



**ACT**  
Government

**22**  
**23**

Australian Capital Territory

# Budget

Delivering for Canberrans:  
now and into the future

**Budget at a Glance**

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#### Acknowledgement of Country



The ACT Government acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this city and region.



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## Chief Minister's Message

**The 2022-23 Budget is focussed on the investments needed to deliver services for all Canberrans both now and into the future.**

The last two years have not been easy as we have managed the impacts of the pandemic, but the ACT economy has outperformed expectations and demonstrated resilience and flexibility.

**Through the 2022-23 Budget the ACT Government is delivering high quality services to address cost of living pressures, continuing to invest in Canberra's people and places, and embedding a long-term plan for the delivery of services and infrastructure.**

We have had the fastest growing population of any jurisdiction over the last 10 years, growing from 370,000 to 455,000. People have voted with their feet.

The Government has balanced the need to continue to improve our fiscal position with the need to invest in services for a growing Canberra and the path back to budget balance will continue to be a focus for Government over the medium term.

**These investments support a growing Canberra and will improve our overall wellbeing and drive economic growth and jobs into the future.**

The investments being made through this Budget are essential as we build on our response to circumstances resulting from the pandemic and pave the way for a stronger, more vibrant and liveable Canberra both now and in the future.

This Budget invests in our city, in infrastructure that is built for Canberra.

It includes measures that will help Canberrans now and also provide a strong basis for ongoing prosperity.

This Budget ensures that the Canberra of 2030 continues to be one of the most liveable cities in the world.

**Andrew Barr**  
**Chief Minister, Treasurer**

# A focus on Canberra's wellbeing

We are the first jurisdiction in Australia to embed a Wellbeing Framework in our Budget process - and one of the first in the world. In the ACT, our focus on wellbeing as a way of thinking about how we are doing, and as a way of informing our decision-making and investments, strengthens our city and our community.

Our Wellbeing Framework recognises that:

- > a strong economy is important to providing jobs that support our standards of living and provide daily fulfilment
- > opportunities in life will be diminished without the benefits of good health, suitable housing, and a good educational foundation
- > social connection, being included, having a sense of belonging and being safe, are fundamental to being able to lead our best lives
- > our environment sustains all life and supports our wellbeing
- > the broader health of our society relies on strong and trusted institutions, and our ability to participate and have our voices heard

**The Wellbeing Framework is helping us to measure our progress and assisting the Government to make better decisions on which investments and programs are going to best contribute to our quality of life, make Canberra a more inclusive city and ensure we are prepared for new challenges and can grasp the opportunities that come our way.**





## Wellbeing Journey

Working towards a common and shared vision developed between government and the community, the ACT Wellbeing Framework sets out the things that matter most to our quality of life and helps us to measure how our people, environment, and institutions are doing.

### 2019

- > Over 3,000 Canberrans told us what was most important to them
- > Developed a shared concept of what wellbeing means in the ACT

### 2020

- > Released the ACT Wellbeing Framework in March 2020
- > Developed a set of wellbeing indicators and measures using 12 Domains identified by the community

### 2021

- > Released the first wellbeing dashboard to help measure our progress in April 2021
- > Developed and incorporated Wellbeing Impact Assessments (WIAs) into budget business case protocols
- > Released our first wellbeing-inspired budget

### 2022

- > Incorporated WIAs into Cabinet decision-making processes



## Budget overview

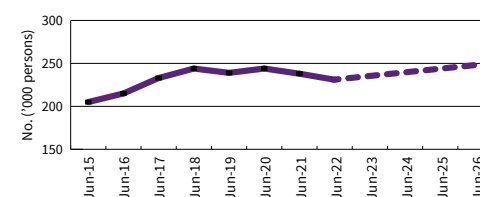
**The Government's COVID-19 pandemic response has underpinned consumer confidence that has seen our economy bounce back as public health social measures have eased.**

The ACT's unemployment rate in June 2022 was 3.1 per cent and underemployment was also at historically low levels. We are at close to full employment, which is not without challenges, but it is a good problem to have as we expect it to put upward pressure on wages and not significantly constrain the economy through a combination of increased participation, increased productivity and population growth.

**Real Gross State Product (GSP) growth is expected to be 3 per cent in 2021-22, marking 31 years of consecutive economic growth for the territory, the best record of any jurisdiction in Australia.**

The economy is expected to continue to grow at 3 per cent over the coming years, supported by a growing population, employment and wages growth, and the Government's Infrastructure Investment Program.

