



BUDGET

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Canberra 2002

*Presented on 25 June 2002 by Ted Quinlan
Treasurer of the Australian Capital Territory*



PAPER N^o. 1 SPEECH

Guide to the Budget Papers

Structure and content of the 2002-2003 Budget Papers

The 2002-2003 Budget is presented in four budget papers.

Budget Paper No 1 – 2002-2003 Budget speech

The Treasurer's speech to the Legislative Assembly highlights the Government's Budget strategies and key features of the Budget

Budget Paper No 2 – The 2002-2003 Budget at a Glance

Presents a summary of the overall budgetary position together with information on the Government's expenditure in key service delivery areas. It provides cross references to other budget papers to assist readers in locating details of specific budget measures.

Budget Paper No 3 – Budget Overview

Contains summaries of the 2002-2003 Budget and forward estimates for the general government sector, the public trading enterprise sector and the total Territory Government. Details of the projected 2002-2003 Budget results are provided, as well as background information on the development of the 2002-2003 Budget, including consultations with the community, economic conditions, and intergovernmental financial relations.

The *Appropriation Bill 2002-2003* is appended.

Budget Paper No 4 – Budget Estimates

Provides information on each department and their respective output classes, including descriptions of functions, roles and responsibilities, together with major strategic highlights. Full accrual financial information is provided for the general government sector as well as details of the Territory's public trading enterprises.

Shaping Canberra's Future

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<http://www.act.gov.au>

Telephone: Canberra 13ACT1 or 132281

**ACT Budget presented on 25 June 2002
by the Treasurer
Ted Quinlan MLA**

A Foundation for the Future

Mr Speaker

It is my singular honour to present the 2002-2003 Budget for the Australian Capital Territory.

This budget incorporates the principles and commitments on which the Government stood at the last election.

It is a budget that reflects our vision of Canberra as a strong, confident and prosperous community asserting its place in the country's affairs as the nation's capital. It is a vision of both inclusiveness and of supporting those in need.

This budget delivers on the promises we made to the citizens of Canberra. Our plan to shape Canberra's future has seven priority areas and these are being addressed through this budget. These areas are: education, health, planning, community engagement and safety, sustainability, economic growth and public service capacity.

Mr Speaker, we promised 20 new police for Canberra. This has been delivered. We promised \$27 million more to be spent within the school gate. This has been delivered. We promised an additional \$1 million for both respite and disability services and mental health. These have more than been delivered. The list is extensive.

This is a responsible Budget. It delivers a modest general government sector surplus of \$5.7 million, and across the four year budget and forward estimate period it delivers an aggregate budget surplus of \$21.2 million. It keeps Canberra "in the black" over the four year planning horizon.

The deficit predicted for 2003-2004 is, in large part, attributable to the planned introduction of a better system of land development that will generate greater revenue returns in subsequent years.

Mr Speaker, it has not been an easy Budget to prepare. The very buoyant economic conditions that gave comfort to the last couple of budgets are expected to tighten somewhat. There have been several other challenges for this Budget, and hard decisions have had to be made.

This Budget, Mr Speaker, was required to be framed within the context of modest revenue growth with which to fund a number of expenditure priorities and

pressures which can no longer be ignored. It incorporates provisions that rightly should have been included in the budget of the previous government.

Mr Speaker, since coming to Government we have been faced with a number of financial issues which the previous Government had not addressed. Issues which are not small in dollar value, or insignificant in their importance to the people of Canberra and to the running of effective government. Mr Speaker, I can only speculate as to the reasons why some matters were not provided for in the budget of 2001.

Mr Speaker, the Liberals had promised a gaol. No capital funding was provided. Labor has now picked up the tab. A planning provision of \$50 million has been set aside from the cash reserves to fund the construction of a new remand centre in 2003-2004. This is a much needed facility for Canberra, and after years of neglect, I am pleased to say that there is some concrete progress on this front.

Mr Speaker, the Liberals had committed to the funding of a medical school. No budget funding was provided. Labor has now picked up the tab and has provided both a capital and an ongoing contribution to the medical school.

The last Liberal Budget ignored the impending nurses' salary settlement, as it ignored other, very obvious, wage and salary pressures. That budget also presumed a clearly unachievable claw back in public sector superannuation. In so doing it created a legacy to be met in future years.

