



## A NEW PUBLIC HOSPITAL FOR CANBERRA'S NORTH



Belconnen will be home to Canberra's newest public hospital, to be built at the University of Canberra.

The University of Canberra Public Hospital will provide 140 inpatient beds and 75 day service places. It will specialise in rehabilitation services, long-term accommodation for mental health clients and targeted services for people suffering from dementia.

The hospital will also be a teaching facility with the University of Canberra,

to help educate and train Australia's next generation of medical researchers and clinicians.

While Canberra's newest and third public hospital will not include an emergency unit, it will lighten the load of the emergency departments at nearby Calvary, and at Canberra Hospital at Woden.

Construction is due to commence early next year.

 For more information, visit [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

## TACKLING HOMELESSNESS WITH COMMON GROUND

Businesses, the community sector and government have successfully worked together to tackle homelessness by building an innovative housing development called Common Ground.

Common Ground is different because it brings together housing and support services under the one roof, to help people break out of cycles of homelessness.

Common Ground is located in the town centre of Gungahlin. The six storey building includes 40 self-contained one bedroom units and office space for the support services. Half of the 40 self-contained units are for people experiencing homelessness and the remaining 20 are affordable rental accommodation for persons on lower incomes.

 For more information, visit [www.commongroundcanberra.org.au](http://www.commongroundcanberra.org.au)



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

Since becoming Chief Minister of the ACT, I have been speaking to Canberrans about how we can improve services to their community.

The ACT Government is unique in Australia because it provides state level services such as health, education and public transport, and also municipal services such as mowing, cleaning and rubbish collection. We've been working hard to

deliver the services Canberrans need. In recent months we've regulated ridesharing, finalised plans for a new hospital at the University of Canberra and have reached an agreement with the Federal Government to continue providing 15 hours of preschool for Canberra's children.

I hope you will find this a useful update on the work going on in your community.



## REDUCING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN GUNGALIN

Work has started on several road upgrades that will ease traffic congestion in Gungahlin.

A 1.6 kilometre section of Gungahlin Drive from north of Sandford Street to the Barton Highway is being widened to three lanes (southbound only). Road upgrades will also be carried out on Horse Park Drive/Anthony Rolfe Avenue and Barton Highway/Gundaroo Drive/William Slim Drive intersections.

These upgrades will benefit motorists, but may add to traffic congestion during construction. Your patience and understanding is appreciated. Construction will be managed to minimise the impact on motorists, and reduced speed limits will be in operation.

 For more information visit [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au) or

 follow [@TAMSMediaRoom](https://twitter.com/TAMSMediaRoom) on Twitter for updates



## ARE YOU CANBERRA BUSHFIRE READY?

The 2015-2016 bushfire season runs until 31 March 2016.

The ACT is facing a higher than average risk of bushfires this summer according to expert analysis.

Now is the time to get your home and family bushfire ready.

 Visit [www.esa.act.gov.au/bushfireready](http://www.esa.act.gov.au/bushfireready) for tips on how to prepare. A few simple actions could make all the difference to surviving a bushfire.

## VOICES IN THE FOREST

Enjoy performances by world-renowned sopranos, including Australia's own Cheryl Barker AO and Mexico's Diego Torre, at this year's Voices in the Forest at the National Arboretum Canberra.

The ticketed event will be held from 5.30pm to 9.30pm on Saturday 21 November 2015.

 For more information visit [www.voicesintheforest.com.au](http://www.voicesintheforest.com.au)

 or follow Voices in the Forest on Facebook



## FASTER TRAVEL BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH

Gungahlin residents will soon have a faster trip from southern Canberra with construction of the new northbound Molonglo River bridge almost complete.

The bridge is part of the Majura Parkway, which will link the Federal and Monaro Highways to ease congestion and save travel time.

The \$288 million Majura Parkway is one of Canberra's largest ever infrastructure projects and has been jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Governments.

The next major milestone will be the opening of the southbound Molonglo River bridge in coming months. The overall project is on track for completion by mid-2016.

 More information at [www.majuraparkway.act.gov.au](http://www.majuraparkway.act.gov.au)

## FIFTEEN HOURS A WEEK OF FREE PUBLIC PRE-SCHOOL IN 2016

Public pre-schools will continue to offer 15 hours per week of free pre-school in 2016.

The ACT is one of few jurisdictions in Australia to offer free public pre-school for 15 hours per week to all four-year-old children in the year before they start formal schooling.

Enrolments are now open for 2016.

**i** For information about the wide range of pre-school and support services available in the ACT, as well as tips about how to get involved in your child's pre-school education, visit [www.preschoolmatters.act.gov.au](http://www.preschoolmatters.act.gov.au)



## LEARN ABOUT LIGHT RAIL @ FORDE'S PARTY AT THE SHOPS

Come along to Forde's Party at the Shops on 5 December from 2pm to 6pm. The Capital Metro team will be there to answer any questions you might have about light rail. There will also be dancing, music and a plant swap.