We face economic challenges, particularly in the short term, with a softening of the national economic outlook as business and consumer confidence are impacted



ACT Labour Market Outlook

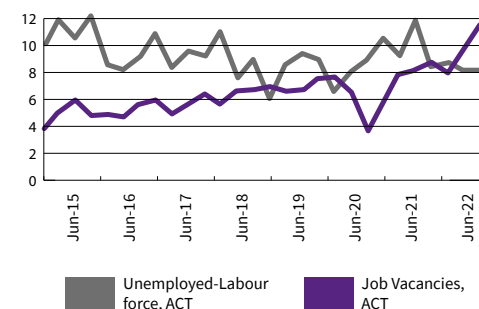
by the current spike in inflation and the lifting of the cash rate by the Reserve Bank of Australia.

With the release of the 2021 Census, we now know that there are over 21,800 more Canberrans than we previously thought, and our population had been growing at an average annual rate of 2.4 per cent over the 5 years between the 2016 to 2021 Censuses.

The deficit in 2021-22 is now estimated to be \$580.4 million, \$371.1 million lower than forecast at the time of the 2021-22 Budget, and \$189.8 million lower than forecast in the 2021-22 Budget Review.

This improved fiscal position is also expected to continue in the coming years, with deficits now expected to be lower than previously estimated and progressively reducing to \$229.4 million in 2025-26.

**Relative to the 2021-22 Budget, all key balance sheet metrics for 2022-23 and outyears – net debt, net financial liabilities and net worth – are also improved.**



