

July 2023

Our CBR

Woden, Weston Creek
and Molonglo Valley

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ACT Budget invests in Canberra's future



Free preschool for
three year olds -
find out more inside

Message from the Chief Minister

The ACT is the fastest growing jurisdiction in Australia, with more and more people choosing to call Canberra home. In response to this growth, this year's ACT Budget invests in the infrastructure our growing city will need now and into the future. The budget includes the largest infrastructure investment pipeline in the ACT Government's history.

The ACT Government is also investing more in our public healthcare system, a comprehensive housing package, and additional support for Canberrans with the cost of living.

Importantly, the 2023-24 Budget is focused on improving the wellbeing of all Canberrans, particularly for women and children. Find out more about the investments this year's budget makes in the Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo Valley region here.

Andrew Barr



Read more online.

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Boosting Canberra's public health workforce

The ACT public health workforce is getting a big boost in the 2023-24 Budget with funding allocated over the next four years for more health professionals across Canberra's public health services, more professional development opportunities, improved workplace conditions and expanded health services for Canberrans.

This investment will mean an additional 570 health professional positions have been funded since the 2020-21 ACT Budget.

New initiatives in this budget include increasing resourcing at North Canberra Hospital, initiatives to support health workers, a program to increase the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce, and study support payments for health professional students studying in the ACT.



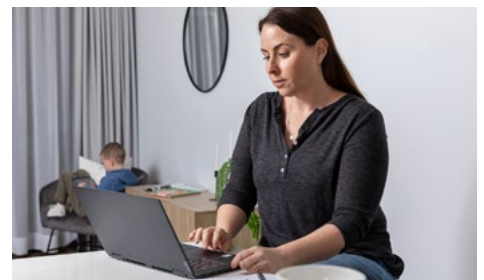
More affordable housing options for Canberra

To increase housing supply, choice and affordability, the ACT Government has a range of initiatives in the 2023-24 Budget.

The investments focus on bolstering the community housing sector, encouraging build-to-rent developments, and growing, renewing and improving public housing. The ACT Government will continue to release land for more homes, including a second site for a

large-scale build-to-rent development with a minimum affordable rental component of 15 per cent.

This budget also funds 140 public housing dwellings as part of the eight-year *Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program* and establishes a new \$60 million Affordable Housing Fund to support the community housing sector to deliver more rental properties.



Addressing cost of living pressures

Through the 2023-24 ACT Budget, the ACT Government will introduce new measures and expand existing measures to reduce some cost of living pressures faced by Canberrans. This includes extending the Utilities Concession to Commonwealth Health Care Card holders, benefitting an additional 12,000 Canberrans, and increasing the concession to \$800 in 2023-24. Find out more online.



Read more online.

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Investing in Canberra's public schools

The ACT Government is delivering significant investment in public education infrastructure as a part of the 2023-24 ACT Budget.

This includes further funding for upgrades to Garran Primary School, as well as support to undertake key feasibility, planning and design work for a new college in the Molonglo Valley.

This work will support the city's future schooling needs.



Sporting facilities to undergo improvements

Design work will soon get underway for stage one of the region's newest playing fields, located in the Molonglo Valley. Stromlo District Playing Fields will feature a pavilion as well as both grass and synthetic fields which cater to a range of sports.

Arawang Netball Association courts in Stirling will also receive upgrades. This work will include resurfacing and work to prevent future water damage and surface cracking, allowing local netballers to continue play in improved conditions.

Local community infrastructure upgrades on the way

Investment in infrastructure to support the region is a key part of the 2023-24 ACT Budget.

This includes funding for the construction and operation of a new joint emergency services station in the Molonglo Valley. The station will be operational in 2025-26.

Options are also being investigated for a community centre to support Woden's changing needs, with community engagement to continue.

Meanwhile paths and streetlights throughout the region will be improved and new connections added to make it easier for Canberrans to walk and cycle safely.



