



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

IMPROVING THE LOOK OF OUR CITY

The ACT Government is working to make Canberra an even better place in the 2003-2004 budget, with a range of initiatives to improve the city and help it recover from the January firestorm.

“It is widely recognised that the ACT has the best road network of any major city in Australia. The ACT Government is committed to further improving this image, with one of our major projects being the upgrade of Fairbairn Avenue at a construction cost of \$8m over two years, under the Traffic Congestion and Road Safety Improvement Program,” Minister for Urban Services, Bill Wood said.

“Other capital works projects funded in the 2003-2004 budget include:

- \$3m over two years for the implementation of neighbourhood improvement projects for the suburbs of Braddon, Deakin, Lyneham, O’Connor and Turner;
- \$2m towards increasing the load capacity of a number of bridges across the ACT;
- \$1.8m over two years to extend Aikman Drive from Emu Bank to Eastern Valley Way, as part of the improvement works proposed in the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan;
- \$1.1m over two years to upgrade the Kingston stormwater system;
- \$1m over two years for Lake Ginninderra Dam Protection Measures to protect it from overflowing; and
- \$0.5m to continue the program of bikepath and footpath improvements.

“The budget addresses a range of smaller projects through the Landscape Upgrade Program, providing \$0.5m towards work which improves the safety, accessibility and amenity of our city. These projects will include providing better access to park facilities for people with disabilities, providing additional walking tracks in district parks and replacing vandalised or damaged street furniture.

“A further \$0.5m will also be spent on refurbishing the laneway running between Bunda Street and City Walk, known as ‘Bible Lane’. The highly successful precinct upgrade program also continues with \$0.5m allocated for the refurbishment of Holder shops.

“The program of safety upgrades to playgrounds will also continue to ensure they meet the current high standards, with a further \$0.5m allocated for 2003/2004.

“The ACT’s sporting community is also being targeted, with the National Hockey Centre at Lyneham to receive an \$0.85m upgrade of its first sand-filled synthetic hockey field. The new field will be of the wet synthetic type, which will make it suitable for international hockey. The project will also include drainage, lighting and fencing work.



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“A further \$1m has been allocated towards continuing the upgrade program of our sportsgrounds, pools and recreation facilities. The program is likely to include (subject to tender prices):

- building changerooms at O’Connor Enclosed Oval and at Conder playing fields;
- refurbishing the pavilions at Deakin West and Woden Athletics Field;
- new training lights at Gordon playing fields and Isabella Plains Oval; and
- improvements to Dickson pool, such as landscaping, shade screens, seating and re-grouting of pool.

“Funding of \$2.4m will progress stage 2 of the construction of a new lined landfill cell at Mugga Landfill, as our projections show the current disposal area will only provide sufficient disposal capacity until early next year.”

Mr Wood said it was also necessary for the budget to address issues relating to the restoration of areas of Canberra damaged by the January firestorm. Some of this work is already underway in 2002-03.

Specific initiatives include:

- \$4.765m over four years for replacing approximately 3000 verge and parkland trees and repairing and replacing other urban landscape assets, such as shrub beds, screen plantings, sportsgrounds, line marking, street signs, bridge rails, bus shelters and street furniture;
- \$0.5m for repairing landslip problems caused by the loss of vegetation adjacent to our rural roads; and
- \$0.5m over two years for replacing kerbs, gutters, footpaths and associated works.

“Another \$0.81m over two years will go towards the removal of burnt pines and casuarinas in areas adjacent to Duffy and along the Murrumbidgee River Corridor. This initiative also provides for the management of groups of pine trees located on public open space across the city.

“The Government’s free plant issue scheme (available from the Yarralumla Nursery) will also be extended by \$0.2m over three years to cater for residents whose houses and/or gardens were destroyed by the January firestorm.

“The ACT has a proud reputation as a beautiful city and the 2003-2004 budget will enhance this image, provide increased recreational opportunities and work towards restoring the damage done by the January firestorm,” Mr Wood said.

Statement ends