



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR ARTS, HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SERVICES IN THE ACT

The ACT Government will continue its support for the arts, heritage activities and cultural services in 2003-04 with funding for a range of new initiatives and ongoing projects to enrich and enhance cultural life in the ACT.

“Cultural activities play a key role in the ACT Government’s vision of Canberra as an inclusive, prosperous, skilled and creative society. They give a unique vibrancy and creativity to our city, prompt us to reflect on our shared experience and dare us to broaden our aspirations,” said ACT Minister for Arts and Heritage, Bill Wood.

“Canberra is becoming increasingly known as a centre for the creative arts and as an attractive home for creative business.

“This budget supports a number of new initiatives and builds on the Government’s investment in some previous projects.

“Following on from a consultant’s report and community consultation on library facilities at Kippax, funding of \$2.5 million has been made available for a new permanent library. It will replace the present library and allow for an expansion of the library facilities in the area, in keeping with population growth in Kippax.

“\$540,000 has also been provided for refurbishment of Woden Library. This funding will allow for refurbishment works to improve the existing library services within the building and will complement the redesign work already proposed for the adjacent Government Shopfront. This work was provided for in the 2002-03 budget with an allocation of \$540,000.

“The mobile library provides a valuable service to the ACT community. It supplies books to those members of the community who are not able to get to any of the ACT Public Library branches. In order to upgrade the services of the mobile library, \$160,000 has been provided in this budget to help improve customer convenience and accessibility to the mobile library.

“Following development approval from the NCA, the budget provides \$300,000 to bring to tender readiness plans for the construction of a new Civic Library and Canberra Theatre Link in Civic Square.

“We will also continue detailed planning for the Contemporary Glass Centre. The Centre will be a national showcase facility for Canberra’s leading glass artists. Following on from funding in last year’s budget, we are allocating \$90,000 for specialist technical advice over the next two years. This advice will define a range of requirements needed by the Centre including equipment, facilities and layout; as well as creative advice regarding programs and events.

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Media Release



“The budget also provides \$150,000 to enhance Civic Square access to the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG). \$50,000 will be provided to explore options for relocating the Nolan Collection from Lanyon Homestead to CMAG.

“\$60,000 will begin work on a proposed Belconnen Community Arts Facility. Another \$60,000 will be made available for a feasibility study to develop a performing arts precinct in Civic West.

“The Government places a high-value on caring for the ACT’s heritage and historic places for future generations. \$200,000 has been made available for a review of heritage places affected by the January bushfires. The review will identify damage and the essential works required to ensure the continued function of these significant places.

A \$125,000 package has also been provided for restoration works at other ACT heritage sites. Restoration for Lanyon Homestead, Mugga Mugga House and Calthorpe’s House is aimed at conservation and preservation of the buildings and surrounding land to maintain the cultural significance of the sites.

“\$195,000 will be provided for essential improvements and upgrades to the Canberra Theatre. Due to the age of the theatre and its range of functions, there is a need to improve disabled access and upgrade some of the theatre’s operational equipment to improve efficiency and ensure the facility continues to attract high quality theatre to the ACT. \$150,000 will also be made available to replace the roof of Theatre 3, Canberra’s leading Amateur theatre venue and the home of the Canberra Rep. \$250,000 will fund stage two refurbishments to Manuka Arts Centre towards the relocation of ArtSound FM.

“One of the most accessible and visible programs that artsACT manages is the Public Art Program and the Government is pleased to provide \$195,000 to the Program this year.

“\$185,000 has been made available for a Bushfire Memorial Project. The memorial could help establish a focal point for the commemoration of the impact of the January 18 fires, and will be developed in close consultation with the community.

“In addition to these important new initiatives the Government is continuing to support the restored funding to the National Institute of the Arts of \$800,000 per year which was announced in last year’s budget.

“While this year’s budget is by necessity tougher the ACT Government is continuing to demonstrate its commitment to arts and heritage through a wide range of initiatives. This budget builds upon the work achieved through last year’s budget and will create more cultural opportunities for our citizens,” Mr Wood said.

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