Margaret Timpson Park playground update

Free support for parents and carers

Save money by going electric

Our CBR.

Belconnen **October 2026**

Prepare now for bushfire season



Find out more inside

In this edition

There's plenty happening across Canberra, with new projects, events and support rolling out across our suburbs.

With bushfire and storm seasons underway, now is also a good time to make sure you and your household are prepared for an emergency.

The ACT Government is continuing to make it easier to build more homes, while helping Canberrans doing it tough through measures like the new Housing Crisis Support Fund.

Designs have been released for Margaret Timpson Park improvements, with upgrades to the playground on Jeffery Place in McKellar also on the horizon.

Read more online.

Scan this QR code for all your Our CBR articles in one place, or to sign up for fortnightly updates directly to your inbox. **linktr.ee/ourcanberra**

Produced by Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.

ACT Government

Planning changes to deliver more homes

Changes have been introduced to simplify planning processes for missing middle development and secondary residences (granny flats).

Simple Crown lease variations can now be approved in as little as 10 working days.

Homeowners with single dwelling leases will be able to build a granny flat without needing to vary their Crown lease.

The changes will also speed up approvals for simple subdivisions.

An upcoming Canberra House Pattern Book will offer pre-qualified missing middle housing designs to make building new homes quicker and simpler.

Scan the QR code to find out more.





Support to help renters stay in their homes

The new Housing Crisis Support Fund is now open.

Private renters experiencing financial stress can apply for one-off payments through the fund.

The fund, managed by local community organisation Care Inc., will provide one-off payments to low-income private renters who are at risk of losing their home.

The payments will help people stay in their homes and avoid homelessness.

Payments are also available for newly housed public housing tenants.

The fund is expected to help thousands of households across the ACT.

Scan the QR code for more information.

E-cargo bikes added to Sustainable Household Scheme

Electric cargo bikes have been added to the Sustainable Household Scheme.

Low-interest loans are available to purchase them and many other products, helping you reduce your environmental impact and save money on bills.

Eligible Canberrans can get a loan for:

- battery storage systems
- electric heating and cooling systems
- hot water heat pumps and evacuated tube solar hot water systems
- electric stove tops
- electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

More than 26,000 Canberra households have accessed the scheme since 2021, saving over $178 million through reduced household bills and fuel savings.

Scan the QR code for more about the scheme and eligibility.



Designs released for Margaret Timpson Park improvements

The final landscape plans for Margaret Timpson Park improvements have been released.

Key features of the playground and improvements include:

- a nest swing
- a rope pyramid
- a shade sail
- more seating
- new landscaping
- a new public toilet
- new barbecue and picnic facilities.

An accessible ramp will be built at the northern end of the park near Chandler Street.

Scan the QR code to see the landscape plans.





Free support at Child and Family Centres

Canberra's Child and Family Centres offer free support for parents and carers.

Expert staff can guide you on child development, parenting tips and family relationships. You can find playgroups, parenting programs and children's groups to join, including groups run by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Most services are for families with children up to 8 years. Some services are for children up to 12 years.

The West Belconnen Child and Family Centre is located in Holt.

Simply drop in or call any weekday between 9 am and 5 pm.

Scan the QR code for more information.

Updates in your region

The playground on Jeffery Place in McKellar will be upgraded. Scan the QR code for the latest updates.

In Spence, a new 2.5-metre-wide shared path near Kuringa Drive is complete. The 1-kilometre path runs along Kuringa Drive from Owen Dixon Drive, before turning onto Kingsford Smith Drive.

The Diddams Close boat ramp is being upgraded and extended to make it safer. It is expected to be operational in November.

Read more online.
Scan this QR code for Our CBR online.
linktr.ee/ourcanberra

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.



nbn full fibre now available to more households

More ACT residents can access nbn full fibre through nbn's ACT Fibre Upgrade Program.

The first 1,000 Canberra homes and businesses can now order a full fibre connection.

nbn has contacted eligible premises in Higgins, Holt, Griffith and Narrabundah.

The Federal Government-funded program is expected to upgrade around 97,000 ACT premises by 2030.

When work is completed, residents will need to contact their internet provider and request to connect to the nbn full fibre network.

nbn full fibre connections are faster and more reliable than older copper technology.

More than 75,000 ACT homes and businesses can already access nbn full fibre.

Scan the QR code for more information and to check if you are eligible.

