

## Work continues on Canberra Hospital expansion

A new emergency, surgical and critical healthcare facility at Canberra Hospital

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### Message from the Chief Minister

The ACT Government is continuing to take action on climate change and ensure Canberrans can benefit from a transition to a zero net emissions future.

Single-use plastics in the ACT will start to be phased out from 1 July. Banning items like plastic

cutlery, plastic drink stirrers and polystyrene cups will cut the amount of waste going to landfill.

We are also supporting the reduction of carbon emissions from our daily travel by supporting the switch to low emission electric vehicles with

a range of tax breaks and fee reductions.

We are also getting on with the job of building the Big Canberra Battery, a project that will support electricity network reliability and allow us to store the renewable power we generate.

Andrew Barr



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## Canberra Hospital Expansion

Demolition of two buildings will begin soon, making room for a brand new emergency, surgical and critical healthcare facility.

The project has already delivered new teaching and training spaces and a new administration building.

The expansion will support our city's economic recovery from COVID-19 through the creation

of about 500 local construction jobs, as well as providing opportunities for trainees.

Construction of the new 40,000sqm facility is expected to be completed in 2024.

➔ More at [hospitalexpansion.act.gov.au](https://hospitalexpansion.act.gov.au)



## Get your flu jab now

Getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from getting influenza (the flu).

Like COVID-19, the flu is a highly contagious virus. They can have similar symptoms, and both can make you severely unwell.

This year, most Canberrans should get the flu vaccine and two separate doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. That's three vaccine jabs in 2021. The flu vaccine should be 14 days before or after the

COVID-19 vaccination.

The flu vaccine is readily available from GPs, pharmacies, and other immunisation providers now.

Find out how and where to get vaccinated:

▶ [health.act.gov.au/flu](https://health.act.gov.au/flu)

▶ [covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/vaccine](https://covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/vaccine)



## Enrol your child for the 2022 school year

Public school enrolments are now open for 2022.

Go online to find your local public school, see what's on offer and enrol your child by 4 June to receive an offer from 26 July. Your local public school has a place for your child to learn, develop and reach their potential.

If your child turns four on or before 30 April 2022, you can also enrol now for a guaranteed 15 hours of preschool.

➔ Enrol at [education.gov.au](https://education.gov.au) or by phoning the Enrolments Telephone Service on **6205 5429**.

## Single-use plastics banned in the ACT

From 1 July 2021, the ACT will ban the sale and supply of selected single-use plastic items including:

- ▶ Single-use plastic cutlery
- ▶ Single-use plastic drink stirrers
- ▶ Expanded polystyrene takeaway food and beverage containers.

It's part of the ACT Government's ongoing commitment to sustainability.

➔ More at [act.gov.au/single-use-plastics](https://act.gov.au/single-use-plastics)





## Work begins on new public transport interchange

Work is beginning around the Woden Town Centre to prepare for the new public transport interchange.

New traffic signals, road upgrades, bus layovers and active travel improvements are planned at or around Easty, Wilbow,

Launceston, Bowes and Callam Streets.

The improvements will be staggered to minimise disruptions ahead of the start of construction on the new Public Transport Interchange later this year.

→ Register for updates at [act.gov.au/citcampuswoden](https://act.gov.au/citcampuswoden)

Use the Check In CBR app to protect yourself and your loved ones.



## Volunteers support hospital patients

“Each day is different, and you feel as though you’re doing something worthwhile!”

That’s why Carmen (pictured second right) has

volunteered for the Canberra Hospital Auxiliary Shop for more than 17 years.

The shop supports nursing staff in their further education. Carmen and

many Canberra volunteers will be recognised for the role they play in our community during National Volunteer Week (17-23 May).



→ More at [act.gov.au/our-canberra/woden/volunteersweek](https://act.gov.au/our-canberra/woden/volunteersweek)

Auxiliary Shop volunteers from left to right: Ria, Helen, Carmen and Ken.

## Public charity bins ready for use

Canberrans can now donate their unused clothing and other garments to charity bins located at the Mitchell and Mugga Lane Resource Management Centres as part of a six-month trial with local charity Koomarri.

These charity bins are the first to return after a 12-month hiatus due to COVID-19.

People can help in its success by being responsible recyclers and only donating clean and useable items. Fines apply for illegal dumping or misusing facilities.

→ More at [act.gov.au/recyclopaedia](https://act.gov.au/recyclopaedia)



## Have your say

Have your say on proposed Duffy shopping centre upgrades before 10 May.

→ More at [yoursay.act.gov.au/duffyshops](https://yoursay.act.gov.au/duffyshops)





## Join us for Reconciliation Day

Reconciliation Day is a time for all Canberrans to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The fourth annual Reconciliation Day in Canberra will be celebrated on 31 May with a program designed to start conversations and create a deeper understanding of our national story and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

The ACT is the first and only Australian jurisdiction to recognise Reconciliation Day as a public holiday.

→ More at [events.canberra.com.au](https://events.canberra.com.au)



## Free registration for zero emission vehicles

All new or used zero emission vehicles registered in the ACT will automatically receive two years' free registration from 24 May until 30 June 2024.



Farrer resident Warwick Cathro has made the switch to a more energy efficient way of travelling by purchasing an electric vehicle  
“Our car is great to drive and has enough range to get us around every day

and the occasional trip to the coast,” he said.  
“I can easily charge it at home, and I look forward to seeing more charging stations around Canberra as the number of cars on the road increases.”

→ More at [environment.act.gov.au/cc/zero-emissions-vehicles](https://environment.act.gov.au/cc/zero-emissions-vehicles)

*Warwick Cathro, electric vehicle owner.*

## Work commences on Big Canberra Battery

Work for the Big Canberra Battery is underway which, when complete, will support our electricity network as more Canberrans move to electricity as a more efficient energy source. This initiative progresses the ACT Government's commitment to climate action.

→ More at [act.gov.au/our-canberra/bigbattery](https://act.gov.au/our-canberra/bigbattery)



## Support for local businesses

Local businesses across Canberra can access support and advice, as well as a range of rebates to help them recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

While the ACT economy is recovering, businesses can still get support from the Canberra Business Advice and Support Service, which offers four hours of free expert advice on a range of topics.

There is a range of rebates still available including a one-off \$1,000 electricity rebate for cafes, restaurants, and takeaway businesses.

→ More at [act.gov.au/business](https://act.gov.au/business)