Losses made by CTEC and the Totalcare Quarry, and the parlous state of Disability Services pointed out by the Gallop Report, add to the pressure on this Budget delivered today.

Mr Speaker, it has become obvious that the information technology base had been neglected in terms of funding. This budget provides the largest on-going commitment to funding the cost of information technology across the public service. This budget picks up the bill for information technology modernisation that ought to have been much further advanced.

Mr Speaker, I could go on, but perhaps I will just remind Members of the costs that were dealt with by this Government in the second and third appropriation acts of 2001-2002, where the majority of items related to inherited problems.

This is an honest budget, Mr Speaker. This is a budget that is robust and financially sound.

Mr Speaker, the key principles of this Government's fiscal strategy are:

- maintenance of a balanced budget over the economic cycle;
- adequate provision for long-term liabilities;
- provision of the highest possible standard of government services, and maintenance of service levels having regard to growth and monetary inflation;
- a strategic approach to capital works programs;

- relative conservatism in investment policies;
- maintenance of a low level of debt; and
- retention of a high international credit rating.

This Government is committed to these principles and will, over our first term, ensure that each of these is promoted.

Mr Speaker, this Government asked the Assembly Standing Committees to participate in the process of identifying service delivery and service prioritisation outcomes for the 2002-2003 Budget. The six Standing Committees made a total of eleven recommendations and two conclusions. Today I also table the Government's response to those Committee reports.

Employment and the Economic Outlook

Mr Speaker, I turn now to the economic outlook. While output has been down on expectations during 2001-2002, demand in the ACT has been far more buoyant than originally expected. State Final Demand for 2001-2002 is now expected to grow by 4.1%, compared with the previous Budget estimate of 3.0%.

Household consumption growth has exceeded expectations as consumers have taken advantage of low real interest rates and substantially increased their use of revolving credit.

Public consumption, which is predominantly Commonwealth Government expenditure, has also increased more than expected.

Private investment rebounded strongly this year supported by dwelling investment as a consequence of lower interest rates and the First Home Owner Scheme. This is reflected in building approvals and housing finance commitments, which are both well up in year-to-date average terms.

In 2002-03, growth in State Final Demand is forecast to slow to 2.8% as higher interest rates and lower growth in public expenditure impact on demand. Beyond 2002-03, moderate growth in demand is forecast based on moderate growth in public consumption and subdued growth in private consumption.

Mr Speaker, the pattern of employment growth in the ACT is more volatile than that for Australia due to the size of our labour market and our narrow employment base which is greatly influenced by the public sector.

Employment in the ACT grew by 2.7% in 2000-01 in year average terms, reaching record levels in the process. Employment levels were well down for the first seven months of 2001-02 but have been increasing since.

Notwithstanding this recovery, the extent of the earlier decline means that employment levels are not expected to grow in this financial year.

The revised outlook for 2001-02 is a considerable downward revision on last year's budget estimate of 1.3%. The decline in employment was evidenced mainly

in tourism, hospitality and related sectors. This is attributed to the collapse of Ansett and the lengthy recess of the Commonwealth Parliament in the period prior to and after the Federal election.

Employment in 2002-03 is expected to recover and grow at 1.0%, and is forecast to remain at or around this rate of growth for the next few years. This reflects a return to more normal conditions, however, employment will remain dependent on public expenditure growth.

This budget contributes to jobs growth. In the public sector there will be some churn, but the overall impact will be increased public sector jobs.

Mr Speaker, I will now turn to our priority areas.

Education

Mr Speaker, education is of strategic importance to Canberra and a key investment in our future. That is why this Government has delivered on its promise to invest a further \$27 million into Education over the period of this Budget. This is on top of maintaining per capita funding to education in real terms.

Mr Speaker, this Government will provide funding of \$1.2 million to reduce year three class sizes in government schools and will ensure children in our primary schools are given a solid start in their education. This will also mean that fifty-five additional teachers will be employed to achieve these class size reductions, an additional forty in 2003 and a further fifteen in 2004. A further \$1 million of capital funding will be provided for additional demountable classrooms.

The needs of adolescents in Government high schools are also being addressed, particularly those at risk of not achieving satisfactory outcomes. Funding is being allocated for high school development and for a review of counselling and career services.

