

## Fast tracking Belconnen's recovery

The ACT Government is fast tracking local infrastructure and maintenance projects to protect jobs and support local business.

In Belconnen over 35 projects have been fast tracked. These works include improvements to public school facilities, road safety enhancements, health service facility upgrades and new footpath and cycleways.

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

**Inside >**  
Canberra's new transport network which will bring more services to Belco

**Fast-tracked upgrades at CIT in Bruce have modernised the campus.**

Around 50 Canberrans from seven local businesses completed the works last month.

### Message from the Chief Minister

Canberrans have responded responsibly to the COVID-19 pandemic so far. We are learning to live with the virus. It will be with us for many months, and possibly years, in to the future.

The ACT Government has been working hard to protect our city from the devastating health and economic impacts that we have seen around the world. We understand that this pandemic is far from over.

Over recent months, the ACT Government's main response has been to support the health and welfare of Canberrans.

Canberra's Recovery Plan includes a range of financial assistance for households, businesses and workers. It also includes a roadmap for the easing of restrictions. The Government wants to support the full recovery of our economy, however, if the expert health advice says we shouldn't further ease restrictions at a point in time – then we won't.

The experience of other cities demonstrates that the economy cannot recover if the virus is not contained. Public health must be the number one priority.

Andrew Barr



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MORE OFTEN**

Get updates directly to your inbox.  
Sign-up to our newsletter via [act.gov.au/our-canberra](https://act.gov.au/our-canberra)



 Visit [COVID19.act.gov.au](https://COVID19.act.gov.au) or call **6207 7244** to stay up-to-date on COVID19 in the ACT.

## Travel safe during Covid-19



Restrictions have eased,  
**but your responsibility hasn't.**

As the updated public transport network starts providing more services, we're still encouraging Canberrans to avoid travelling during peak times. When you travel please remember:

- Don't use public transport if you're unwell – stay at home
- Stay 1.5 metres apart
- Maintain good hand hygiene

More at [covid19.act.gov.au](https://covid19.act.gov.au)

## Violence is never okay



COVID-19 has put pressure on relationships, but that's no excuse for domestic and family violence of any kind.

Reach out to one of the ACT's domestic and family violence services. You can have a confidential conversation, get help for a legal issue, or receive advice on co-parenting.

- For a list of services that can help, visit [act.gov.au/violenceisneverok](https://act.gov.au/violenceisneverok)

## Expanding the Centenary Hospital

The Centenary Hospital for Women and Children expansion will include a new adolescent mental health unit.

The project will ensure our health infrastructure can cater for Canberra's growing population.

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



## Better healthcare boosting jobs

The Canberra Hospital expansion will bring better healthcare to Canberrans and support local jobs.

The project will provide hundreds of local jobs, with construction of a new building for the Canberra Sexual Health Centre to commence this year, and works on the new acute health facility to begin in 2021.

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

## It's ok not to feel ok

You may be feeling confused, secluded, sad, anxious, depressed or frustrated. You may not feel like yourself, or you may be struggling with negative thoughts.

These feelings are normal and you don't have to face them alone.

- Find out how to get the right support at [health.act.gov.au/mentalhealth](https://health.act.gov.au/mentalhealth)

**LOOK  
AFTER  
YOUR  
MENTAL  
HEALTH**



## Better bus connections in Belconnen

Belconnen residents now have access to more direct bus routes, more frequent services and other improvements across the bus network. The changes address community feedback and include:

- 692 extra services each weekday across CBR (up 17.5%)
- travel time savings of about 9 minutes (AM) on route 41 from Charnwood, Flynn and Melba to Belconnen
- route 32 (Belconnen to City via Jamison) running every 10 minutes at the busiest times
- new services through Giralang and Kaleen (route 23) and McKellar (route 24) to Gungahlin and Belconnen
- local buses every 30 minutes all day.

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

## An easier trip to school for Belconnen students



Changes are also in place for school bus routes, with services increased and more aligned with bell times.

Changes include:

- school specials stopping at more schools, with route 1062 extended to St Thomas Aquinas Primary for students from Dunlop or Fraser, and route 1041 stopping at St Francis Xavier College for students from Holt or Higgins
- new bus stops directly outside St Monica's Primary, and a new school special for St Monica's and Miles Franklin Primary.



## Garden delights at Belco schools

The ACT Government is maintaining and upgrading ACT public schools as part of the fast-track infrastructure program.

Students at Cranleigh School are enjoying their new 'Delight Garden' play area and a new shade sail will provide sun protection in the outdoor learning area. A new outdoor hardcourt and outdoor learning area have also been installed at Weetangera Primary School.

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



## Better northside road connections



The road connecting Belconnen and Gungahlin will be duplicated creating two lanes in each direction, including new on-road cycle lanes and lights at the Dumas Street intersection.

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







## Floriade: Reimagined

coming to a suburb near you

This year's celebration of spring will be held in suburbs across Canberra, with Floriade and community groups planting bulbs and annuals throughout the territory.

Find your nearest floral display and watch it transform before Floriade: Reimagined blooms to life  
12 September to 11 October 2020.

→ Read more

[floriadeaustralia.com](http://floriadeaustralia.com)

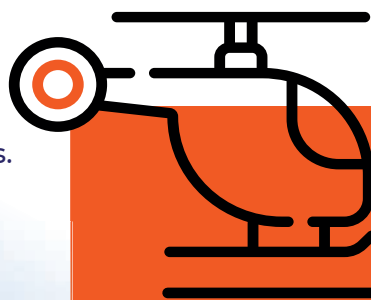
## Tidbinbilla animals return home

Over the last six months, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve have worked with wildlife sanctuaries and other institutions to safely care for and return the Reserve's koalas, platypus, northern corroboree frogs and brush-tailed rock wallabies.

Tidbinbilla are currently working to return the remaining brush-tailed rock-wallabies from Mt Rothwell, Victoria. The animals were evacuated after the Orroral Valley Fire threatened their home in January.

Tidbinbilla is open again, so remember to come say hello to the animals during your next visit.

→ Plan your visit at [tidbinbilla.act.gov.au](http://tidbinbilla.act.gov.au)



## New helipads ready for lift-off

In preparation for the 2020-21 bushfire season, two concrete helipads have been installed and the installation of two large tanks is nearing completion at ACT Rural Fire Service's Helibase in Hume.

The helipads cater for large firefighting helicopters, while the storage tanks can hold water as well as retardant.

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

## Avoid energy bill surprises this winter



Grab your bill, phone your retailer and ask:

- Is my current energy plan the best one for me?
- What deals and discounts can you offer me?
- What is the lowest cost plan you can provide me?
- Am I eligible for a government concession?

Still stuck? Visit [actsmart.act.gov.au](http://actsmart.act.gov.au)



Get COVID-19 updates directly to your inbox.  
Sign-up to our newsletter via [act.gov.au/our-canberra](http://act.gov.au/our-canberra)

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