



ACT Government  
**2004-2005 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEW WALKING TRACKS IN POST-FIRE ENVIRONMENT**

The 2004-05 Budget will provide a further \$250,000 for the restoration of walking tracks in the ACT's reserves and national parks, Chief Minister and Minister for the Environment Jon Stanhope announced today.

"The bushfires in January 2003 had a major adverse impact on many of the walking tracks in the ACT's nature reserves and national parks.

"It is important that we restore these tracks, as they form a vital part of our social and natural heritage. Over many years, they have also provided a source of happy and healthy recreation for ACT families and enabled people of all levels of fitness to experience the delights of the bush first-hand," said Mr Stanhope.

"For safety reasons, our recovery efforts to date have been particularly focussed on removing fire-damaged trees, but we have also done a great deal of work to replace wooden infrastructure such as steps and bridges.

"I had the pleasure of reopening the Hanging Rock Walking Track at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve in December last year.

"The track was severely damaged by the January bushfires and was rebuilt with the assistance of four indigenous youths funded through the government's Community Partnership Program.

"In addition, authorities have completed work on the Alps walking trail in Namadgi National Park, as well as the Birrigai Time Trail and the Church Rock track at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, and parts of the track along the Murrumbidgee River Corridor.

"We will complete repairs and some improvements to the Murrumbidgee River Corridor track linking Pine Island, Kambah Pool and the Cotter in the future

"To complement this work, interpretive material will be developed and placed at the track heads to provide visitors with information about the natural environment along the track.

"We are also in the process of planning for a new track to traverse the length of the Bullen Range, as well as a new track to provide day walks from the Honeysuckle Campground."

**Statement Ends**