



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

\$2m COHEN ST EXTENSION GOOD FOR INTERCHANGE MOVE

Planning Minister Simon Corbell today announced that relocating the Belconnen bus interchange would be facilitated by the \$2 million extension of Cohen St.

The funding, part of the 2003-04 ACT Budget's \$13.9 million land development infrastructure funding, will be used to extend Cohen Street from Lathlain Street to Benjamin Way during the next financial year, and an additional \$1 million has been allocated in 2005-06.

"The Cohen St extension is an important part of the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan," said Mr Corbell. "It paves the way for improving public transport services in the town centre, particularly relocating the bus interchange, and allows for better business opportunities, too."

The town centre master plan proposes the Cohen Street extension in two stages – the first being built in 2004-05 and 2005-06 from Lathlain Street to Benjamin Way, and a second stage extending from Benjamin Way to Emu Bank which would be built after relocating the bus interchange.

"The first section of the road will begin at the existing intersection of the bus way and Joynton Smith Drive and more or less follow these existing alignments until ramping up through the existing car park to create a four-way intersection with Lathlain Street."

Mr Corbell said the roadworks would create sites for development along the eastern side of Lathlain Street and along the northern side of the new road. "The extension will establish a new east-west link that reduces the division currently created by the existing bus way and the four-metre level difference to Lathlain Street. This will help to break down the barriers between different areas of the town centre."

The Government's policy intention is to relocate the bus interchange to along the new section, although more detailed works need to be done.

"The extension will certainly provide the groundwork for a street-level relocation. Moving the interchange to this location would have very little impact on service times yet better meet passenger needs by allowing people to move on or off the buses on the western side of the town centre rather than restricting boarding and dropping off the existing interchanges.

"This could provide an ideal distribution of services between the University of Canberra and the mixed services area that could have positive benefits for the businesses and community services in the area."

Statement Ends.