# Where our money goes

Health

**\$2.2 billion**

Environment,  
sustainable development  
and climate change

**\$201 million**

Justice

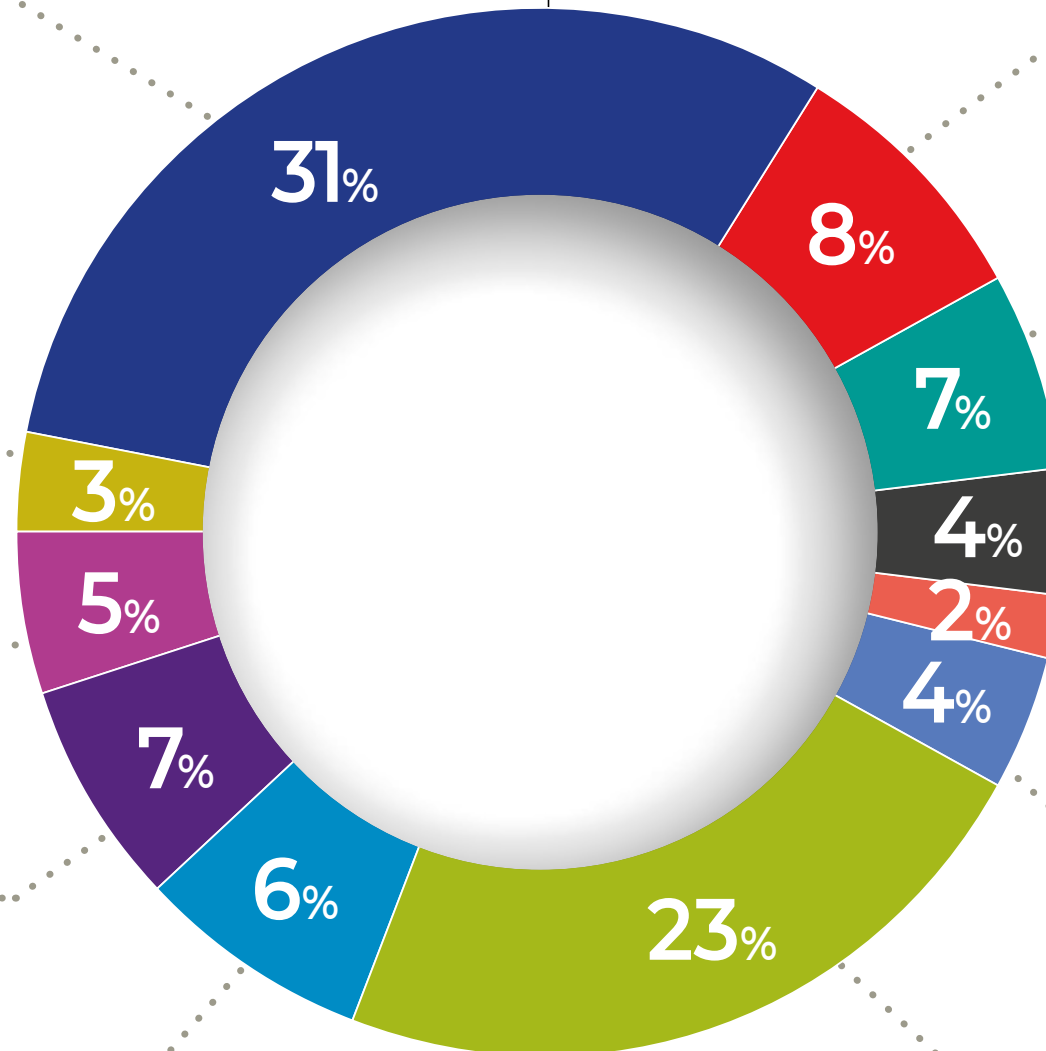
**\$330 million**

Community services

**\$498 million**

Emergency services  
and policing

**\$425 million**



City services

**\$527 million**

Access Canberra and  
government services

**\$457 million**

Transport

**\$291 million**

Economic  
development

**\$160 million**

Housing

**\$265 million**

Education

**\$1.6 billion**

# Health and community wellbeing

Canberrans enjoy the highest life expectancy in Australia. Gains in life expectancy are influenced by rising living standards, improved lifestyle, a healthy environment and better education, as well as greater access to quality health services. Having good access to health services where and when we need them is vital and has an important bearing on our sense of wellbeing.

The Government is focussed on ensuring we have health facilities that can manage the needs of our growing population while maintaining flexibility to respond to the pandemic as it evolves.

That is why the **2022-23 Budget provides more than \$390 million** in additional funding for health and community wellbeing.

This brings funding for health and community wellbeing to more than \$2.5 billion in 2022-23.

In this budget we are delivering:

**our commitment to employ**

**400**

**additional health care workers** ahead of schedule.

**60,000**

**elective surgeries** this term.

**900**

**endoscopies each year** for next two years

**Total health infrastructure spend of more than**

**\$820m**

**over the five years** to 2026-27.

The 2022-23 Budget includes:

- > Funding to continue the COVID-19 response
- > Design and fit-out of a 64-bed inpatient unit in the Canberra Hospital Expansion Critical Services Building
- > Early planning and design works for a new 12-bed acute integrated palliative care ward at the Canberra Hospital
- > Improving access to medical and surgical abortions
- > More elective surgeries and expanded maternity services
- > A new hydrotherapy pool at the Tuggeranong Lakeside Leisure Centre
- > More support for perinatal, infant and child (0-12 years) mental health and wellbeing
- > More mental health supports for youth and young adults and suicide prevention
- > Funding for Palliative Care ACT to continue operating Leo's Place respite hub, providing much needed palliative care respite and carer support
- > Grants to support vulnerable or disadvantaged children to participate in recreational activities that improve their physical wellbeing, health and social skills

**In this budget we are delivering more than**  
**\$390m**

**in new funding for health and community wellbeing, including:**

**\$59m** to continue the **COVID-19 health response**

**\$100m** over four years to strengthen and expand **critical hospital services**

**\$70m** for **mental health and community health care support**

**\$160m** for facilities and systems to **support our health system**



## Canberra Hospital Expansion

The ACT Government is expanding the Canberra Hospital.

The nearly 40,000sqm new facility is the largest healthcare infrastructure commitment ever undertaken by the ACT Government.

The new building will include more operating rooms, more treatment spaces and more intensive care beds to expand the overall capacity of the Canberra Hospital.

Construction on the Canberra Hospital expansion is progressing well. Two tower cranes were installed in March and April 2022, which is another key milestone in the project.

## Nurse and midwifery ratio framework

The ACT Government is introducing mandated minimum nurse/midwife-to-patient ratios as part of its commitment to providing better healthcare for Canberra and the region.

Nurse/midwife-to-patient ratios mean there is a mandated minimum number of nurses or midwives working on a particular ward, unit, or area in relation to the number of patients and these ratios vary with each ward. Minimum staffing ratios will contribute to improved outcomes for patients and improved working conditions for nurses and midwives.





# Education and life-long learning

**Education is fundamental to enabling people to make choices in life and giving them the opportunity to participate in society.**

The Government is investing in the best possible public education for our children and young people through improving safety across our schools, supporting students with additional needs, and strengthening cultural integrity through promoting the integration and understanding of local Ngunnawal language and culture into ACT public schools.

We are also empowering our trusted teachers and learning professionals and working with school communities to ensure the best possible outcomes for families.