Information technology in schools is also receiving a high priority, with \$1.68 million provided over 4 years for the lap-tops for teachers program. A further \$1.06 million has also been allocated to upgrade general information technology capacity across Government schools. The expansion of information technology capacity of Catholic systemic schools will also be enhanced by the provision of a \$250,000 per annum grant.

This Budget also provides capital funding for the construction of a new primary and high school in Gungahlin.

Not all of the \$27 million election commitment has been committed in this Budget. A provision has been made to allow future initiatives to come forward and it is this Government's hope that there will be a number of worthwhile proposals coming forward from forums such as the Inquiry into ACT Education Funding, and other forums where the community has input.

Health

Mr Speaker, a quality public health service is essential. Labor will address the health care of those with the greatest need.

This is a strong Budget for Health. This Budget delivers on our promises to increase resources in the areas of mental health, disabilities and respite care.

This budget provides funding of \$1.4 million for mental health. Additional health professionals will be provided to increase the service capacity of the ACT Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Funding of \$2.1 million over four years will also be provided for the Adolescent Mental Health Day program.

This Government will spend an additional \$1.1 million for services to allow carers of people with disabilities, mental health and the frail aged to access respite care services. \$300,000 of growth monies will be provided for psycho-geriatric services.

Finally, funding on indigenous health will be boosted with additional funding of \$170,000 for the Indigenous Youth Drug Project – a project to develop indigenous specific detoxification beds with mainstream service support.

This Government made an immediate assessment of the state of the finances in relation to The Canberra Hospital shortly after coming to Government and acted quickly to address the previous Government's funding shortfall. We honoured our election commitment to provide an additional \$8.7 million in 2001-02 and the Budget year and an additional \$6 million per annum across the forward years.

Mr Speaker, this Budget will allocate funding of \$616,000 over four years from Health growth funds for psychosocial support services for cancer clients. This program will support people newly diagnosed or waiting confirmation of a cancer diagnosis, people who are survivors of cancer and bereaved families.

Funding of \$1.030 million over four years will also be provided from Health growth funds for additional haematology services at The Canberra Hospital. The program will provide comprehensive cancer services for patients from the ACT and region and will support the treatment of additional patients in line with the demand for services which continues to grow as a result of the increased rates of cancer. This funding is a commitment by the Government, foreshadowed at the time of the election, to the provision of a range of excellent services for people with cancer in the Territory.

The growth in the need for radiotherapy services is also funded, with \$1.356 million over four years for additional radiotherapists and growth in the services of radiation specialists. This program will support a comprehensive cancer service in the ACT, well placed to meet the growing demand for services, which again continues the Government's commitment to address staffing issues in critical areas of health service provision in Canberra.

Mr Speaker, the structure and governance of the ACT health system has been reviewed and informed by the findings of the Inquiry into Disability Services and the Reid Review. Only last week we announced the creation of a new Department for the provision of disability, community services and housing.

From 1 July 2002, the new Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services will take over the functions of the Office of Disability and Disability Services. Housing will also transfer from the Department of Urban Services, and a number of functions will transfer from the Department of Education and Community Services. The management of home-based palliative care, currently in Community Care, will be moved to the ACT Hospice, which is operated by Calvary Health Care.

Planning

Mr Speaker, Labor is committed to a strategic, integrated vision for a sustainable Canberra. We will consult and collaborate with Canberrans to develop this vision which involves a strategic planning framework. We will target outcomes such as sustainable redevelopment within inner Canberra, a balanced land supply and use, and sustainable transport systems. An independent planning authority will be created that works to protect the garden city image of Canberra. Quality redevelopment design will be actively promoted.

The Government has already started on this priority area, with \$1.830 million provided per annum for the implementation of a number of planning initiatives including establishment of an Independent Planning Authority; Community Advisory Panels; a secretariat for all Neighbourhood Planning Groups; master planning programs for neighbourhood plans and local centres, and establishment of a Planning Appeals Commission to replace the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

This Budget provides a further \$350,000 for the development of the strategic planning framework and the Strategic Spatial Plan. The Plan will inform other decision-making processes by setting a vision for the next 25-30 years, based on community expectations and concerns. It will be a flexible working document with a built-in review process, integrating other strategies of the Government, including economic and social plans.

