



ACT Government  
**2004-2005 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**MAJOR COMMITMENT TO WATER - OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE**

The 2004-05 Budget was a clear demonstration of the Government's commitment to ensuring security for Canberra's water supply, Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment Jon Stanhope said today.

Mr Stanhope said the challenges of future water supply, environmental flows, water quality, and the cost-effective governance of integrated catchment management strategies will set new directions for water resource management.

"The management of the ACT's water resources is entering a new phase," he said.

"The Government will be implementing measures designed to support the community's role in efficiently using our water resources and the recently released Water Resources Strategy, **Think water, act water**, provides the blueprint for achieving this.

"The bushfires in January 2003, together with the ACT's drought conditions, have had a significant impact on our water supply.

"These challenges highlighted the need for better governance arrangements and more focussed catchment management strategies.

"The Government is committed to providing secure, integrated outcomes for water supply and catchment management in the ACT.

"In addition to the funding already provided in the Third Appropriation, the Government is today committing a further \$8.42 million over four years to implement the Water Resources Strategy.

"The Strategy addresses water quality and quantity, as well as promoting the use of the water cycle as a basis for integrating stormwater, water supply and wastewater elements in catchments.

"The Government will offer a range of incentives to households in order to reduce our reliance on water and to help relieve the pressure currently placed on our water supply, including:

- a rebate for AAA showerheads;
- subsidies to replace single flush toilets with AAA rated 6/3 litre dual flush toilets;
- a revised rainwater tank rebate program; and



- subsidised water tune-up services to provide advice on indoor and garden water usage and efficiencies.

“The Government will also be conducting an information and awareness campaign to support continual, long-term water savings in the community.

“This program will be targeting the general community as well as schools, business and industry, and government and institutions.

“The Government will also develop partnerships with community organisations to further educate our community on sustainable water use.

“Community groups have indicated they are ready and willing to engage in activities to educate and involve the community in community-based learning projects.

“The Government will be supporting these projects through partnerships to deliver community-oriented learning and action packages which can be tailored to specific groups.

“We will also be working with the community to develop initiatives that will support them in undertaking further projects to educate and raise awareness,” said Mr Stanhope.

**Statement Ends**