**The 2022-23 Budget provides \$240 million in additional funding over four years to support education and skills. This brings total funding for education and skills to over \$1.7 billion in 2022-23.**

## 46,500+

students in ACT public schools

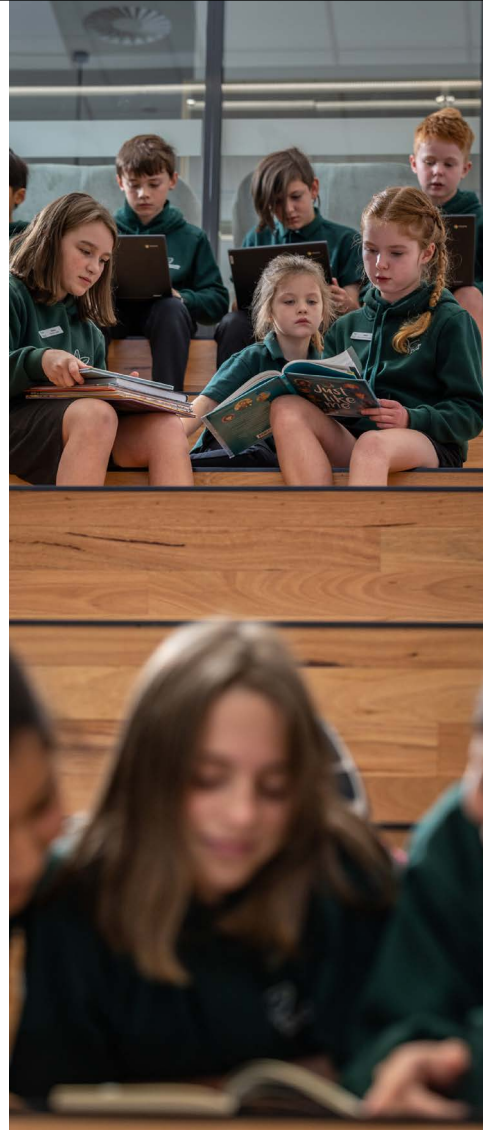
## \$240m

of new funding for **education and skills**

In 2022

## 5,200+

students will be supported in **vocational education and apprenticeships** - the highest share of Government funded students undertaking training in Australia



The 2022-23 Budget includes:

- > Additional support to ensure continued access to 15 hours per week, 600 hours per year of free public preschool education for all four-year-old children living in Canberra
- > A new P-6 primary school in Whitlam - the school will have a capacity for up to 800 primary school students and will also have an Early Childhood Education Centre with a 130-place capacity
- > Additional funding for the construction of a new high school in Taylor, catering for 800 students
- > The expansion of the Margaret Hendry School, which is delivering 600 more places
- > Modernising and increasing the capacity of Majura Primary School by up to 300 places
- > Laptop devices for all teachers, casual relief teachers and administration staff based in ACT public schools
- > Additional funding to support delivery of a new Woden facility for the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) that will serve over 6,500 CIT students every year
- > Extending and refreshing Study Canberra to focus on partnering with our tertiary education institutions to help the recovery of this sector

**\$165m** in additional funding for **new and expanded schools**

**25+ schools** received new external shade structures to provide **external learning facilities** as part of the Government's response to COVID-19

**Almost 1,000** public school students were provided **internet services** during the COVID-19 remote learning period to ensure continuity of learning for our young people

**500+** three-year-old children experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage have been **referred into the quality early childhood education for three-year-olds initiative**.

**\$35m** in additional funding for **skills and training**

**\$324m** new Woden facility for CIT and public transport interchange will serve **over 6,500 CIT students every year**



# \$700 million infrastructure investment for schools

We are ensuring the growing number of Canberran children and young people have access to quality education close to their homes through the expansion of existing schools, and construction of new schools in new suburbs – more than \$700 million will be invested over the five years to 2025-26 in schools infrastructure.

Projects recently completed, underway and announced in this budget include:

2021	Evelyn Scott School – P-6 opened
2022	Throsby School opened
	Franklin School expansion completed – providing an additional 450 places
	Campbell Primary School modernisation – completed
	Amaroo School – the Cooina Terrace completed – providing an additional 200 places
	Gold Creek (Senior Campus) – expansion scheduled for completion in August – providing an additional 200 places
2023	Evelyn Scott School – high school component scheduled to open
	Margaret Hendry School – expansion scheduled for completion – providing an additional 600 places
	Narrabundah College modernisation – construction to commence
	Garran Primary School modernisation – construction to commence
	Majura Primary School modernisation – construction to commence
2024	East Gungahlin High School – scheduled to open
	New Taylor high school – scheduled to open
2025	Strathnairn P-6 school and Early Childhood Education Centre – scheduled to open
	Whitlam Primary School – scheduled to open

# Creating jobs and supporting businesses

The Government continues to engage closely with Canberra businesses and the broader community to respond to issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and from global and regional events that are impacting on supplies of materials and labour. The Government has provided support through the Canberra Business Advice Support Service, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Support Program - and the COVID-19 Business Support Grants and the Small Business Hardship Scheme supported businesses through lockdowns.