From 2002-03, land development will occur through a mixed program of full Government development and public/private partnerships. In the early years there will also be a program of selling some estates with a higher level of planning for private sector development.

Community Engagement and Safety

Mr Speaker, this Government is committed to promote Canberra as a safe place to live and work.

This Government promised 20 new police for the Territory. This budget provides funding to achieve that goal. The Government has also acted quickly to address the urgent need for improvement in remand facilities. The periodic detention

centre will be upgraded to a temporary remand facility and additional custodial and program delivery staff will be employed to operate the upgraded facility. An additional 30 beds for remandees will be provided. Additional funding of \$7.1 million will be provided over the next 4 years to achieve this long overdue improvement.

Mr Speaker, this Government has a strong commitment to cultural diversity. Language skills and cultural understanding are particularly important in helping people from diverse backgrounds become contributing members of the community. This Government is providing \$208,000 over four years for a new grant program to assist in the operation of community language schools in the ACT. We will also provide \$416,000 over four years in grants to support multicultural community broadcasters and community radio stations to provide programs of interest in community languages.

Mr Speaker, this Government is eager to foster a vibrant, diverse community with high rates of community participation. Central to this will be our commitment to supporting the Arts.

Mr Speaker, this will be a welcome budget for the Arts in the Territory. This budget restores the \$800,000 funding to the National Institute of the Arts that was slashed by the previous Government. This will provide for a wide range of services to the community, including music education programs in primary and secondary schools and colleges. It will provide support for professional orchestral programs and art and new media activities in public places.

Innovative projects in the arts will also benefit from this Budget. Additional funding of \$1.764 million over four years will be provided to further develop arts programs such as the “Cutting Edge” initiative, enhancing the role of major local arts organisations and presenting a new program of artworks in public places.

A Sustainable Canberra

Mr Speaker, this Government is committed to achieving a balanced approach to meeting economic, social and environmental goals. We will preserve the things that Canberrans love about the Territory and enhance our legacy to future generations. Sustainability can not be achieved overnight – it requires a long term approach, one that builds on experience and an expanding knowledge base.

This Government has moved quickly on this priority with the establishment of the Office of Sustainability. The Office has already begun work to ensure that sustainability will be incorporated into all government programs and initiatives. The concept of sustainability will feature in our key strategic plans – the Economic White Paper, the Social Plan and the Spatial Plan.

We have also provided funding of \$1.2 million for solar hot-water rebates and other greenhouse initiatives and additional funding for nature conservation of \$1.5 million over three years.

This Budget continues the contribution towards producing the State of the Environment Report. Additional funding of \$0.375 million will be provided over 4 years.

An important part of a sustainable Canberra is our public transport system. As promised, the Government has introduced single zone travel for ACTION bus patrons. A Sustainable Transport Plan will be undertaken to develop a comprehensive transport strategy to serve the ACT to the year 2020. The Strategy will include, amongst a number of things, public transport, new parking arrangements, bicycles, pedestrians, roads, and land use and transport integration.

The introduction of pay parking into Belconnen and Tuggeranong is an important part of the Government's transport strategy, which is designed to provide incentives to encourage transport through modes other than the private car. This complements single zone bus fares being introduced in ACTION.

This initiative will also make parking arrangements in Belconnen and Tuggeranong consistent with other major centres in the ACT.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this Budget will fund the purchase of a number of new buses, which demonstrates the Government's ongoing commitment to improve the accessibility of buses over a 20 year period. Funding of \$17.2 million will be provided over 5 years for this purpose.

This Government has provided a significant increase in the base funding of ACTION to address cost pressures that are being faced by ACTION. Major items include rising insurance premiums, the cost of purchasing spare parts from overseas, a new requirement to pay for bus registration and overall raising of the base funding to a sustainable level. Of course, efficiencies will be expected over the next four years, with the level of funding reducing in the last two years reflecting efficiencies that have been identified in an independent consultant's report.

Business Development

Mr Speaker, the Economic White Paper will provide a forward-looking strategic approach to the sectors that we should be nurturing and those areas in most need of attention. Mr Speaker, this is a key document for the Territory, one that is essential for us if we are to maintain the vibrancy and standard of living that we all currently enjoy. It is a simple fact that we need sustainable economic growth to do this.

