

# OUR CANBERRA

Central Canberra edition



ACT  
Government

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## GET ON BOARD LIGHT RAIL IS COMING



The first light rail vehicle has arrived in Canberra.

Light rail vehicles will be seen on stage 1 of Canberra's light rail network between Gungahlin and Canberra's CBD later this year.

The light rail vehicles were built in Spain and began their long journey to Canberra in early November 2017. They arrived on 13 December and testing has already begun.

Each air conditioned vehicle will be able to carry more than 200 passengers and Wi-Fi will be available on board.

 For more information visit [transport.act.gov.au/light-rail-project](http://transport.act.gov.au/light-rail-project)

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- > Green bins rolling into Canberra
- > New hospital opening this year

## MORE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FOR CANBERRA

Canberrans can soon fly Qatar Airways between Doha and Canberra when its daily service begins in mid-February.

The airline will fly a Boeing 777-300 daily from Canberra to Sydney and then onto Doha. The new service enhances the ACT Government's focus on expanding international connections.

 For more information visit [qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com)



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

We're hitting the ground running in 2018 in what will be a big year for our city.

From the first light rail vehicles being seen in Canberra and a new public hospital opening, to more international flights, continued jobs growth, city renewal and all public school students receiving electronic devices, significant landmarks will be achieved this year.



For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit [act.gov.au/ourcanberra](http://act.gov.au/ourcanberra) or follow us on social media.

**YOURsay**

For information on community consultations in Canberra, visit [yoursay.act.gov.au](http://yoursay.act.gov.au)

# OUR CANBERRA



## BECOME A BACKYARD LIFEGUARD

A swim in the pool is the perfect place to escape Canberra's hot summer days, but remember to play it safe with these tips:

- ✓ Supervise kids in and around the pool;
- ✓ know CPR;
- ✓ check your pool barriers meet current safety standards and upgrade them if required.

The more backyard lifeguards we have, the more kids we keep safe.

 For more information visit [act.gov.au/backyardlifeguard](http://act.gov.au/backyardlifeguard)

## BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT



A better seven day public transport service is coming and we'd like to hear from you about service ideas for your local area.

The improved service will include nine Rapid Routes, with more frequent and direct services making it easier for everyone to get where they need to go.

 For more information visit [yoursay.act.gov.au](http://yoursay.act.gov.au)



## SAVE ELECTRICITY & MONEY THIS SUMMER

Summer is the perfect time to save on your electricity bills. Here are some tips:



**CLOSE** windows and curtains during the day, and open them at night



**CONSOLIDATE** your refrigerators if you have more than one



**TAKE** shorter showers and reduce the temperature



**INCREASE** air conditioner thermostat from 18 to 23 degrees



**USE** your clothesline on those sunny days



**CONSIDER** installing solar panels.

 For more information visit [actsmart.act.gov.au](http://actsmart.act.gov.au)



## MORE CHOICE FOR CANBERRANS

Digital electricity meters are now available for new homes or businesses in Canberra.

The smart meters take the guess work out of estimated electricity usage giving you more power to monitor it yourself. All other electricity meters will be changed to a smart meter if they are faulty or reach their end of life.

If you would like to request a new smart meter, contact your electricity provider.

 For more information visit [act.gov.au/AccessCBR](http://act.gov.au/AccessCBR)



## REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OPENS THIS YEAR

Canberra's brand new, purpose-built rehabilitation hospital at the University of Canberra will open in mid-2018.

Over the coming months the final touches will be completed and staff will begin their training. The new hospital will focus on improving physical and mental health and wellness through recovery and research, and will relieve pressure on our other hospitals.

 For more information visit [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au) and search 'UC hospital'





# CITY IMPROVEMENTS



Work is underway on Northbourne Plaza to improve footpaths between the Alinga Street intersection and London Circuit.

The new and improved areas will include pedestrian access, seating, lighting, a cycle path and formal landscaping.

# PARKING CHANGES IN THE CITY



The renewal of Canberra's city centre is continuing and there are car park changes now in place.

Parking at the Legislative Assembly off London Circuit is now closed. Short-term parking can be found at the Magistrates Court, the Bailey's Corner car park, the Canberra Centre and at the parking areas near Civic pool.

Long stay parking is available on the corner of London Circuit and Constitution Avenue.

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

# TERRITORY-WIDE ROLLOUT OF GREEN BINS



Good news for all Canberrans with green waste collections to be fully rolled out across the Territory by around mid-2019.

Residents in the Inner North, Inner South, Woden, Gungahlin and the Molonglo Valley, will be invited to register for their green bin early next year. Green waste collections are already in place in Weston Creek and Tuggeranong. Belconnen collections start later this year.

A one-off fee of \$50 will be required to register for the program. Eligible concession card holders are exempt from payment.



**i** For more information visit [tccs.act.gov.au/recycling-and-waste](http://tccs.act.gov.au/recycling-and-waste)

# FREE VACCINATIONS FOR YEAR 7 STUDENTS

**i** For further information visit [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au) and search 'immunisation'

# SCHOOL START DATES

Term 1 for all Canberra Public Schools starts:

**Monday 5 February** for new students or

**Tuesday 6 February** for continuing students.

**i** For more info about term dates and starting school tips visit [edu.act.gov.au](http://edu.act.gov.au)



# TIPS FOR STARTING SCHOOL

Starting school is an exciting time for children and families.

Here are some tips to make your child's first day fun, safe and stress free:

- > Talk to your child about what to expect and who they can ask for help;
- > Label all your child's belongings;
- > Consider the route you will take to school and likely road crossings, and reinforce road safety;
- > Ensure children apply sunscreen before leaving for school;
- > Make sure your child knows the after school pickup arrangements or who is collecting them.

**i** For more information and term dates visit [edu.act.gov.au](http://edu.act.gov.au)

# EXPLORE CANBERRA'S HISTORY

A new exhibition in the Namadgi National Park showcases one of the thousands of trees that first marked the border of the ACT over 100 years ago.

Of the 1500 trees, only 60 remain and one of the trees now has its own shelter. The tree can be found behind the Namadgi Visitor's Centre.

 For more information visit [environment.act.gov.au](http://environment.act.gov.au)

## AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS 25-26 JANUARY

There's something for everyone this Australia Day. Celebrations start on 25 January when you can cheer on our ACT finalists (pictured) in the Australian of the Year Awards.

On Australia Day there's a free concert and fireworks at Lake Burley Griffin, or participate in the National Citizenship and Flag Raising Ceremonies.

 For more information visit [events.act.gov.au](http://events.act.gov.au)



ACT Young Australian of the Year Zack Bryers, ACT Local Hero Suzanne Tunks, ACT Australian of the Year Dion Devow, and ACT Senior Australian of the Year Dr Graham Farquhar AO



## SEE THE LIGHT CANBERRA 2-18 MARCH

Enlighten is back bigger than ever in 2018. The whole family can enjoy free and ticketed events, exhibitions, architectural projections, live performances, tours, talks, delicious food and more.

This year's festival will include Symphony in the Park, Lights Canberra Action, Canberra Day celebrations and The Balloon Spectacular.

 For more information visit [enlightencanberra.com](http://enlightencanberra.com)



## WHERE IN THE WORLD 16-18 FEBRUARY

At this year's National Multicultural Festival there's three jam-packed days of fun, music, dance, cultural performances, food and festivities.

The headline act for 2018 is legendary popstar Leo Sayer, along with Indigenous rapper Baker Boy.

Don't miss out — it's FREE and in the heart of Canberra! Download the app at Google Play or the Apple Store.

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



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