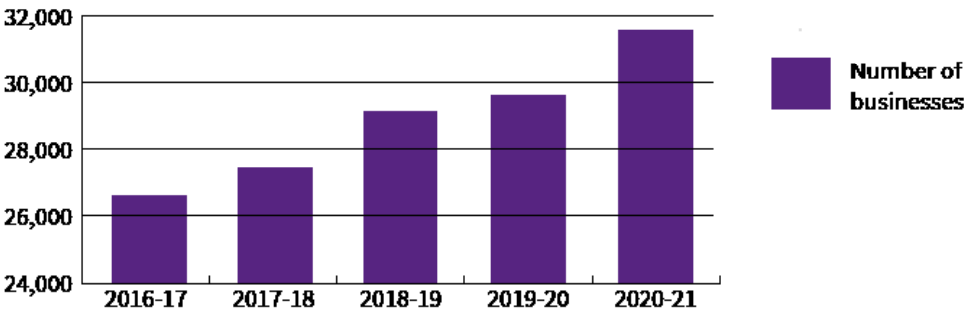
*CBR Switched On: ACT's Economic Development Priorities 2022-2025* builds on our 2016 *Statement of Ambition* with its focus on making Canberra an even more attractive place to live, work, study, do business and invest in.

These actions will be complemented by an ambitious infrastructure program geared towards economic growth and diversification, and improved standards of living for all.

**The 2022-23 ACT Infrastructure Investment Program of more than \$7 billion over the five years to 2026-27 delivers the services that**

**our community needs today while laying the foundation for jobs and population growth to reach the target of 250,000 jobs in our labour market by 2025.**

Looking ahead, given ongoing supply chain constraints and being in a period of marked global uncertainty, now is the time to plan for the future by refreshing the Territory's Infrastructure Plan. The ACT Government will work with our Commonwealth colleagues on shared priorities, and focus on a diversified program of asset acquisition, construction and digital projects.



# \$35m

in new funding  
over four years to  
support jobs

# \$22.4m

to deliver initiatives  
focussed on the  
development of  
our knowledge  
intensive sectors, the  
commercialisation of  
research, investment  
attraction,  
development of  
our innovation  
ecosystem, and the  
creation of new  
businesses and jobs

# \$16.4m

to deliver a **modern  
digital planning  
system** to support  
planning and  
approval processes

# \$4.2m

to extend and refresh  
Study Canberra - to  
attract and retain  
more domestic  
and international  
students and help the  
recovery of this sector.

## Supporting skills for our growing economy

In 2021-22, 90 per cent of Canberra's vocational education and training graduates were employed or in further study.

As our economy recovers, the demand for workers will increase. The Government is providing a record \$126.3 million in funding in 2022 for apprenticeships, traineeships and other vocational education activities, including through the User Choice (Australian Apprenticeships) and Skilled Capital programs.

## CBR Switched On

*CBR Switched On: ACT's Economic Development Priorities 2022-2025* builds on our 2016 *Statement of Ambition* with its focus on making Canberra an even more attractive place to live, work, study, do business and invest in.

Our 2022-2025 priorities support the continued wellbeing of Canberrans, while building a more diverse, resilient and prosperous economy. We have identified areas of strength in our city and economy that we will build on to support the creation of new jobs and more opportunities for Canberrans. The updated plan focusses on:

- > Developing a city of wellbeing and liveability
- > Continuing our efforts to be city of environmental responsibility and action
- > Growing our knowledge-based economy through innovation and responsible investment

Since 2016

20%	growth in economy
5,300	more businesses
23,000	additional jobs
100+	ACT businesses were assisted with export development in 2021-22
20	ACT businesses were supported through innovation programs in 2021-22 – this is expected to grow to 30 in 2022-23

## \$7 billion Infrastructure Investment Program

The Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP) includes ambitious and complex projects – such as the Canberra Hospital Expansion, extending light rail and the Canberra Theatre Expansion – that will become landmark infrastructure delivering benefits to the Canberra community for decades to come.

The IIP also includes transformative projects to transition Canberra to a net-zero emissions future by 2045. Through a range of projects, the IIP supports the roll-out of electric buses, the uptake of electric vehicles, the transition away from gas in government assets and in vulnerable households, and progresses work to reduce emissions from waste.

