



\$5.75M BUDGET A WIN FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SHOPPERS

Canberra's retail areas are to receive a boost, with a number of initiatives to improve some of our key shopping centres planned for capital works funding in 2000-2001.

The works include the rejuvenation of some of our older local centres as well as improvements to Civic as an investment in our primary shopping and business district and the 'heart' of the city.

ACT Urban Services Minister Brendan Smyth said the improvements would assist in making our retail areas more attractive, more functional and ultimately, provide a better outcome for both local businesses and shoppers.

"These improvements are integral to the ACT Government's retail policy, which aims to revitalise commercial areas and to make them more accessible to the wider community," Mr Smyth said.

Major works to be included for 2000-2001 include:

- A further \$4.5 million towards "Our City" program initiatives to revitalise Civic;
- \$500,000 towards upgrading Woden Town Square;
- \$255,000 that will go towards forward design for four suburban centres to participate in the Precinct Refurbishment Program- Kambah Village, Jamison, Griffith and Southlands; and
- \$500,000 for minor shopping centre upgrade works, including improved lighting at Watson and Kippax.

The \$4.5 million works to Civic involve projects funded through the Capital Works Program, bringing the total expenditure on Civic over the past three years to more than \$10 million.

"The funding for "Our City" initiatives will provide \$1.5 million for the design and landscaping of an area to be known as *Northbourne Plaza*, in the median area between the Sydney and Melbourne buildings, and \$1.5 million for the upgrading of City Walk pedestrian connections between Petrie Plaza and Akuna Street. Other works include \$700,000 for improved lighting in City Walk, Petrie Plaza and other main pedestrian areas of Civic.



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“Woden Town Square, one of our other major town centres which has recently been undergoing a facelift, will receive \$500,000 in the capital works budget towards improving their outdoor area.

“The upgrade, a joint project with the centre managers Lend Lease, will be matched dollar for dollar, with the total works to cost \$1 million. Works to the Square, which was originally built in 1970, will include removing the fountain, placing more trees to reduce the effects of wind currently experienced in the area, and providing shade and shelter. There will also be a grassed area to reduce the hard appearance of the existing concrete paving, and an interactive sculpture installed.

“Some of our smaller suburban centres won’t miss out on a refurbishment, with four centres- Southlands at Mawson, Griffith, Jamison and Kambah Village- set to participate in the successful Precinct Refurbishment Program.

“Since the launch of the program in 1995, precinct community groups have been formed in 13 suburban areas. These groups , working with the Government, have developed proposals for improvements including increased access, improved lighting, paving, incorporating artworks and landscaping.

“\$255,000 will be provided to these four centres as additions to this program, and \$500,000 will also be allocated for minor works to other identified shopping centres around Canberra, such as for improvements to lighting at Watson and Kippax. Further funds will be allocated as proposed works are assessed and as emerging needs are identified.”

Statement ends/ Tuesday 23 May 2000

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