



ACT Government

# A Cleaner, Greener Bush Capital

Embargoed until 1 May 2001

The ACT Government is focussing on making Canberra 'cleaner and greener' in the 2001-2002 Budget with a range of initiatives and capital works designed to build on the progress and achievements made in previous years.

"This Budget contains a number of initiatives that are aimed directly at improving our local environment - protecting trees in the ACT, reducing greenhouse gases, removing environmental weeds and improving recycling among the ACT community. These measures encourage the Canberra community to play a hands-on role in caring for our environment now and into the future," ACT Urban Services Minister Brendan Smyth said today.

"We know that protecting our bush capital is very important to the Canberra community. The establishment of a Significant Tree Register in the ACT by this Government over the coming year will ensure that trees on that register will be protected against felling, removal, ringbarking, lopping, topping, poisoning or other harmful activities," Mr Smyth said.

"Funding has been allocated to establish the Interim Tree Protection Scheme which is in place. Public consultation on the Policy has started and will continue over the next few months, and I urge all Canberrans with an interest in protecting our trees and the ACT's green image to be a part of it.

"Implementing greenhouse gas emission reduction measures set down in the ACT Greenhouse Strategy will continue with \$180,000 allocated to a range of projects in 2001-02. The Government will provide assistance to small and medium sized businesses to identify energy reduction options, initiate an awareness campaign on how the community can help to reduce greenhouse gases and commence a pilot project to demonstrate the savings from using energy efficient lighting.

"The ACT Government's No Waste by 2010 Strategy has been well-received by the community. As Canberrans have continued to embrace recycling, the volume of garden waste being accepted has increased. An additional \$310,000 will be provided in the coming year for the processing of garden waste accepted at Mugga Lane and West Belconnen landfills.

"In just five years, the ACT Government's exotic weed control plan has seen invasive willow species eradicated from all reserve land with significant progress in adjacent rural areas, Orroral Valley, Tidbinbilla Valley and the upper reaches of the Naas and Gudgenby Rivers. Weed control will continue this year with \$150,000 allocated to exotic weed removal.

"A new Sustainable Catchments capital works program (\$100,000) has also been initiated to continue important on-ground work addressing environmental degradation problems. Projects will be developed in consultation with ACT Government land managers, Landcare groups and representatives of the rural community.

**ACT Budget 2001-02**

"Maintaining and protecting our bush capital is a priority for this Government and the 2001-02 Budget continues to build on the environmental improvements and achievements we have concentrated on over the last few years," Mr Smyth said.

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**Statement ends Tuesday 1 May 2001**

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