



## ACT Government

# 2003-2004 BUDGET

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### FUNDING BOOST FOR GUNG AHLIN BUS SERVICES

A bus will depart Gungahlin Market Place for the City every four minutes in morning peak time following a \$2.9 million four year funding boost to increase bus services to and from Gungahlin, Planning Minister Simon Corbell announced today.

In 2003-04, \$737,000 has been allocated to provide an extra 8,900 hours of service in Gungahlin per year.

This is an 18.2% increase in service hours for Gungahlin residents and will represent a total increase of over 40% in ACTION service hours for the people of Gungahlin since May 2002.

Mr Corbell said that Labor's "*One Fare Anywhere*" scheme and 205 extra services in last year's budget had resulted in a 20 per cent increase in patronage in Gungahlin.

"Gungahlin residents have responded to this Government's policies with their feet – by catching the bus. This Budget's funding boost will encourage a greater number of Gungahlin residents to take the bus rather than drive and reward existing users with improved services," he said.

ACTION bus services are expected to be extended in Amaroo and Yerrabi Pond in July. This expansion will place ACTION services in areas of increasing growth and should encourage the use of public transport by new residents.

Further, services through Gungahlin suburbs such as Nicholls will be made more direct.

The service expansion will also allow ACTION to introduce a high frequency service between the Gungahlin Market Place and the City. In the morning peak periods a bus will depart the Market Place for the City every 4 minutes. In the afternoon peak period buses will depart the City Interchange for Gungahlin every 4 minutes. During the off peak times there will be a bus to and from the City and Belconnen every 15 minutes for the residents of Gungahlin.

"These service improvements together with the strategy "*One Fare Anywhere*" will encourage more Gungahlin residents to take ACTION. It is expected that with the high frequency services many people will take advantage of the park and ride facilities at the Gungahlin Market Place," Mr Corbell said.

**Statement ends.**

