



ACT Government

2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

MAKING CANBERRA AN EVEN BETTER PLACE

The ACT Government is focusing on making Canberra an even more liveable city in the 2004/2005 Budget.

“Canberra is known for being a beautiful, planned city and this image will only improve with the provision of \$10 million over three years for the creation of an international arboretum, featuring trees from countries all over the world,” Urban Services Minister Bill Wood said.

“The arboretum is part of Walter Burley Griffin’s original vision for Canberra and will be located adjacent to the Tuggeranong Parkway and Dairy Farmers Hill in the north-eastern part of the Green Hills Forest area. It will not only be a beautiful area for Canberrans and visitors alike to enjoy, but will also provide significant scientific, educational and partnership benefits.

“Demonstrating the Government’s commitment to the revitalisation of the Civic area, the budget allocates \$1.27 million to progress stage one of the City Walk West project. This three-stage project will see the transformation of Alinga Street into a more vibrant area. The first stage will focus on improving the streetscape in front of the Melbourne building and the Jolimont Centre, between Northbourne Avenue and West Row. Later stages will progress the works towards Marcus Clarke Street.

“Holt shopping centre is also set to receive a well-deserved facelift, with \$900,000 allocated to its upgrade.

“The budget also improves on the ACT’s already excellent road infrastructure. It funds several projects, including:

- \$5 million over two years for the upgrade of Pialligo Avenue from Morshead Drive to the Airport to ease traffic congestion on this important link to the Airport;
- \$1.5 million over two years for forward design work for Majura Parkway;
- \$1.5 million over two years towards increasing the load capacity of bridges in the ACT;
- \$1 million over two years for neighbourhood improvement initiatives in Downer, Watson and Hackett; and
- \$700,000 to continue the program of community path improvements.

“Safety on our roads is of particular focus, with \$500,000 allocated for residential street improvements, such as traffic calming measures, \$250,000 for street light upgrades, \$250,000 for traffic light upgrades and \$150,000 for improving traffic management at schools. A further \$300,000 has been provided for lighting on Mirrabai Drive and Gungahlin Drive in Gungahlin,



while \$350,000 will go towards the second stage of replacing damaged or sub-standard barriers on our arterial roads.

“Public safety will also be an important aspect of the \$1 million allocation over the next four years to improve the maintenance of trees in the urban area.

“The neighbourhood street and park tree replacement program also continues with \$350,000 allocated. To cover the maintenance of new assets such as parks, trees, playgrounds and park facilities brought about by the growth of our city, a further \$1 million has been allocated over four years. With Canberra’s population expanding by about 2000 households each year, \$532,000 has been allocated over four years to provide additional garbage and recycling services to meet this growth.

“The Government’s playground safety upgrade program continues, with \$500,000 to improve playground safety for our children. A further \$350,000 will go towards the landscape upgrade program to improve access and perform maintenance work in our many urban parks.

“To help address the increasing problems posed by abandoned vehicles, \$250,000 has been allocated to build an upgraded compound to accommodate more vehicles.

“Demonstrating the Government’s commitment to lead the way in waste management, \$800,000 has been provided for the development of Hume Resource Recovery Estate which will provide the necessary infrastructure – such as roads, drainage and sewerage services – for the establishment of further recycling industries in the estate.

“The budget also provides improved facilities for the ACT’s sporting community. To cater for the expanding population of Gungahlin, \$250,000 has been allocated for forward design works for the construction of district playing fields, training lights and a pavilion in Harrison.

“A further \$1 million has been allocated to upgrade our sportsgrounds, pools and recreation facilities. The program will include refurbishing facilities and improving lighting at the softball centre at Hawker; improving lighting at Stirling playing fields; and refurbishment works at a number of public swimming pools.

“The 2004-05 Budget delivers on our Canberra Plan commitments of *‘Building a Stronger Community’*, *‘Living with the Environment’* and creating *‘A Dynamic Heart’*,” Mr Wood said.
Statement ends.