

WESTON CREEK TO TRIAL GREEN BINS



Weston Creek residents will be the first to benefit from a new opt-in green bin service to dispose of garden waste. After a 12 month pilot starting early 2017, a city-wide rollout will follow soon after.

The Kambah and Weston Creek regions were chosen for the pilot because it covers a good sample size of Canberra households.

The pilot will give the government a clear 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.

Interested households will be able to opt-in for a one-off, cost-recovery deposit of around \$50, with bins collected fortnightly. Pensioners and concession card holders will receive their bin without providing a deposit.

'Green bins' is an important new service for ratepayers and 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

IN THIS ISSUE:

- > Grants for local football clubs
- > Cotter Road to be duplicated
- > CBRfree now available in Weston Creek

RENEWAL OF BRIERLY STREET AND TRENERRY SQUARE



Weston Creek can look forward to the renewal of Brierly Street and Trenerry Square near Cooleman Court in 2017.

Improvements will create an inviting people-first and cyclist friendly environment along Brierly Street, safely connecting the retail and service precincts.

First stage community consultation on the improvements has now ended and this information will inform preliminary designs. These will be publicly available in a second stage of community consultation later in 2016.

Construction works on the upgrade are expected to commence in mid 2017 and completed by the end of 2017.



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.





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

BETTER CROSS CITY CONNECTIONS WITH COTTER ROAD DUPLICATION **A**

Better connections to the rest of Canberra are on the way, with the duplication of Cotter Road.

The road upgrade will support the growth of the Molonglo Valley and Weston Creek, by helping service the thousands of new residents expected in the area over the coming decade. It will also improve travel times for motorists, buses and cyclists.

The duplication is funded in the 2016/2017 ACT Budget and will be completed in 2018/2019.

 For more information visit transport.act.gov.au

Hindmarsh Drive will also be getting some improvements in 2017, with an upgrade to both the Launceston Street and Eggleston Crescent intersections. These works will improve both the safety and flow of traffic.

Improvements coming soon to Woden Town Centre

- > New footpaths and cycle lanes.
- > Improved footpaths and lighting at the Bus Interchange.
- > A new Woden Bus Depot to improve efficiency, frequency and bus maintenance.



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



FOOTBALL STARS OF THE FUTURE GET A NEW FOOTBALL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Work is now underway on the Melrose Football Precinct. Facilities will include a new FIFA accredited synthetic football field complete with sportsground lighting and a new sports pavilion, change rooms and a canteen.

Included in the works will be an expansion of the carpark and the upgrade of existing hard courts, which are used for a variety of sports including basketball, netball and tennis.

The new facilities will also link with the Erindale College elite sports program and the adjoining Marist College program to create a High School Centre of Excellence in Sports, with modern facilities that will complement existing sporting facilities in the region.



CBRfree WiFi NOW AVAILABLE IN WESTON CREEK

Weston Creek residents can now access CBRfree, one of Australia's largest free outdoor public Wi-Fi networks.

Users can access 250 megabytes per day, totalling 7.5 gigabytes of data per month. CBRfree is already available in Civic East and Civic West, the Belconnen Town Centre, Dickson, Manuka and Kingston and Tuggeranong.

 For more information visit digitalcanberra.com.au





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

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

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



For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra or follow us on social media. Our Canberra is prepared by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.

