

STRONG DIVERSE ECONOMY

The 2012-13 Budget strengthens our economy and builds on Canberra's comparative advantages in government services, education, research and development, and tourism. The Budget includes measures to support technology based industries, business development, affordable housing and marketing the city.

The 2012-13 Budget will deliver or achieve:

Economic Development Policy

- › Implementation of the Affordable Housing Action Plan – including Phase III
- › An update to the ACT Government Infrastructure Plan and two Construction Snapshots

Business Development

- › Implementation of the Business Development Strategy
- › 720 employer sponsored migrants certified
- › 20 Innovation Connect successful grant applications
- › 550 Canberra BusinessPoint one to many advisory services

Land Release

- › 19,500 residential land releases over four years including 5,000 in 2012-13
- › 20% of residential dwellings in greenfield estates are affordable releases
- › 400,000 square metres of commercial land released over four years

Tourism

- › Increased awareness of the Capital Region as a tourist destination
- › 800,000 visits to the 'visitcanberra' website

Venues and Events

- › 23 major events at Canberra Stadium, 4 at Manuka Oval and 6 at Stromlo Forest Park

New Expenditure Initiatives

The 2012-13 Budget includes:

**\$10
MILLION**

grant and \$2 million in payroll tax waivers over next four years to National ICT Australia for information and communications technology research and the commercialisation of business products;

**\$2.6
MILLION**

over two years for developing a city brand to market Canberra nationally and internationally in a consistent and creative way;

**\$0.1
MILLION**

over two years to the Canberra Convention Bureau for marketing activities, including the G20 and attracting sporting tournaments and events;

**\$0.6
MILLION**

over two years to implement the Affordable Housing Action Plan Phase III to continue the Government's commitment to delivering more affordable housing to Canberrans;

**\$0.2
MILLION**

to assist small licensed clubs, with the planning costs associated with the potential redevelopment of their sites; and

**\$0.3
MILLION**

over two years for the Medicare Change of Address campaign which encourages people who have moved from interstate to change their Medicare address to the ACT.



NEW INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A STRONG ECONOMY

The 2012-13 Budget invests in infrastructure to support jobs and the economy.

New Capital Initiatives

- › \$0.5 million for design of stormwater infrastructure to enable land release.
- › \$75.6 million for further infrastructure in Molonglo, including the John Gorton Drive extension and, the first stage of the Riverside Park, the Uriarra Road upgrade, trunk sewer and stormwater, a pedestrian bridge, and paths.
- › \$11.5 million for extending Horse Park Drive from Burrumarra Avenue to Mirrabai Drive to improve traffic flows and provide access to Moncreiff and the future suburb of Taylor.
- › \$10.5 million for the construction of three signalised intersections in North Weston to support expected traffic associated with new development in Molonglo and North Weston.
- › \$1.0 million for design of the Cotter Road Duplication Stage 2 - Yarralumla Creek Bridge to Tuggeranong Parkway.
- › \$1.5 million for the design of the duplication of Gundaroo Drive between Mirrabai Drive and the Barton Highway to provide safer and more efficient traffic movement for local residents.
- › \$1.0 million for the design to duplicate William Slim Drive between the Barton Highway and Ginninderra Drive. This duplication will improve traffic flows and road safety and decrease travel time for motorists.

Supporting Business

The ACT Government will continue to be responsive to new economic challenges and support business. The Government remains focused on sound business policy and prudent fiscal management to drive business opportunities, growth and jobs. Taxation reforms will make the ACT a better place in which to conduct business.

- › *Growth, Diversification and Jobs - A Business Development Strategy for the ACT*, which supports small to medium enterprises and seeks to broaden the role of the private sector in the Territory economy, is being implemented. The Strategy focuses on creating an environment that supports business, innovation, investment and employment growth - \$5 million.
- › The payroll tax threshold will increase from \$1.5 million to \$1.75 million from July 2012. The current rate of 6.85 per cent is being maintained. This will ensure that the ACT has one of the most competitive payroll tax rates in the country.
- › The commercial component of land tax is being abolished and transferred to commercial rates. These changes will reduce administration costs for business.