



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

CENTRAL AREA STRATEGIC PLAN TO DEVELOP STRONG, VIBRANT CITY CENTRE

The 2003-04 Budget has allocated \$1.5 million over 4 years to develop a Central Area Strategic Plan focusing on building the viability and vitality of Canberra's city area.

Planning Minister Simon Corbell said the Central Area Strategic Plan would comprehensively respond to the 2002 OECD *Urban Renaissance* report, the issues and values raised in the Canberra Plan, which will be completed later this year, and Civic strategic initiatives, such as Civic West Master Plan.

"The Central Area Strategic Plan will be the key to building the viability and vitality of Canberra's central area to create a strong economic and cultural focus for Canberra and the region. Such a focus is paramount if Australia's National Capital is to remain viable, improve its prosperity and become more sustainable," Mr Corbell said today.

"To realise these objectives, a comprehensive framework for the development and management of the Central Area must be prepared, building on and exploring the issues and values raised in the Spatial Plan (now being developed), and specifically:

- Address the "through" traffic issues in the city area down Commonwealth and Northbourne Avenues. This traffic splits the city, causing access problems between city east and west and also to many key development sites around City Hill;
- Establish a clear spatial concept for the layout and pattern of the city which will give legibility to the street patterns, ensure connectivity in the public open spaces and enhance the quality and character of the unique character of the city;
- Provide incentives and a structure for planning and development that will encourage mixed use development;
- Identify investment opportunities, public and private, for the progressive implementation and revitalisation of the central area; and
- Develop sustainability partnerships for stakeholders to sign up to an agreement that will make Civic "greener".

"Through Master Planning and refurbishment work, the Stanhope Government has been creating and fostering robust and inviting places in key sections of Civic. Now it is time to focus on an area that has not been looked at in a very long time. This will largely complete the groundwork for building a sustainable city and community in the future.

"This work will help to consolidate commercial tenancies and Commonwealth departments in the area and will create new opportunities for employment and growth. It is vital the ACT's commercial centre reflects the significance of its role in the city."

Statement ends.



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