The IIP also includes many other projects – including providing schools for the growing community, delivering and renewing more public housing, and building essential community and safety infrastructure.

These projects range in size, scope and area of focus, but are all integral in supporting the wellbeing of Canberrans now and into the future, and smaller-scale projects are particularly suited to local industry participation.





# Secure and affordable housing

Everyone in our community needs a home that meets their needs. In addition to providing the basic necessity of shelter, homes also enable engagement with work and studies and the maintenance of relationships and good health.

The ACT is a leading jurisdiction in its response to public housing and homelessness.

The 2022-23 Budget provides more than \$160 million in additional funding for housing and homelessness prevention.

In this budget we are delivering **\$160m**

for housing and homelessness, including:

**\$95m** for public housing and homelessness

**\$45m** to support housing affordability for low-to-medium income households

**\$20m** to support housing choice and quality

**30,000** planned increase in dwellings over the next 5 years



## Strengthening social housing assistance

The Government is committed to addressing homelessness in our community and will continue to invest in public and community housing. The ACT is already a leading jurisdiction in its response to these issues, having committed more than \$1.4 billion in new public housing over the ten years to 2025.

\$95 million of additional funding is provided in the 2022-23 Budget for public housing and homelessness to:

- > Further invest in additional public housing repairs and maintenance
- > Expand the Growing and Renewing Public Housing program by a further 140 public housing dwellings to deliver 400 additional public housing dwellings
- > Continue specialist homelessness programs and further expand the capacity of frontline homelessness services in 2023-24 and 2024-25
- > Undertake insulation and electrification upgrades to public housing properties – including up to 9,000 condition audits in 2022-23

## Growing and renewing public housing

Since the Growth and Renewal Program was introduced in 2019-20:

**219** new dwellings have been constructed

**93** dwellings have been acquired

**101** dwelling sites have been purchased

**343** end-of-use public housing properties have been sold

In 2022-23, we anticipate a construction work-in-progress schedule totalling over

**700**

dwellings, including the delivery of 193 completed dwellings.

## Increasing affordable rental housing and home ownership

Affordable housing is critical to the economic security and wellbeing of individuals and communities. The ACT Government is committed to delivering even more affordable housing for more Canberrans.

This Budget also makes a significant contribution to our 600 affordable rental dwellings commitment through promoting Build-to-Rent opportunities.

The 2022-23 Budget provides more than \$45 million over four years to support housing affordability for low-to-medium income households, including:

- > raising the lowest conveyance duty tax threshold for residential owner-occupiers from \$200,000 to \$260,000 and increasing the Home Buyer Concession Scheme income eligibility threshold from \$160,000 to \$170,000
- > increasing the Deferred Duty and Disability Duty Concession Schemes price eligibility thresholds from \$750,000 to \$1 million

## Reducing energy hardship for vulnerable households:

funding for

# 9,000

condition audits of public housing properties in 2022-23

funding for up to

# 3,000

energy efficiency scorecard assessments for community housing providers, eligible private rental providers and low-income homeowners

# 4,500

rebates of 50 per cent of the upgrade cost up to \$2,500 for insulation and/or heating or other gas appliance replacement for low-income homeowners

## Supporting Build-to-Rent projects

Through this Budget the Government is:

- > Releasing a Build-to-Rent prospectus
- > Progressing Build-to-Rent projects by releasing site 3 section 57 in Turner as a site to pilot Build-to-Rent with affordable rental
- > Providing a time limited Lease Variation Charge (LVC) remission to eligible Build-to-Rent developments that include a minimum of 15 per cent of dwellings as affordable rental
- > Annual process to consider investment opportunities

## Housing choice and quality

With the ACT's population set to reach 500,000 by the end of this decade, the Government is planning for an increase of around 30,000 dwellings in the ACT over the next five years. This will increase the total housing supply in Canberra from around 180,000 dwellings to around 210,000 dwellings.

The community has expressed a desire for more housing choice and flexible housing forms in their neighbourhoods and suburbs – not just single dwellings or high-rise apartments.

**Responding to these preferences, the 2022-23 Indicative Land Release Program seeks to deliver housing diversity and affordability, while building a compact, efficient city – working towards 70 per cent of new dwellings within the existing urban footprint.**

To further support housing choice and quality, the 2022-23 Budget provides more than \$20 million in new funding, including:

- > more than \$10 million to support land release
- > funding to enhance the safety and protection of homeowners in Canberra through improved building quality

## The 2022-23 Indicative Land Release Program promotes sustainable and competitive land development, creating more local construction jobs and attracting investment into Canberra.

