



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

ACT GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO A SUSTAINABLE BUSH CAPITAL

The ACT Government is committed to a sustainable bush capital in the new millennium and is honouring its election promises by funding:

- \$1.5m for a range of nature conservation initiatives this year and over the next three years,
- \$1.219m for solar hot water rebates this year and over the next three years, and
- a 25 per cent rebate for householders who install cavity wall insulation funded over a three year period by \$138,000 from the ACT Government, \$108,000 from the Commonwealth Government and \$214,000 from local insulator Just Rite Insulation.

“This budget contains a range of initiatives that are aimed at directly improving Canberra’s environment, and assists community groups to play a hands on role caring for our local flora and fauna,” Urban Services Minister Bill Wood said.

“The ACT Government is also reviewing the ACT Greenhouse Strategy and will conduct a local community awareness campaign to show individuals and households how they can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

“Further environmental initiatives will receive funding through the capital budget, including:

- \$150,000 to undertake exotic weed control, particularly priority weeds such as blackberry and willow;
- \$100,000 to develop a recreational master plan for Jerrabomberra Wetlands to protect the Wetlands’ natural heritage significance; and
- \$100,000 for rural fencing and surveying to protect the ACT’s river corridors.

“The ACT Government continues to encourage community participation and environmental partnerships by providing funding to assist a number of peak community groups such as the Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra, the Canberra and South East Region Environment Centre, and the RSPCA.

“This Government will also assist an even wider range of community groups through the ACT Environment and Heritage Grants programs. We will continue to work with the Commonwealth on Stage 2 of the Natural Heritage Trust, matching the Commonwealth’s investment in addressing targeted natural resource management issues.

“Energy consumption continues to be a target with a whole of Government Energy Report allowing us, for the first time, to analyse trends in energy consumption both at whole of Government and individual agency level.

Media Release



AUSTRALIAN
LABOR
PARTY

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“The Government is also keen to ensure more efficient energy use in commercial buildings and will assist medium to large sized commercial enterprises to enter into energy performance contracts.

“Waste issues are also being addressed, primarily through the next steps in the No Waste by 2010 strategy.

“Extra funding of \$1.334 million has been allocated to renew the contract for local kerbside recycling which will streamline the service and help to facilitate expanding the range of materials which can be deposited in the yellow lidded bins.

“Tip charges have been adjusted as an incentive for people to reduce the amount of waste they deposit at landfills, and encourage greater use of recycling facilities in the ACT.”

The non-commercial levy has been adjusted so that people will pay \$6 for small loads (less than a boot), \$12 for medium loads (box trailer size) and \$18 for large loads (caged trailers / horse floats).

These charges, which will commence in August 2002, relate to the size of the load itself, rather than the size of the vehicle carrying the load which is currently the case.

“This new charging system will encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle, and help us move towards our goal of No Waste by 2010.”

“The next financial year will see the ACT Government investing more in the environment to achieve a truly sustainable bush capital.”

Statement ends 25 June 2002