If you want to contribute or learn more about light rail there are a number of other activities coming up that you can get involved in.

Ongoing 'Business Reference Group' meetings discuss progress and key issues concerning the local community

and businesses, and there's also a two-day conference later this year for future leaders discussing liveability as a key challenge for cities today.

The latest on Canberra's light rail is that bid proposals are in and are currently being assessed.

The successful consortium to build and operate the light rail will be announced in early 2016.

**i** For more information visit [www.capitalmetro.act.gov.au](http://www.capitalmetro.act.gov.au)

**f** or follow the Parties at the Shops Facebook page for appearances across Canberra.



## “ HAVE YOUR SAY ”

### ON THE NEW GUNGALIN BUS STATION

Gungahlin is getting a new bus station and you can help design it.

The bus station will be located in Gungahlin Place, north of Hibberson Street, which is close to the future light rail terminus.

We now need your help to finalise the bus station design.

**i** To have your say, check out drafts of the plans at [www.timetotalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au) and complete an online survey. Or pick up a survey from the Gungahlin Library.





## MORE TRANSPORT OPTIONS FOR CANBERRA

Canberrans now have access to more transport options with ridesharing businesses such as Uber now operating legally.

Ridesharing is a service that uses smartphone apps to connect drivers who use their own cars, with passengers who want to get around. Every driver will have to have police and driving history checks and their car will have to have a safety check.

Ridesharing trips can only be booked through an app or over the phone. Canberra is the first city in Australia, and the first capital city in the world, to make ridesharing legal. As part of making ridesharing legal, the ACT Government has also reduced costs for taxi drivers.

**i** For more information on the taxi reforms, please visit [www.act.gov.au/taxi-industry-reforms](http://www.act.gov.au/taxi-industry-reforms)

## TWO YEAR TRIAL TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

A two-year trial of new road safety laws has started in the ACT to improve safety for cyclists and other road users.

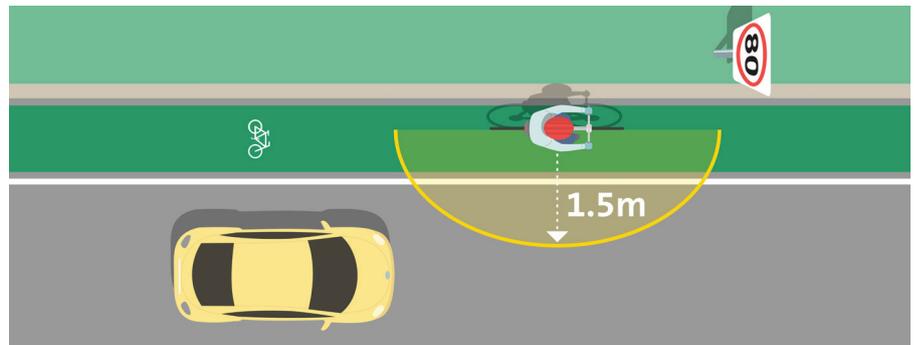
Motorists must now provide a minimum distance of one metre when overtaking a cyclist in speed zones at or below 60km/h and 1.5 metres in

speed zones above 60km/h.

This metre matters because it provides a practical measure for drivers when overtaking cyclists, and will help reduce collisions between cars and bike riders, by changing driving behaviour.

Motorists who fail to comply with the rule may be issued a \$215 fine and accrue two demerit points.

**i** For more information on the new rules for motorists and cyclists, and how to follow these new rules effectively, visit [www.tams.act.gov.au/road-safety](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/road-safety)

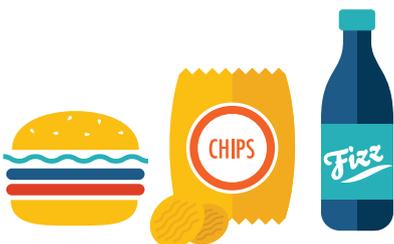


## “HAVE YOUR SAY”

### ON FOOD AND DRINK MARKETING IN CANBERRA

We'd like to hear from Canberrans including local businesses and industry on ideas to better promote healthy food and drinks in the ACT, and on how we can reduce the unhealthy items we eat and drink.

**i** Visit [www.timetotalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au) for details on how to have your say.



## GET OUT THIS SUMMER ON THE CENTENARY TRAIL

Enjoy Canberra's great outdoors by exploring the Centenary Trail this summer. It's a 145 kilometre off-road self-guided walk and cycle loop trail where you'll discover some of Canberra's most spectacular sights, scenery and hidden treasures.

Get your pedometers working hard by trying one or more of the seven sections. You can even take the dog on some sections.

**i** Need some inspiration before your trek? Watch the trail video at [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au)



For service, payments and enquiries visit [www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au](http://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au) or call 13 22 81.  
For incident and emergency information visit [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au)