At least 15 per cent of the Indicative Land Release Program will be for affordable, community and public housing.

## Improving building quality

Building Regulatory reforms undertaken over the last five years include changes to strengthen legislation and compliance powers, developing codes of practice, setting mandatory qualifications and better protections for home owners.

This includes:

- > Establishing the Build Buy Renovate website and running a public information campaign for current and potential building owners on building matters, including their rights and obligations
- > Expanding statutory warranties to all private residential buildings or parts of buildings, including those above three storeys
- > Setting mandatory qualifications and licensing assessments for building surveyors



# Community support, social inclusion and safety

**Community sector organisations are crucial in supporting the diverse needs of people across our community – with the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting how challenging times do not impact our community equally.**

The Government will continue critical support for vulnerable members of the community through partnerships with local community groups such as Roundabout Canberra, which provides essential supplies to families, and the Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Humanitarian program, which provides accommodation and living expenses relief.

The Government is committed to making Canberra the most welcoming and inclusive city in Australia, including embracing and celebrating Canberra's cultural and linguistic diversity.

The 2022-23 Budget provides more than \$230 million for new initiatives to improve community support, social inclusion and safety.

This brings funding for community support and social inclusion to almost \$500 million in 2022-23, funding for justice to more than \$315 million, and funding for emergency services to \$440 million.

The 2022-23 Budget includes:

- > additional indexation funding for community sector organisations
- > an \$800 Utilities Concession in 2022-23, supporting around 31,200 households across the Territory

- > expanded investment in targeted, culturally safe and therapeutic family support services and providing safe, stable living arrangements for those children who require out of home care
- > funding to improve the wellbeing and circumstances of LGBTIQ+ Canberrans, their families and communities
- > support for people with variations in sex characteristics – including a dedicated care coordinator, clinical psychologist and social worker at Canberra Hospital
- > new or expanded programs to prevent gendered violence, including ten domestic and family violence practitioners and two case coordinators
- > measures to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT criminal justice system
- > the establishment of an independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner
- > additional support for the ACT's community-based legal assistance sector and Legal Aid

- > implementation of a modernised and more patient-centric service delivery model for the ACT Ambulance Service – including 30 new staff for an enhanced Emergency 000 Communication Centre, more specialised paramedics, two new front-line ambulances and five specialised response vehicles
- > a new joint ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Fire and Rescue emergency services station in the Molonglo Valley

## \$230m

for new initiatives to **improve community support, social inclusion and safety**, including:

**\$110m** for **community support and social inclusion**

**\$60m** for **emergency services.**

**\$35m** for **justice system reforms and human rights.**

**\$24m** for new or expanded programs and actions to **prevent and respond to sexual assault, and family and domestic violence.**

## Delivering purpose-built accommodation with the Gudan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

The ACT Government continues to work closely with the Gudan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation for a new facility, to be built on the existing site that would enable expanded services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families in a familiar setting. A development application has been lodged which included public consultation. The 2022-23 Budget provides an additional \$4.5 million for the project, which will also support incorporation of detailed cultural design features.

## Social inclusion and support in action:

- > 900+ women have received free and confidential legal advice and assistance through the Health Justice Partnerships since its commencement in 2019
- > 100+ people have been referred to the Drug and Alcohol Court since its commencement in 2019
- > 500+ witnesses have been assisted by the ACT Intermediary Program to provide their best evidence in sexual assault, family violence, homicide and other violent matters since its commencement in 2020

# Environment, climate and transport

## We are boosting investment in protecting our natural environment and programs that will reduce our carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.

Canberra is a city built on Ngunnawal Country within the natural setting of the Brindabella Mountains.

One of the things we value about our city is our ability to get around easily. Integrated transport networks shape the way cities grow and prosper, generating economic opportunities and jobs. Walking, cycling and other forms of active travel are at the centre of our plans to make Canberra an even more liveable and sustainable city.

Maintaining a healthy environment is central to increasing our quality of life. Canberra is the renewable energy capital of Australia, and has a reputation as leading the nation on climate action. Unfortunately, the impacts of climate change, including hotter temperatures, more extreme weather events and increased bushfire risk, have the ability to significantly affect the community's safety and wellbeing.

The 2022-23 Budget provides more than \$135 million for new initiatives to support the environment, climate action and transport.

This brings funding for the environment and climate action to more than \$240 million in 2022-23 and funding for transport to more than \$540 million.

