



Belconnen

DECEMBER 2021
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Hospital expansion fuels economic recovery

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Apprentice plumbers Joshua Torley and Lily Bowling are involved in the construction of the new hospital building.



Message from the Chief Minister

Canberra's economic recovery has begun – led by strong spending from local consumers and interstate visitors.

There are also 250 infrastructure projects kicking off – including more schools, more public housing

and extending light rail – and these will support thousands of jobs for Canberrans over the coming years.

We have all had a tough year, but we now have a lot to look forward to over the summer months.

Andrew Barr



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Work starts on Canberra Hospital expansion

Construction has started on the Canberra Hospital Expansion's centrepiece building, with more than 500 local jobs created to deliver the world-class healthcare facility.

The new facility will increase the hospital's emergency department, surgical and critical care capacity with more beds and modern treatment spaces.

The city's largest ever infrastructure program – which spans health, education, transport, public housing and urban renewal – will fuel Canberra's recovery from COVID-19 and support thousands of ACT jobs for years to come.

COVID-19 booster vaccinations now available

Aged 18+ and had your second dose of COVID-19 vaccine more than six months ago? Get a COVID-19 booster vaccination from a participating GP, pharmacy or ACT Government COVID-19 vaccination clinic.



Upskill yourself with JobTrainer

A range of free courses and qualifications are now available for Canberrans to help develop skills in high demand industries.

The JobTrainer program supports young people who have left school and job seekers to access free training in a range of industries, including aged care, early childhood education and care, disability care and digital skills.



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Everyday climate choices



Small changes for a cleaner future

Canberra has led the way on climate action in Australia, and we can all do our bit to work towards our city's ambitious target of net zero emissions by 2045.

The Everyday Climate Choices website climatechoices.act.gov.au shows how we can all take steps towards a cleaner future, including reducing food waste.



A better Lake G to enjoy this summer

Spending time around Lake Ginninderra this summer is even better with a number of improvements completed and ready for you to enjoy.

The Lake Ginninderra foreshore path is complete. The path curves behind the Belconnen Arts Centre and features lookout platforms and a raised mesh walkway over wetlands.

The swimming areas of Yerra Beach will be ready for the summer holidays with additional beach sand and an outdoor shower so you can enjoy a day building sandcastles.

In John Knight Memorial Park, the playground is receiving new softfall and there's a new modern toilet block so you can stay longer and later on those warmer days.

Some of these projects include funding from the Australian Government.



Scoot from Belco to the City in 2022

The ACT Government will start a phased expansion of the current e-scooter scheme in 2022.

The first phase will connect the two existing zones of central Canberra and Belconnen.

Planning for the expansion will include identifying ways to scoot between these town centres via Canberra's shared path network, so that people can move between them safely and without using major roads.



Discover Strathnairn Arts this summer

Whether you're after great-tasting coffee, locally-made Christmas gifts, adult and kids art workshops or quality local artwork for your walls, discover Strathnairn Arts this summer. The 2021 Member's Exhibition is now showing.



Free travel on Christmas Day

Bus and light rail services are free on Christmas Day. Go online to find the interim bus and Christmas Day timetables in place over the summer holiday period.





Stay safe this holiday season

It's important that all Canberrans stay safe this summer, whether it be around the pool, staying cool during heatwaves, keeping our pets safe and driving responsibly on our roads. If you're heading interstate, be sure to stay up to date with the latest travel advice and information on COVID-affected areas at covid19.act.gov.au.

Thank you to CBR's essential workers

Regular rainfall has made it a busy year for Roads ACT's stormwater team. Their team member Andrew Melville jokes that all he wants for Christmas is a 'a little bit of dry weather' so his phone stops ringing.

His essential work managing the ACT's stormwater network has been as important as ever throughout the recent COVID-19 lockdown.

"If our work doesn't continue, houses flood, carparks flood and basements flood," Andrew said. "So, we've had to keep going and it's been almost business as usual."

Andrew is one of thousands of essential workers – spanning transport, city services, education, health and more – who have kept Canberra running during the recent COVID-19 lockdown.

Thank you to Andrew and all our essential workers for their efforts in a challenging year.



NYE fireworks are back!

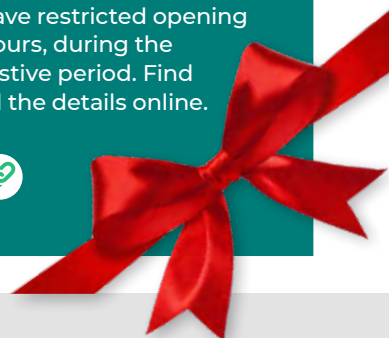
You're invited to the shores of Lake Burley Griffin this New Year's Eve to bring in 2022 with two spectacular fireworks displays.

The family and community evening starts at 6pm, with locals invited to picnic in a COVID-safe manner ahead of the 9pm and midnight fireworks.

Support local businesses by purchasing picnic hampers or enjoying the New Year's Eve specials on offer.

Services available during the holiday season

Some ACT Government services will be closed, or have restricted opening hours, during the festive period. Find all the details online.



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