West had great potential to be a hub of activity as an 'eat and meet' area and a friendly place for pedestrians.

The precinct is bounded by Barry Drive, Marcus Clarke St, University Avenue and the ANU. **Preliminary sketches of the future public realm in Childers Street are available.**
Statement Ends.