It is also worthwhile to highlight the fact that the White Paper will represent a significant first for the Territory, reflecting the Government's approach to long term planning which is in stark contrast to the Liberal's haphazard approach to economic development.

Business programs have been reviewed and restructured in this Budget, to redirect resources towards areas of growing priority; and to prune tired programs. In particular, we have made every effort to ensure support for the key growth

theme promoted in last year's election campaign - the ACT's accelerating transition to a knowledge-based economy.

Including all administrative costs and estimated payroll tax exemptions, the Government will allocate some \$44 million in 2002-03 to business-related programs in the economic development portfolio, a significant increase on 2001-02.

The Knowledge Fund is the centrepiece of our new business initiatives, and will address the full range of commercialisation problems for existing businesses and start-up companies that promise technological development and job growth in the ACT.

Mr Speaker, employment growth is a priority for this Government. We have allocated \$500,000 over two years to assist small businesses make the leap to employ their first staff member. The obligations that go with hiring an employee can be daunting at first, and the Government believes that this initiative will generate up to 500 new jobs.

Mr Speaker, it is important to us that we are seen as a destination of choice for business in relation to conventions. Canberra has much to offer. The Government is actively pursuing alternatives for the development of convention facilities that would best suit and promote Canberra as a convention destination.

Tourism is also an important industry for the ACT. It directly contributes about \$1.1 billion of visitor expenditure into our economy each year. This Budget provides funding of \$200,000 per annum for the National Capital Education Tourism Project, a successful program attracting schools to visit Canberra and the ACT as part of their school curriculum.

The Capital Works program also contains \$135,000 for the upgrade of the Visitor Information Centre on Northbourne Avenue.

Rebuilding Capacity

Mr Speaker, this Government is committed to investing in the Public Service – the staff and the infrastructure – to ensure that the community's expectations of the public service are met. We will revitalise the public service, giving it the respect and confidence to undertake its vital role, targeting outcomes such as: a skilled and innovative public service; governance and accountability frameworks; and evidence based policy development.

Mr Speaker, this Budget will fund a number of overdue information technology initiatives that have been neglected in past Budgets. InTACT will receive \$10.1 million in funding in 2002-03 for a number of fundamental projects such as server replacements, local area network replacements, and information security. Mr Speaker, these are bread and butter projects, aimed at just maintaining the capacity and integrity of our information technology platform.

The Budget also provides funding for upgrading two of the Government's fundamental business systems: PERSPECT, personal and related payroll system, and the whole of government Oracle Government Financial System. These are fundamental systems for the effective running of Government.

Mr Speaker, this Budget incorporates the benefits of a number of savings programs across most departments. This includes the cessation or winding back of a number of initiatives introduced by the previous Government. The Government will be introducing improved budgetary frameworks for the more rigorous assessment of public expenditure across the public service. The need for sound decision-making, processes and procedures in relation to the use of tax-payer dollars has been highlighted in a number of Auditor-General reports over the past years. There is always room for improvement and it is my intention to improve financial rigour over the term of this Government.

Against a background of flat revenue growth, this Government will be placing more emphasis on the cost effectiveness of all programs across Government rather than the marginal distribution of "surplus" funds. To assist in this, we will be forming an Expenditure Review Committee with the broad charter to:

- examine the funding base and outputs of Government programs for cost effectiveness;
- examine the financial status of new initiatives, prior to such initiatives entering into the budget process; and
- identify and possibly consolidate programs delivered across a number of agencies.

Mr Speaker, this Committee will develop a rolling program of reviews for the next three years and will go to ensure that the provision of Government services to the community is always done as efficiently as possible.

Mr Speaker, \$1.077 million will be provided over the next four years to address increased workloads within the Property and Commercial, and Litigation areas of the Government Solicitor's Office. The Director of Public Prosecutions will also receive indexed base funding of \$165,000 per annum to address significant increases in workload.

Capital Works

Mr Speaker, let me turn briefly to the 2002-2003 Capital Works program. This Budget contains a Capital Works program to the value of \$91.2 million, with \$56 million to be spent in 2002-2003. This program is both responsible and manageable in the light of last year's drive to commit every available cent.

The expected gross capital expenditure for 2002-2003 is anticipated to be \$141.4 million when planned work in progress and underachievement in 2001-2002 are taken into account.

This new works program will maintain investment in making the city attractive and the standard of our facilities high. It will also invest in providing much needed new facilities.

