



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

\$170,000 PROGRAM MOVES PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR CARS

The ACT Government is to spend \$170,000 in 2004-05 implementing a key Sustainable Transport Plan initiative aimed at changing people's travel habits from private vehicles to walking, cycling and public transport.

Planning Minister Simon Corbell said influencing people's travel behaviour is integral to achieving the outcomes of *The Sustainable Transport Plan*, which is an important element of *The Canberra Spatial Plan*.

"Successfully implementing the Plan involves a significant shift towards more use of public transport, walking and cycling," Mr Corbell said.

"We want to increase the current levels of cycling from 2.3 percent to 6 percent and walking from 4.1 percent to 5 percent by 2011. Similarly, the target for public transport use is 9 percent by 2011, compared with 7 percent at present."

Mr Corbell said the initiative included:

- Updating, redesigning and producing the existing cycle map in hard copy and web formats and compiling the data digitally to enable efficient updates;
- Preparing pedestrian access plans for town centres and major activity centres;
- Investigating inter-modal opportunities to link cycling and other modes with public transport use; and
- Implementing travel behaviour change programs targeting households newly arriving in an area, a workplace program involving employers and the "walking school bus program" encouraging supervised walks to school by primary age students.

"The cycling map is a cost-effective way to encourage cycling, particularly for new and infrequent users of the network," Mr Corbell said.

"We'll also be looking at promoting "kiss and ride," where people are dropped at public transport by other family members, and "park and ride" options at key locations with good public transport services."

Mr Corbell said initiatives proposed under The Sustainable Transport Plan were aimed at delivering significant benefits through greater physical activity, lower greenhouse emissions and less road congestion and, in the long term, a net benefit of \$800-900 million in present value terms over 25 years.

Statement Ends.

