



# ACT Government

## 2002-2003 BUDGET

### MAKING CANBERRA AN EVEN BETTER PLACE

The ACT Government is focusing on making Canberra an even better place in the 2002/2003 budget, with \$86 million of capital works funding allocated for a range of Urban Services projects aimed at meeting the needs of Canberra's growing population.

"As part of this major funding package, \$34 million has been allocated under the Traffic Congestion and Road Safety Improvement Program to maintain and improve the ACT's road network," Mr Wood said.

Mr Wood said major projects funded in the 2002/2003 budget include:

- Construction of Horsepark Drive between Gundaroo Drive and the Federal Highway
- Duplication of Drakeford Drive between Erindale Drive and Isabella Drive
- Duplication of William Hovell Drive between Coulter Drive and Bindubi Street
- Upgrade of Barry Drive between Clunies Ross and Marcus Clarke Streets
- Duplication of the Barton Highway (part federally funded)
- Planning and Design of the Gungahlin Drive Extension
- Upgrade of the Majura Road

All projects are scheduled to be completed in 2002/2003 except the duplication of William Hovell Drive, which is due for completion the following year.

Mr Wood said cyclists would also benefit from a number of projects being funded in the 2002/2003 budget, including on-road cycling facilities from Dickson to Woden and improved cycling infrastructure in Woden.

The Commonwealth Government's *Roads to Recovery Program* project to provide on-road cycling facilities along Belconnen Way and Barry Drive will also be completed in 2002/2003.

"These improvements for cyclists, coupled with the funding allocated for the upgrade and construction of a number of major roads across the ACT, represent the Labor Government's commitment to improving Canberra's road network, reducing traffic congestion and improving safety for all road users," Mr Wood said.

"Enhancing suburban shopping centres is also a priority in this budget, with \$1.2 million allocated for refurbishments at Higgins and Mawson and \$250,000 for forward design works at Holt, Ainslie and Garran.

"The program of safety upgrades to playgrounds will also continue to ensure they continue to meet the current high standards, with a further \$500,000 allocated for 2002/2003.



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*Inquiries: Tim Benson (02) 62050300(w) or 0402 900 402(m)*

Media Release

“A total of \$500,000 has been allocated for the Belconnen Lakeshore Refurbishment project to progress the design phase, with works expected to start in the following financial year subject to budget availability.

“The ACT’s libraries are also set for a facelift under the Libraries Improvement Program, with \$500,000 in funding over the coming 12 months for refurbishments at a number of libraries, including the Griffith Library and continued planning for the Link Library project in Civic Square.

“An additional \$385,000 will be spent on a major refurbishment to the 22-year old Erindale Library, which will improve public areas within the library and address a number of OH&S issues.

“A major upgrade of the Chisholm Sporting Oval will take place in 2002/2003, with \$370,000 provided for improvements including new pavilion facilities for spectators and players, a new turf wicket, enhanced training facilities and a picket boundary fence.

“The project is a partnership with the Tuggeranong Valley Cricket Club and the Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Union and Amateur Sports club.

“Funding of \$2.4 million has been allocated to progress stage 1 of a project to construct a new lined landfill cell at Mugga Landfill, as our projections show that the current disposal area will only provide sufficient disposal capacity until early 2004,” Mr Wood said.

Mr Wood said the Stanhope Government’s commitment to providing a high standard of customer service is a focus of the budget, with Canberra Connect – the Government’s main customer service contact point – to receive a base funding increase of \$0.819 million to continue to provide a high level of customer service to the community.

“The Nation’s Capital has a reputation as one of the best cities in Australia – the 2002/2003 budget represents the ACT Government’s commitment to making Canberra an even better place to live,” Mr Wood said.

**Statement ends 25 June 2002**