



ACT Government

# ACT's largest ever capital works program

Embargoed until 1 May 2001

The ACT's largest capital works program since self-government in 1989 will provide an important employment boost to the Territory's construction industry, as well as deliver a better level of public infrastructure.

Chief Minister and Treasurer Gary Humphries said the ACT's 2001-02 Budget commits the Government to a **\$214.3 million** program – an increase of **116%** on last year's program.

"This commitment to new works is the largest ever of any Government in the last 12 years," Mr Humphries said.

"We consider it an investment in the city of Canberra, to improve the quality of life we enjoy here. It is also an investment in business and the economy, to ensure a steady stream of public infrastructure construction projects over coming years.

"This level of commitment is only possible through having a balanced budget: quite simply, a program of this size wasn't possible before, and it's proof that prudent financial management reaps rewards for the Canberra community.

"The Government has committed to reinvest surplus funds in the Canberra community – through taxation relief, through improved government services, and now through building a better Canberra.

"The ACT Government was able to balance the Territory's Budget several years ahead of forecasts, and we're now in a position to bring forward key capital works projects, including the Government's five-year 'traffic-jam plan' announced in last year's Budget.

"This Traffic Congestion and Road Safety improvement program will make an important difference to the lives of Canberrans, particularly those in North Canberra and Gungahlin.

"The advancement of this program will also inject a much-needed stimulus to the Canberra region's construction industry. It will provide job opportunities for Canberrans at a time when there is a degree of national economic uncertainty."

Mr Humphries said the capital works program addresses many of the issues raised through the Assembly Committee process, and specifically recommendations from the Urban Services portfolio committee.

"For example, we have advanced plans to duplicate William Hovell Drive, plans for the expansion of the Kippax Library, bus laybys for school services, and the development of a recreational facility in Charnwood, in line with Committee recommendations.

"In short, this program is a response to community need, as well as the need for ongoing construction industry activity in Canberra," Mr Humphries said.

**ACT Budget 2001-02**

**Summary of Budget Funded New Works Program – 2001-02**

	Value \$'000	Financing				
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Construction Projects	185 961	3 591	61 246	67 924	47 200	6 000
Forward Design	3 230	0	3 230	-	-	-
Feasibility Studies	474	0	474	-	-	-
Grants	4 032	0	3 920	112	-	-
Minor New Works	20 645	127	20 368	150	-	-
<b>Budget Funded New Works Program</b>	<b><u>214 342</u></b>	<b>3 718</b>	<b>89 238</b>	<b>68 186</b>	<b>47 200</b>	<b>6 000</b>

The complete capital works program can be found in Budget Paper 3, Chapter 5.4.

Highlights of the program are included overleaf.

---

Statement ends

Media Contact:

Craig Allen, (02) 6205 0022, or 0412 487 504  
[Craig.allen@act.gov.au](mailto:Craig.allen@act.gov.au)

## **Traffic Congestion and Road Safety Improvement**

Aspects of this 5-year program are being brought forward in 2001-02 with early commencement of a number of projects, including commitment of several projects to the forward design phase, which were previously planned for the forward years. These include:

- Caswell Drive duplication;
- Drakeford Drive (Erindale Drive - Isabella Drive);
- Barry Drive (Clunies Ross Street – Marcus Clarke Street);
- Glenloch Interchange;
- Athllon Drive (Drakeford Drive – Isabella Drive); and
- William Hovell Drive (Coulter Drive – Bindubi Street).

## **Emergency Services**

The 2001-02 program commits to a number of projects in the area of emergency service management. These projects are to facilitate the Government's initiative for the development of Joint Emergency Services Centres (JESC) in appropriate locations throughout the Territory, including:

- Belconnen Joint Emergency Services Centre (\$0.350m) - total cost \$7.050m;
- Joint Emergency Services Training Centre (\$0.460m) - total cost \$3.460m; and
- Joint Emergency Services Centre – West Belconnen (\$0.3m) - total cost \$0.801m.

## **Civic Revitalisation**

The 2001-02 program continues the Government's commitment to the revitalisation of the Civic precinct, consistent with the measures identified in the 'Our City' strategy. To date, approximately \$16.6m has been provided through capital works to upgrade the appearance of Civic and create a safer pedestrian environment. A further \$8.4m is being provided in the 2001-02 program. The 2001-02 program includes:

- Link Redevelopment project (\$7.9m);
- Hobart Place refurbishment (\$2.0m); and
- City Walk refurbishment – Top End completion (\$0.550m).

## **Local Centre Precinct Revitalisation**

- Griffith Shopping Centre refurbishment (\$0.8m);
- Kambah Village refurbishment (\$1.4m); and
- Jamison Shopping Centre refurbishment (\$0.8m).

### **Administration of Justice and Custodial Services**

- Quamby Youth Detention facility improvement program (\$0.080m), total estimated cost \$5.040m; and
- Belconnen Remand Centre – additional accommodation (\$1.0m).

### **Environment**

- West Belconnen Landfill - Resource Recovery Estate infrastructure improvement (\$0.5m).

### **Schools**

- safety improvements (\$1.0m);
- upgrade specialist science areas (\$1.3m);
- upgrade specialist technology areas (\$0.3m);
- older schools refurbishment (\$2m);
- schools minor new works (\$5m); and
- transportable classrooms (\$3.745m).

### **Sport and Recreation**

- sportsground improvement program (\$0.9m).

### **Health and Community Care**

- TCH - Peri-operative services (\$3.930m);
- Belconnen Health Centre refurbishment (\$2.032m);
- Calvary – refurbishment of operating theatres and associated areas (\$1.850m);
- TCH - Clinical School (\$1.6m);
- TCH - Renal Outpatients / Outreach Facility (\$1.050m); and
- Mental Health Service regional accommodation (\$0.9m).

### **Community and Social Services Infrastructure**

- Glassworks (\$2.9m);
- extra community space in new Griffin Centre (\$1.7m); and
- child care parenting infrastructure (\$4m).