The 2022-23 Budget will provide:

- > \$24 million, supported by the Commonwealth Government, to improve safety on the ACT's road network and support local jobs
- > \$4.3 million to support active travel by replacing three timber bridges in Umbagog District Park and continuing the *Ride and Walk to School, It's Your Move Safe Cycle and School Crossing Supervisor* programs for a further year
- > more than \$10 million in funding to protect and restore the ACT environment and strengthen Canberrans' connections to nature, including funding to establish an Office for Water to coordinate and lead water policy development and holistic water management in the ACT
- > funding to continue the transition to a zero emissions public transport fleet by purchasing 90 battery electric buses and associated infrastructure
- > funding to continue the Sustainable Household Scheme and continue progress on the Big Canberra Battery project to deliver at least 250 megawatts of new large-scale battery storage capacity across the ACT
- > for a range of measures to increase the uptake of zero emissions vehicles, consistent with the *Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy 2022-30*

## Transport network improvements now total more than

# \$1.4b

over the five years to 2026-27, including funding for **major and urban roads, public transport and active travel.**

# \$310m

over five years for **climate action and environment capital works projects.**



## Climate action achievements

In 2020, the ACT became Australia's first jurisdiction to be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity, and the first jurisdiction outside of Europe to reach this target.

The Sustainable Household Scheme was launched in September 2021. To date, there has been \$58 million in approved loans, and over 75 per cent has gone back into the local industry and economy.

In 2020-21, around 50 new EV chargers were installed at Government facilities bringing the total number of chargers to over 150 across government sites

## Some of the ways we are caring for the environment

- > As part of developing the Molonglo Reserve, over 10,000 new trees, shrubs and groundcovers have been planted
- > Since 2017, ACT Health Waterways has built 21 large water quality assets—raingardens, ponds, wetlands and channel restorations—in urban suburbs according to 'water sensitive urban design' principles

## Reducing emissions from vehicles

The Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022-30 was released in July 2022 and outlines the plan to support a smooth transition to zero emissions vehicles over the coming decade. Actions under the strategy include:

- > 80-90 per cent of new light vehicle sales being zero emissions vehicles by 2030
- > phasing out light internal combustion engine vehicles by 2035
- > continued action to ensure that 100 per cent of all newly leased government vehicles are zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) where fit for purpose and explore opportunities to replace ACT Government heavy fleet vehicles with ZEVs
- > \$2,000 grants for installation of electric vehicles (EVs) charging infrastructure for apartment buildings
- > expanding the ACT public charging network to at least 180 EV chargers by 2025



# Community infrastructure, venues and arts and culture

**Canberrans have access to a wide range of important suburban infrastructure such as playgrounds, sporting facilities and picnic amenities.**

Arts and culture can connect people with ideas, emotions, history and stories. The arts, culture and heritage have important roles to play in shaping our identity as a city and our overall happiness and wellbeing.

In 2023, we look forward to welcoming back the National Multicultural Festival where all Canberrans have the chance to enjoy a range of performances, culture, entertainment, food and community spirit.

The Government's *Statement of Ambition for the Arts* sets Canberra on the course to be recognised as Australia's arts capital.

The 2022-23 Budget provides more than \$130 million in funding for community infrastructure, venues, arts and culture.

This brings funding for community infrastructure to more than \$420 million in 2022-23, and funding for tourism, sport, events and the arts to more than \$165 million.

The 2022-23 Budget includes:

- > More support for public pools and feasibility work for a new diving pool at Stromlo Leisure Centre
- > A new 10-court tennis facility in Amaroo
- > Upgrades to libraries, community centres and other ACT Government buildings
- > A new destination play space in the inner north
- > Funding to commence detailed design and planning for the Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment
- > Major heritage restorations at Gorman House Arts Centre to celebrate the site's centenary in 2024
- > Additional support for the ACT Arts Fund and for the Belconnen, Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres
- > Additional support for the 25th Anniversary National Multicultural Festival

## \$540m

over the five years to 2026-27 for **venues and community, arts and cultural infrastructure**

**Major events by venue in 2021-22:**

**17** GIO Stadium

**8** Manuka Oval

**72** Exhibition Park in Canberra

**17** Stromlo Forest Park

## almost 250k

visitors/patrons to **Cultural Facilities Corporation facilities/programs** in 2021-22 and 90+ per cent customer satisfaction

## 120

**artists were supported** through Arts Activities funding in 2021-22.

## 170k

**attendees at programs delivered by artsACT funded organisations** in 2021-22 – expected to grow to 250,000 in 2022-23.





Australian Capital Territory

**Budget**

**22  
23**