Artist's impression

Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



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Ph 13 22 81



Interpreter
Ph 131 450

**BUILT
FOR
CBR**



Planning for Canberra's future

With an anticipated population of 500,000 by 2026-27, the ACT Government is investing in Canberra's future. Modern infrastructure, better connectivity and revitalised facilities will make life easier and more enjoyable for all.

As part of the updated ACT Infrastructure Plan, the government will increase the capacity in the ACT's hospital and community health settings to ensure Canberrans can access high-quality, modern healthcare services when and where they need them.

New and upgraded infrastructure will prioritise community-focused care, improved patient outcomes and greater alignment of health service delivery and will improve the work environment for the ACT's health workforce with state-of-the-art facilities. This will be delivered through:

- improving the campus environment
- community health infrastructure, including nurse-led Walk-in Centres and other smaller-scale health infrastructure investments located across Canberra.

For more information about the updated infrastructure plan visit **builtforcbr.act.gov.au**

Projects include:



Canberra Hospital Expansion

The Canberra Hospital Expansion Project is delivering a new Critical Services Building at the Canberra Hospital campus. The new all-electric facility will include a new emergency department, more operating rooms, more treatment spaces and more intensive care beds. Construction is expected to be completed in 2024.

More projects on next page →

The ACT Government is continuing to plan for a new, more than \$1 billion northside hospital which will deliver the required capacity to meet the demands of our growing and ageing northside population for the next 50 years.

Early planning and design is progressing, with construction expected to commence mid-decade.

The ACT Government is investing more than \$16 million to commence the roll out of four health centres, delivering community-based services in South Tuggeranong, West Belconnen, Inner South and North Gungahlin to provide accessible public health care across Canberra's suburbs. Building on the popularity of Canberra Health Services at Molonglo, the new health centres will provide even more health services closer to home for the Canberra community.





More funding for **Sustainable Household Scheme**

The ACT Government will provide more funding for the Sustainable Household Scheme in the 2023-24 ACT Budget.

The scheme provides zero-interest loans to help households with the up-front costs of purchasing and installing energy-efficient electric appliances and vehicles, insulation, rooftop solar and batteries.

Changes to the scheme were introduced on 1 July 2023. The changes will prioritise Canberrans transitioning to electric and households who need it most.

Free preschool for three year olds



Free preschool will be available to Canberra three year olds for one day per week from the start of 2024. This will generate an average saving of \$1329 per child for the family of a three-year-old preschooler.

Delivered through Early Childhood and Education Care centres, this ACT Budget initiative will set Canberra kids up for a lifetime of learning. The funding of more than \$50 million over four years aims to improve equitable access to quality early learning.

Find out more by scanning the QR code above.

What's on in July

7-16 Jul **Uncharted Territory**
Various locations

From 8 Jul **Capturing Canberra – press photography**
Canberra Museum and Gallery

13 Jul **Rugby League The Musical**
The Street Theatre

15 Jul **The Ten Tenors: Greatest Hits Tour**
Canberra Theatre Centre

20-22 Jul **Yuldea: dance theatre**
Canberra Theatre Centre

22 Jul **Funkaars – Australian Indian Classical Jazz Fusion**
The Street Theatre

28 Jul **The Music of Hans Zimmer**
Canberra Theatre Centre

29-30 Jul **Handmade Market – Winter EPIC**

30 Jul **Winter Wonderland at Haig Park Village Markets**
Haig Park

Canberrans can also cheer on the Raiders at GIO Stadium this month.



For more events and details, visit events.canberra.com.au

What do you think of the tracks and trails at **Stromlo Forest Park?**

Whether you're a runner, mountain biker, road cyclist, horse rider or just love the park, it's time to have your say to help improve it for everyone. A new five-year Tracks and Trails Masterplan will address existing trails, plus plans for new trails on the western and eastern sides of the park.

Find out more at YourSay Conversations or scan the QR code.



YOUR SAY
CONVERSATIONS