Help reduce the impact of H5 bird flu

H5 bird flu has been detected in Australia. While the risk to people remains low, early detection is vital to protecting local wildlife, agriculture and communities.

Governments, industry and the community all play an important role in monitoring and reporting potential cases.

By staying alert and acting quickly, we can help reduce the impacts of disease.

If you see sick or dead birds, avoid direct contact and keep pets away. Record what you see and where, and report it immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Scan the QR code to learn more.





What's on

Until 1 Dec
Canberra SpringOUT Pride Festival
Various locations

1 Nov
The Canberra Times Run Canberra
Acton

5–15 Nov
Craft + Design Canberra Festival
Craft + Design Canberra, City

7 Nov
La Fiesta
Latin American Plaza, City

7–8 Nov
ScaleACT26
Thoroughbred Park

28 Nov
Matildas (Australia v Colombia)
GIO Stadium Canberra

28–29 Nov
Canberra Christmas Market
EPIC

29 Nov
Three Sixty Fashion Market
Fitters Workshop, Kingston

Canberrans can also cheer on the UC Capitals at AIS Arena and Canberra United at McKellar Park.

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

Do you need help reading or understanding this newsletter?

to listen to or get this information in another format,

call Access Canberra on **13 22 81**

Interpreter

If you need the translation and interpreting service, call **13 14 50**

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Staying safe starts with a chat

Emergencies can happen quickly. Talking about things ahead of time can help you and your loved ones stay safe.

Use the Emergency Chat Guide to help start these conversations. You should discuss:

- when you may stay or leave your home
- where you could go
- your transport options
- who may need help
- how to prepare your home
- what to include in your emergency kit.

Take 20 minutes today to talk with the people around you.

Scan the QR code for your Emergency Chat Guide.



Create a personalised guide

Preparing for emergencies doesn't have to be overwhelming.

Answer a few simple questions online for instant, personalised advice on your:

- suburb
- community needs
- transport needs
- property type.

An Emergency Prepare Guide is the first step in making your emergency plan. It has questions and tips to guide discussions and emergency planning.

Scan the QR code to create your Emergency Prepare Guide.





Know the risk where you live and work

Every home needs to be prepared for emergencies, but some areas are more at risk.

Search your suburb on the ACT Emergency Services Agency website to learn about the risks in your area.

Suburbs on the urban fringe are particularly at risk for bushfires.

Flooding may affect low-lying areas, stormwater drains and nearby roads.

Heatwaves can make people unwell, especially older people, young children and those who cannot keep their homes cool.

Scan the QR code to search your suburb.

ACT Bushfire Season
1 October 2026 – 31 March 2027

There is an average risk of bushfire expected in the ACT. Permits are required for all fires in the open air.

chat. plan. act.

esa.act.gov.au/prepare

ACT Government

ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY

Belconnen



Take action now to prepare

You can take simple steps to get ready for bushfires, storms, flood and heatwaves:

- [ ] clear your gutters of leaves, twigs and rubbish
- [ ] trim tree branches overhanging your house
- [ ] seal all gaps, vents and roof spaces
- [ ] move large wood piles away from your house
- [ ] keep home, contents and vehicle insurance current.

Scan the QR code for more.

What's in your home emergency kit?

Building an emergency kit is a simple way to prepare for natural hazards.

Get together with your household or support network to make a list of what you will need. You may already have many of the essentials at home.

You may wish to consider:

- [ ] essential medicines and copies of repeat prescriptions
- [ ] copies of other important documents
- [ ] chargers and power banks
- [ ] torch and spare batteries
- [ ] battery-powered radio
- [ ] cash
- [ ] toiletries
- [ ] first aid kit
- [ ] long-life food and water
- [ ] protective clothing and blankets.

Scan the QR code to download an emergency kit packing list.





New warning system now in use

Australia's new national warning system, AusAlert, is now being used in the ACT.

To help people stay informed and prepared during emergencies, the system may send emergency alerts directly to compatible mobile devices.

AusAlert complements existing emergency warning channels, like the Emergency Services Agency website and social media channels.

Scan the QR code for more.

What to do in an emergency

If a hazard strikes near you, be ready to act:

- follow emergency warnings and advice
- tune into local radio
- avoid unnecessary travel.

Check the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) website and social media channels to stay updated.

Scan the QR code to visit the ESA website.

ACT Storm Season
1 September 2026 – 31 March 2027

Hot, dry weather and unstable atmospheric conditions may cause intense storms this season.

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ACT Government

ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY