

OUR CANBERRA

BELCONNEN EDITION

JULY 2016



IMPROVING ACCESS AND TRAFFIC FLOW AROUND NEW HOSPITAL AND UC



Aikman Drive between Ginninderra Drive and Emu Bank will be duplicated to support the opening of the University of Canberra Public Hospital and improve access and traffic flow as the population grows in Belconnen and Gungahlin.

The upgrade works will also include a new public road connection from the new hospital site to Allwoona Street which will support bus services to the hospital as well as the new residential suburb of Lawson.

Improvements at the Joy Cummings Place and Aikman Drive intersection will ensure

visitors to the new hospital can easily access Belconnen's arterial road network.

The project will cater to all modes of transport, featuring two new signalised pedestrian crossings at the Joy Cummings intersection which will provide a safe crossing point for residents from Kangara Waters, improved capacity for motor vehicles, new bus stops, on-road cycle lanes and a shared use cycle path.

Works are expected to commence in late 2016.

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BE PART OF THE Belco50 CELEBRATIONS

This year marks the 50th birthday of Belconnen.

Belconnen Community Council, Belconnen Arts Centre and BCS invite everyone in or from Belconnen to celebrate.

Events include the Amazing Belco Race and BelcoNOW, and a party at Belconnen Arts Centre.

i Keep an eye on the [facebook.com/belco50](https://www.facebook.com/belco50) page for event details as they're announced, or share your memories, events and ideas for celebrating.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

Everyone has the right to feel safe in their home. The issue of family violence is something that affects all Australians, indeed all Canberrans. It's not a police problem, or a government problem, or a poor people's problem, or a Canberra problem. It is everyone's problem.

We need to work together as a government, as individuals and as a community. That is why the ACT government is investing \$21.4 million over four years to tackle family violence – the single largest new funding initiative in the ACT's history on addressing family violence.

This package is coupled with new laws to broaden the definition of family violence to include emotional, psychological and economic abuse, along with increased legal protection for victims. Put simply this is about doing everything we can to stop our neighbours and friends being hurt in their homes.



For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra or follow us on social media.





LIGHT RAIL CONTRACTS SIGNED AND WORK UNDERWAY

Contracts have now been signed with light rail consortium, Canberra Metro, paving the way for the start of construction.

Stage one will see the construction of 12km of light rail track, 13 stops, 14 light rail vehicles and a depot.

The new Transport Canberra agency is tasked with coordinating buses and light rail planning, timetabling and fares, and developing a single ticket for use across the system.

The ACT Government estimates the cost for light rail will be approximately \$710 million and makes up less than one percent of the ACT budget. A capital contribution of \$375m will be made towards the project from 2018/19, funded from the sale of assets such as ACTTAB, ageing public housing and ACT Government office accommodation. The Australian Government has contributed \$67 million toward the project.



Keep up to date at transport.act.gov.au



FIND-A-TRADIE IN CANBERRA

Need a tradie, plumber or builder but want someone who you can trust?

Access Canberra has recently added an easy-to-navigate directory listing every locally registered, accredited and licensed construction and design professional to help make your next renovation or repair easier.

The list will be updated regularly to reflect changes to the number of licensed and registered professionals, while ensuring you have confidence that your tradie is appropriately licensed to carry out the job.

 You can find the Directory at act.gov.au/licences



TAX REFORMS CREATE BOOST FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

The 2016/17 ACT Budget provides support for Canberra businesses by abolishing insurance tax and making further cuts to Stamp Duty, which will improve housing affordability in the ACT.

The payroll tax threshold has also been lifted to \$2 million. This change means that any Canberra business that generates less than \$2 million per year will be exempt from payroll tax.

Tax reforms also include an effort to ensure people pay their fair share of tax. This reform will see specialist investigators working within the ACT Revenue Office to identify tax evaders in Canberra. The initiative is projected to recoup \$27 million over four years.



IMPROVED DENTAL WAIT TIMES ARE WORTH SMILING ABOUT

Canberra's wait times for restorative dental treatment and dentures have halved in recent years, and kids no longer have to wait at all.

