Construction has started on Canberra’s newest public hospital – the University of Canberra Public Hospital set to open in 2018.

Over the coming years, the project will provide construction jobs, improve economic activity in Belconnen and help the University of Canberra attract new students and researchers.

The first sod was turned last month, officially beginning the construction phase of the project.

For more information visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

It’s been a busy start to the year, with some of the world’s biggest companies giving our city a major vote of confidence. International flights are finally a reality with Singapore Airlines announcing it will fly direct from Canberra to Singapore and Wellington.

Also in transport, we’ve announced the international consortium that will build the first stage of Canberra’s light rail network. The companies involved are some of the world’s best and they’ll get the job done faster and at a lower cost than originally anticipated.

Infrastructure investment is not limited to transport and it was great to recently turn the sod to start construction on the new University of Canberra Public Hospital.

For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra or follow us on social media.
**Dog-Friendly Canberra Gets Even Better**

You and your pooch can now enjoy even more of your Canberra together.

You can now exercise your dog off-leash at all sportsgrounds when they’re not being used for sport. In Belconnen, that includes Kippax District Playing Fields. Dogs can also be off-leash at man-made wetland areas such as the Lyneham wetlands and Flemington Road ponds.

William Slim Drive pedestrian parkland in Lawson has changed from an on-leash area to off-leash. All major parks, including Black Mountain Peninsula, are now dog on-leash.


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**Remember This**

- Keep your dog on-leash on a path or pathway.
- Ensure your dog isn’t harassing other dogs, people or wildlife.
- Keep your dog 10m away from playgrounds and barbecues.
- Always clean up after your dog.
- Enclosed oval remains dog prohibited.

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**Cyber Safety at Your Local Library**

If you need advice on cyberbullying and eSafety, head to your local library for help.

Young people in the ACT are among the first in the country to trial a new program called eSafety—offered by the Office of the Children’s Safety Commissioner. If successful, the pilot will be rolled out to public libraries across Australia.

Visit your local library for advice on how to be safe online, to learn about managing your privacy and security online, removing cyber-bullying material, and to better understand games, apps and social networking.


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**Cook Shops Get a Refresh**

Residents can soon look forward to more open space, new pathways, improved lighting, more disability parking, new outdoor furniture and improved landscaping. Work will be completed mid 2018.

For more information visit [library.act.gov.au](http://library.act.gov.au).

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**New Emergency Station for Belconnen**

Construction of Belconnen’s new co-located ambulance and fire and rescue station is well under way and due for completion in June 2018.

The station is opposite Canberra High School at Bardi Place Aranda, just off Donduh Street and near the intersection with Belconnen Way. Part of the development includes a new car park south of the station.

For more information and an update on progress visit [esa.act.gov.au](http://esa.act.gov.au).

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**Belconnen’s Community Health Centre**

Community Health Centres offer a variety of services to help Canberra families look after their health and wellbeing.

In Belconnen, your local centre is on the corner of Lathlain and Cohen Streets and is open from 9 am to 9 pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays).

The centre provides dental, podiatry, respiratory, BreastScreen and women’s and children’s health services, cancer counselling, social work and mental health care, nutrition and obesity management services, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and falls injury prevention services.

It also features a Nurse-led Walk in Centre providing free one-off advice and treatment for people with a minor illness or injury.

Community Health Centres are located in all major town centres in the ACT (Canberra, Dickson, Tuggeranong, Phillip, Gungahlin and Belconnen), each offering services to help Canberra families look after their health and wellbeing.

For more information visit [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au) or call 6207 9977.

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**Light Rail Operating Early 2019**

A world class light rail is coming, with stage one delivering 12km of light rail track, 13 stops, 16 light rail vehicles, a depot and 20 years of operation and maintenance.

The construction consortium has been chosen, with the first stage of the project to be completed by late 2018. Operations will begin in early 2019.


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**The Impact of Climate Change for Canberra**

Climate change is likely to mean more heatwaves and extreme weather in our region.

That means we need to improve how we manage our water resources and reduce the effects of heat, prepare our emergency responses, help Canberrans reduce their electricity costs, protect native species and urban forests, and support and encourage private enterprise to take action.

The ACT Government has released its new ‘Climate Change Adaptation Strategy’ and you are invited to have your say.


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**Canberra Students Are Connected**

Canberra’s public schools are now some of the best connected in the world.

25,200 of our local students at most Canberra public schools have registered with the Google Apps for Education platform, making a real difference to the way they learn.

Teachers, parents and students can use Google Apps to communicate, collaborate and explore on real-world platforms.

Contact your school to learn more about Google Apps for Education.


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**Enclosed Ovals Remain Dog On-Leash**

Always clean up after your dog.

Keep your dog 10m away from playgrounds and barbecues.

Ensure your dog isn’t harassing other dogs, people or wildlife.

Keep your dog 10m away from playgrounds and barbecues.

Always clean up after your dog.

Enclosed oval remains dog prohibited.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANBERRA

LIGHTS! CANBERRA! ACTION!
11 MARCH FROM 7 pm
Kick back and enjoy an evening of free outdoor cinema at the 13th annual Lights! Canberra! Action!
The festival, which is part of Enlighten 2016, sees local film makers write, shoot and produce a 7-minute Canberra-centric film along the theme of ‘Chance’.
Screening starts at Old Parliament House at 8 pm. Entertainment from 7 pm.

SYMPHONY IN THE PARK MEETS BABE
13 MARCH FROM 6.30 pm
The Australian family classic ‘Babe’ will light up the silver screen at Stage 88 this Canberra Day eve, accompanied by the renowned Canberra Symphony Orchestra.
Enjoy this free cinematic experience with a picnic and be thoroughly entertained.

UP UP & AWAY
12-20 MARCH
Canberra’s annual Balloon Spectacular returns for its 30th year.
More than 30 giant hot air balloons from across the globe will take to our skies again this month. This year, look out for the Owibert Einstein balloon and another inspired by the Disney movie Up.
Balloons inflate on the Lawns of Old Parliament House from 6.15 am, they launch from 6.30–7 am (weather permitting) and breakfast is available until 10 am.

CELEBRATE CANBERRA DAY IN COMMONWEALTH PARK
14 MARCH FROM 2 pm
There will be an exciting program of live music and entertainment, amusement park rides, food and festival style activities for the whole family.
Local bands and big name acts will take centre stage at this year’s celebrations.

On 14 March visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra to meet our new 2016 CANBERRA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
Citizen of the Year 2015, Sue Salthouse

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