



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

**\$1M SPATIAL PLAN STUDIES FOR HOUSING
AT MOLONGLO AND EAST BASIN**

The 2004-05 ACT Budget provides \$1 million to plan for locating Canberra's future housing at Molonglo and East Basin, announced Planning Minister Simon Corbell today.

Mr Corbell said both sites would help to create a compact city where houses are close to employment, transport routes and other services. "The ACT Government has allocated funds in the 2004-05 Budget to significantly progress key initiatives of *The Canberra Spatial Plan* that will provide housing for Canberrans in the future and to deliver on our 2001 election promise of limiting the expansion of the urban area of Canberra through a sustainable approach to urban consolidation," he said.

"We know from *The Canberra Spatial Plan's* analysis of the physical characteristics of the sites that Molonglo and East Basin are capable of urban development. The planning studies will now identify where, within Molonglo Valley and the East Basin Urban Renewal Project site, it is feasible to place urban development and refine how many new houses could be built. The work will include structure planning, environmental, and water management studies and policy amendments. This will set the framework for future subdivision planning and consultation."

The ACT Planning and Land Authority and the National Capital Authority are jointly studying the Molonglo Valley area, which is expected to accommodate between 12,000 and 20,000 new dwellings depending on the study findings. The ACT Planning and Land Authority will investigate the feasibility of developing the area between Kingston and east Fyshwick and other urban renewal sites for mixed land uses. The East Basin Urban Renewal Project, as it called, could provide some 2,000 to 4000 dwellings.

Mr Corbell said investigating both sites was important to accommodate for population growth and provide more opportunities for housing choice for the people of the ACT. "Housing in the Molonglo Valley will provide residents with an alternative to the inner-city living that will be offered by the East Basin Urban Renewal Project.

"The studies will ensure that if development occurs in these locations, it will complement existing urban areas and protect environmental features such as the Jerrabomberra Wetlands and Mt Stromlo. We also have an opportunity to set new benchmarks for residential planning and urban design, including water-sensitive urban design, re-use of treated effluent and transit-oriented development."

Statement Ends

