



ACT Government

2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

MORE MONEY FOR CANBERRA CYCLING AND WALKING TRACKS

Planning Minister Simon Corbell today announced the Government would spend \$700,000 upgrading community paths to encourage people to walk or cycle to the shops, to school, to work and for pleasure.

The money, in the 2004-05 Budget, would be spent on repairing existing paths and building new paths.

Mr Corbell was releasing *The Sustainable Transport Plan*, a vital component of the "Living with the Environment – Our Bush Capital" theme of *The Canberra Plan* and integral to *The Canberra Spatial Plan*.

"Encouraging more people to walk and cycle instead of using their cars is one of the plan's major goals," Mr Corbell said.

"To complement the community path upgrading, we are reviewing our extensive network of major cycling and pedestrian travel routes throughout the ACT to identify the 'missing links' and opportunities for other improvements.

"The review focuses on well-used cycle lanes and paths or those expected to be well used in the future. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of next month and will lead to the production of a master plan to prioritise the Government's capital works spending on upgrades of major cycling and pedestrian paths.

"Incorporating on-road cycle lanes is standard practice in all road upgrades. Work on the final stage of the \$2.75 million Woden to Dickson on-road cycle lane project is scheduled for completion in July. This will provide direct cycle lane links with employment nodes."

Mr Corbell said that since 2001, the Minister for Urban Services had been working closely with the National Heart Foundation on the Canberra Community Walks Project, resulting in the development of nine community walks in a variety of locations.

"As well as encouraging physical activity, the project is designed to make paths safer, more accessible and easy to use," Mr Corbell said.

"The project is focusing on increasing seniors' use of walking paths by signposting new walks near retirement homes and other facilities for seniors. The walks, such as the one near Goodwin Retirement Village in Ainslie, include prominent lighting and frequently placed seating for those with limited mobility. This will encourage them, for example, to walk to their local shops."

Statement Ends.

