



ACT Government

2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

RECORD \$330 MILLION FOR CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS IN 2004-05

The 2004-05 Budget contains \$329.9 million for new capital works throughout Canberra. This is the largest ever capital works program since self government, said Treasurer, Ted Quinlan.

“This allocation represents a significant investment in the Territory’s infrastructure and economy into the future. While the program is ambitious, it demonstrates the Stanhope Government’s commitment to a continuing and sustainable program of works over the next three to four years,” Mr Quinlan said.

The program for 2004-05 includes a sustainable infrastructure initiative that will supplement capital work projects to enhance their environmental performance. The initiative will consider measures aimed at increasing energy efficiency, water reduction and reuse, alternative energy sources and other activities targeted to deliver cost effective enhancements in the environmental performance of public facilities and infrastructure.

Major projects in the 2004-05 capital works program include:

- \$110 million for an ACT prison at Hume;
- \$40 million towards an upgrade of the National Convention Centre on Constitution Avenue;
- \$10 million for an International Aboretum to be located near Dairy Farmers Hill, incorporating the Cork Oaks and Himalayan Pine Plantation adjacent to the Glenloch Interchange; and
- an additional \$6.8 million to complete the upgrade of the Quamby Remand Centre.

“Significant investment of \$28.6 million will be made on our health facilities, including an additional \$6.4 million for an ANU Medical School Building in the grounds of the Canberra Hospital, \$4.6 million on a sub/non acute inpatient facility at Calvary Hospital. \$1 million is also to be spent on extending and improving the Psychiatric Secure Unit at the Canberra Hospital.

“The Budget provides \$5.4 million for building and service upgrades at Calvary Hospital and \$2.2 million for the establishment of a Renal Dialysis Service on the northside of Canberra. Significant upgrade of facilities and minor new works are also proposed at both Hospitals.

“Education and children’s, youth and family services facilities are also to be boosted through capital works totalling \$25.8 million, including \$3 million for new gymnasiums at Melrose and Belconnen High Schools, \$2.5 million for continuing the older schools refurbishment program, \$2.1 million for enhancing Birrigai Outdoor School, \$900,000 for safety/access provisions for people with disabilities attending ACT schools, continuing upgrades of science facilities, at a cost of \$1 million, and \$4.2 million for schools minor new works and safety works throughout Canberra. Forward design is also planned for a new primary and pre school in Gungahlin East.

“The Government is also committed to expanding and enhancing the Territory’s cultural and arts facilities, with funding of \$14.7 million for a new link Building in Civic Square which will also include a new Civic Library, an additional \$4.2 million for conversion of the historic Kingston Powerhouse to a world class glass facility and glass art museum, \$2.6 million for an ACT Multicultural Centre in the North Building in Civic Square, and an additional \$1 million to complete the new Kippax Library in Holt.

“Continuation of commitments to our roads infrastructure will include an additional \$17 million on Stage One of the Gungahlin Drive extension, \$5 million for the upgrade of Pialligo Avenue between Morsehead Drive and the Canberra Airport, and \$1.5 million towards the forward design of the Majura Parkway between the Airport and the Federal Highway. In addition, the Government has committed \$11.2 million on major land trunk augmentation infrastructure and \$6 million to the design of a range of sustainable transport initiatives.

“As part of the Government’s commitment to the establishment of the new Emergency Services Authority (ESA), \$900,000 has been included to commence the design of a new ESA headquarters in Fyshwick.

“Sport and Recreation facilities are also to be enhanced, with funding of \$8 million for a new dragway facility, \$1.6 million for fence replacement and weather protection for open-seated stands at Manuka Oval and \$1 million for sportsgrounds facility improvements.

“Additional community infrastructure is to be provided through funding of \$1.3m for an upgrade of City Walk West, \$1 million for a new community hall in Palmerston, \$600,000 for City West infrastructure and \$900,000 for an upgrade of the Holt Shopping Centre. Two million dollars is also allocated for restoring and enhancing Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve following the January 2003 bushfires.

“Overall, the new works for 2004-05 provide for new infrastructure required to support the Territory’s growth and service provision needs, and a strong commitment to maintaining and sustaining our existing capital base at the level expected by the community,” Mr Quinlan said.