ACT community health centres offer dental programs and can triage for emergency dental care. Please note co-payments may apply.

Restorative dental care involves the diagnosis and treatment of dental disease, including examination, diagnosis, x-rays, fillings, extractions and root canal therapy.



To make a booking and for more information on eligibility, visit: health.act.gov.au/our-services/dental

EVATT AND FLOREY SHOPS UPGRADE

Upgrades to the public areas at Evatt and Florey shops are now underway.

Improvements will help improve access and facilities by installing

disability compliant kerb ramps, wheelchair accessible parking, bike racks, picnic settings and new landscaping. Upgrades will be completed in the next few months.



GREEN BINS FOR CANBERRA

Canberra households will be able to opt-in to a new green bin service to dispose of garden waste.

After a 12 month pilot starting early 2017, a city-wide rollout will follow soon after.

Weston Creek and Kambah have been chosen for the pilot. This region covers a good sample size of households and will give the government an understanding of the trucks and infrastructure needed to deliver the service, the regularity required for pickups, and the impact a city-wide rollout would have on existing waste facilities.

'Green bins' will help to divert some of the 5,000 tonnes of garden waste that is currently going to landfill each year.

 For more information and to register your interest visit act.gov.au/greenbins

EXPANDED OUTPATIENTS DEPARTMENT IMPROVES WAITING TIMES

With more than 5,500 appointments every month, one of Canberra Hospital's busiest departments has been refurbished and is now taking patients.

The new Central Outpatients Department now has four new consultation rooms and two reception and waiting areas. The \$1.1 million refurbishment increases consultation capacity by 15 percent, improving waiting times for specialists in the ACT.



FREE HOP-ON HOP-OFF CITY BUS LOOP

Locals and tourists now have access to a free City Loop bus for a one-year trial. The hop on, hop off service will provide a convenient link to key city hubs such as the city bus station, Canberra Centre, Braddon precinct, Northbourne Avenue, the Australian National University and New Acton precinct.

The City Loop will allow people to also connect with high frequency Red and Blue Rapid services and buses to the Parliamentary Triangle.

 For more information visit transport.act.gov.au





A new digital school administration system that will benefit parents and carers is set to come online over the next three years.

Benefits include:

- > Fewer paper forms being sent home with children.
- > Permission slips, consent forms and payments submitted online.
- > Online access to academic reports.
- > Faster absence notifications to parents and carers sent directly to personal devices.
- > Streamlining of the enrolment process – with key information provided only once.

The system builds on the successful digital services already available in Canberra Public Schools including high speed internet and Google Apps for Education.

The 2016-17 ACT Budget outlines \$55 million in new initiatives to improve our schools and state-of-the-art facilities, and strengthen the capacity of schools to support students and their families.

 For more information visit: education.act.gov.au

SMART BINS BETTER FOR ENVIRONMENT




Solar-powered, self-compacting rubbish bins are currently being trialled in Wright, Campbell and Eastlake Parade on the Kingston Foreshore.

The 'Bigbelly' bins hold four times more than regular bins and provide real-time information to waste collectors on how full they are.

This helps reduce rubbish overflow, unnecessary bin collections and related carbon emissions.

The trial will be evaluated by the ACT Waste Feasibility Study.

 For more information on the smart bins visit: act.gov.au/waste



MORE DOCTORS, NURSES AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR CANBERRA

The 2016-17 ACT Budget includes \$139 million for more nurses, more doctors and more allied health professionals as part of \$237 million in new funding for better health services for Canberra.

22 new doctors 

91 new nurses 

34 new allied health workers 

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WORTHY OF BEING AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR?

Nominations for Australian of the Year are now open until 8 August.

 www.australianoftheyear.org.au/nominate



GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL FOOTBALL CLUBS

Local football clubs can now apply for grants from the Community Football Infrastructure Program which has been established using overflow funding from the successful 2015 Asian Cup.

The grants will support and strengthen the sport's participation, improve local football infrastructure and increase accessibility and support club sustainability in Canberra.

Applications close on 12 August.

 To apply visit sport.act.gov.au



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