



ACT Government

2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

KINGSTON POWERHOUSE TO GET NEW LEASE OF LIFE AS WORLD CLASS CENTRE FOR ARTS INNOVATION

The ACT Government will carry through its plan to establish a contemporary glass centre. New funding initiatives in the 2004-2005 Budget will see the adaptive reuse of the Powerhouse on Kingston Foreshore as a unique glass art centre in Australia.

“The Government’s arts development strategy is designed to build on the ACT’s excellence and innovation in the arts,” Arts and Heritage Minister Bill Wood said.

“In keeping with this strategy, \$4.17 million in additional funding has been provided in this year’s Budget for the construction of a glass centre at the Powerhouse on Kingston Foreshore. This will provide a total project budget of \$7 million.

“This will be a step toward positioning Canberra as the pre-eminent glass art producer in Australia, providing a state-of-the-art facility for glass artists. An additional \$1.64 million over four years will support the operation of the centre, which is due to open in early 2006.

“These funding initiatives will fulfil an ACT Government commitment to refurbish the Powerhouse for an appropriate cultural community use, by establishing a contemporary glass centre offering significant community and social benefits.

“The Powerhouse is an important heritage asset in the ACT. Accordingly, its reuse will be compatible with its heritage significance and conservation needs,” Mr Wood said.

The plan to establish a glass centre in the ACT has been under development for some time. It is the result of a number of commissioned studies and a detailed business plan.

Among other functions, the glass centre will serve as a significant cultural tourism attraction where local, interstate and international visitors can view the process of glass art production, tour the facility, and participate in workshops and classes. It will provide world-class infrastructure for the production of high quality and innovative glass art and exhibition work.

“The glass centre will be at the heart of the vibrant Kingston Foreshore Cultural Precinct, and will provide opportunities for our talented glass art graduates to stay and work in Canberra.

“Ultimately, the Powerhouse Glass Centre will help to make Canberra a place that represents the best in Australian creativity and sustainable development, as envisioned in *The Canberra Plan*,” Mr Wood said.

Statement ends.