



A Sustainable Future

The Government has built a sustainable future for Canberra. The Territory's finances have been managed responsibly and the Government has created a business environment that supports economic growth. The Government has moved quickly to introduce measures to alleviate the impact of climate change in the ACT and protect the security of our water supplies. Building a sustainable community has also been a priority.

ACHIEVEMENTS

As a result of funding measures that further support a sustainable future for Canberra, the Government:

- has a suite of actions that address climate change and is committed to a 60 per cent reduction in emissions by 2050, allocating \$100 million over ten years under its climate change strategy *Weathering the Change*;
- has taken action to secure the Territory's future water supply through a range of measures, including enlarging the Cotter Dam, increasing the volume of water transferred from the Murrumbidgee River to Googong Dam and designing a water purification plant;
- now has 54 per cent of its land as protected reserves, committing more land to Nature Reserves including at Goorooyarroo and Callum Brae; and
- diverted three quarters of its waste from landfill in 2006-07. In 2006, the ACT also had the highest proportion of households that recycle waste at 99.7 per cent.

ACT BUDGET 2008-09 – READY FOR THE FUTURE

The 2008-09 Budget continues the Government's aim of a sustainable future for the people of Canberra by:

- providing \$100 million for initiatives aimed at meeting the challenges of climate change through the *Building the Future* Investment Program;
- further supporting our urban forests to ensure they are maintained and replaced, with one million trees to be planted over ten years;
- planting ten new forests in Canberra's International Arboretum and Gardens;
- funding an ACT Kangaroo Action Plan to ensure that our native fauna can be managed properly;
- installing a predator-proof fence at Mulligan's Flat to maintain the natural ecosystem within the nature reserve;
- funding a Climate Change Adaptation Research Centre with the ANU to direct world-class expertise to the climate change issues facing the Territory;
- providing significant funding to strengthen waste management services in the ACT, including planning, operation and maintenance, and the construction of additional regional recycling drop-off centres; and
- improving our existing landfill sites to ensure the impact of waste disposal on the environment is reduced.





FACTSHEET No: 10

ACT BUDGET 2008-09 INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE	WHAT DO THESE INITIATIVES DELIVER FOR THE FUTURE?
\$16.3 million over four years for tree plantings as part of the <i>One Million Trees</i> initiative, the urban forest replacement program and the reinvigoration of recreational areas.	This will ensure Canberra's urban forests and bush setting is maintained, with over one million trees planted over ten years to achieve climate change initiatives.
\$11.3 million to cover increased water costs for maintaining town and district parks, trees and shrubs, urban open spaces and sportsgrounds.	This will see that Canberra's town and district parks, trees and shrubs, urban open spaces and sportsgrounds are effectively maintained.
<p>\$6.1 million over four years to care for our natural environment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.9 million for Caring for our Country complementary investment; • \$150,000 for supplementary funding to Tidbinbilla; • \$440,000 for protection of high conservation areas; • \$2.2 million for the Sanctuary at Tidbinbilla and Birrigai enhancement; and • \$948,000 for the establishment of new reserves. 	<p>The ACT's natural environment continues to be protected, valued and enjoyed.</p> <p>This will support the ACT's participation in the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country program which will integrate delivery of the Commonwealth's existing natural resource management programs.</p> <p>This funding will assist Conservation Volunteers Australia provide services and programs at Tidbinbilla.</p> <p>This initiative comes out of the ACT Climate Change Strategy (Action 34). It will enable the implementation of strategic off-reserve conservation programs, improving the ability of high conservation areas to adapt to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Additional visitor attractions including a tree-top walk and an enhanced Aboriginal Learning and Presentation area will be provided at the Sanctuary. The project will also deliver a joint Management and Business Plan for a combined Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and Birrigai Outdoor School.</p> <p>This will bring together Kinleyside, Jerrabomberra East, Kama South and Jedbinbilla into one nature reserve system using best practice conservation management to ensure the natural and cultural values of these sites are protected as a community asset.</p>
\$3.9 million over four years for Switch Your Thinking (water, energy and waste programs).	Canberrans are better educated about steps they can take to reduce their waste and usage of water and electricity.
<p>\$18.5 million over four years for waste management including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12.1 million over four years for waste contract services; • \$2.5 million over four years for waste management planning, operations and maintenance; • \$230,000 over four years for national waste initiatives (including intergovernmental obligations); and • \$3.6 million over four years for remediation works at West Belconnen landfill. 	<p>The ACT's exemplary record for waste management is maintained. This will continue the Government's commitment to core ACT municipal waste service provisions.</p> <p>This will include planning for technical and engineering advice on waste facilities related matters, operations to reduce the toxicity of waste to landfill, management of hazardous wastes, maintenance activities, and policy development supporting all waste management operations and services.</p> <p>This will support the development and local implementation of national waste initiatives, under the guidance of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council.</p> <p>This will provide for bio-remediation works on the sullage pits at the West Belconnen Landfill Site in accordance with Environment Protection Authority requirements.</p>
\$2.5 million for climate change adaptation research.	The Canberra community will be better informed on how to adapt to climate change.
\$3 million over four years for energy efficient street lights.	Canberra's street lights will use less electricity which will lead to more energy efficient government amenities.
\$1.6 million over four years for carbon neutral schools.	This will allow government and non-government schools to reduce their ecological footprint.

BUDGET 2008 - 2009

Further information

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