This program provides \$735,000 for the Arts, the majority of which will be spent on the maintenance of our arts facilities. The Supreme Court Building will undergo disabled access works of \$1.4 million. The Traffic Congestion and Road Safety Improvement Program will continue, with \$34.4 million to be spent in 2002-2003.

In relation to new facilities, the Budget provides two new schools, a new Woden Police Station, and a \$50 million planning provision for a much needed new remand facility.

Superannuation

Mr Speaker, I turn now to the issue of superannuation. One of the key financial principles of this Government's fiscal strategy is for adequate provision for long term liabilities. The Budget provides for additional cash over and above that set aside in previous Budgets.

An additional \$18.8 million will be provided in 2002-2003, rising to an additional \$25.4 million in 2005-2006. Mr Speaker, this provides for two things. The first is to provide for the increase in the liability that was not included in the previous budget on the assumption that the PSS scheme would be closed to new entrants. The second is to provide for supplementation of funds due to the poor investment return in 2001-2002.

This continues the strategy of having 90% of the Territory's superannuation liabilities funded by the year 2039-2040.

Taxation and Revenue Changes

Mr Speaker, in formulating the Budget, the Government has quite sensibly examined the current tax base, the general share and capacity of various sectors to contribute to government revenue as well as the forecast economic indicators affecting future revenue collections. The revenue initiatives announced in this Budget will assist the Government to maintain the revenue capacity to continue funding essential services and new spending initiatives, while maintaining a competitive tax system in the ACT.

The Government aims to improve the fairness and progressiveness of the ACT tax system by minimising the additional tax burden on the less well off sectors of the community.

From 1 July 2002, the rates of duty on conveyancing will increase to generally match the combined mortgage duty and conveyances duty imposed in NSW and other jurisdictions. The new rates will have minimal impacts on properties at or below average ACT house prices.

The payroll tax revenue will increase marginally in 2002-03, due to the changes applied to the value of fringe benefits and the inclusion of the definition of eligible termination payments in the payroll base. Again, the majority of ACT small and medium businesses will not be affected, as they remain tax free, or well below the national average, under the tax threshold of \$1.25 million, which is the most generous in Australia.

Land tax exemption currently available to properties held by companies and trusts will also be reduced. This will provide greater equity in the land tax regime and lessen opportunities for tax avoidance. Exemptions will still be available for various trusts set up for compassionate purposes and for companies and trusts held by builders and developers for construction purposes.

In recent years, while residential land valuation has increased significantly, land valuation for the non-residential sector has remained stable, despite strong economic indicators and strong profitability experienced by most businesses. Non-residential properties will pay marginally increased land tax rates, partly to restore the contribution of the business sector to the land tax base.

It is to be remembered that, despite significant increases in land values, all General Rate increases were pegged at CPI. This represents a considerable saving for all property owners.

Last year the Territory Government provided \$30 million towards the Workers' Compensation Supplementation Fund as a result of the HIH collapse. The total outstanding liability of the fund is around \$61 million. The previous Government had also proposed a levy on workers' compensation premiums this year, in order to fund the remaining burden, following similar action in some other jurisdictions. The Government has decided not to apply a levy this year. This should save the average ACT business around \$150 in premiums. Legislation will, however, be introduced later this year to allow for a levy, with a final decision on the size to be made later in 2002-03.

The increase of motor vehicle registration fees and the introduction of pay parking in Belconnen and Tuggeranong are integral to the Government's transport strategy, which is designed to provide incentives to encourage transport through modes other than private cars.

It is important to highlight Mr Speaker, that the revenue measures contained in this budget are far outweighed by the very significant increases in the services this Government will provide to the people of Canberra. In short Mr Speaker, the money is being well spent.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, this is a robust, responsible Budget. It is a Budget that delivers on our promises.

Yes, it contains a few, very moderate tax increases. But it addresses genuine need in our community. It seeks to help those in most need of help.

Mr Speaker, this budget contains no new borrowings.

It has been constructed under the handicap of a need to incorporate millions of dollars in commitments that truly ought have been included in the budget of 2001-2002.

It has a level of capital works, and provisions for business stimulation, that will ensure that Canberra continues to grow in economic strength.

I commend the 2002-2003 Budget to the Assembly.