



## ACT Government

# 2003-2004 BUDGET

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### PROTECTING THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY AGAINST TERROR ATTACKS

The Stanhope Government has taken action to protect the Canberra community and infrastructure with the funding of a Security Risk Assessment in the 2003-04 Budget.

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said his Government would engage a Security Coordinator for 12 months to identify and undertake risk assessments of critical infrastructure in the ACT. The Security Risk Assessment aims to identify and prioritise all critical infrastructure and government facilities in the ACT on the basis of risk from terrorist attack and to develop appropriate security arrangements to minimise that risk and the impact of any attack.

“The Security Coordinator will develop security measures for the protection of Canberra’s infrastructure from any terrorist attack and provide for additional consultancy services to undertake a detailed security audit of government facilities.

“This important Budget initiative is a fundamental requirement of the National Counter Terrorism Plan (NCTP), which is part of Australia’s National Counter Terrorism Arrangements and endorsed by all states and territories.

“Funding for the position has been made available immediately so we can proceed quickly with the identification and risk assessment of critical infrastructure in the ACT,” Mr Stanhope said.

“This infrastructure includes Canberra’s electricity, gas and water supplies, hospitals and health services, transport and distribution systems, and significant public events and entertainment areas.

“In addition, a detailed security audit of government facilities is required to ensure the maintenance of key Government services,” said Mr Stanhope.

This new Risk Assessment Program will complement the development and enhancement of counter terrorism arrangements in the ACT, consistent with all other jurisdictions. The NCTP was developed in full consultation with all relevant agencies in the ACT, being the Australian Federal Police, Emergency Services, Chief Minister’s Department and ACT Health.

Relevant agencies will be consulted in determining critical infrastructure and facilities, and their vulnerabilities, and will be required to implement necessary security provisions.

The Stanhope Government has allocated \$195,000 in the Budget for the Security Program, which consists of twelve months salary and on-costs for a senior officer position and the cost of consultancy services.

**Statement Ends.**



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