

## INVESTING IN EMERGENCY SERVICES

The ACT Government is committed to investing in community safety for Canberrans as the city expands and the population grows, Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell announced today.

The 2014-15 ACT Budget will invest \$45.8 million in new emergency services initiatives as part of \$286 million total funding for policing and emergency services in the ACT.

Funding will see a new ambulance and fire station for Belconnen, the continuation of the trial of an extended care paramedic program, the examination of the future use of the Gungahlin Joint Emergency Services Centre (JESC), and enhancements to radio and dispatch systems at the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) HQ.

### New fire station in Aranda

**The ACT Government's commitment to improving community safety will see \$20.9 million invested in a new co-located ambulance and fire station at Aranda.**

This completes phase one of the ESA station upgrade and relocation strategy which includes the recently opened ambulance and fire station at West Belconnen and a new fire station currently under construction in south Tuggeranong.

The new station will be built on Bindubi Street on the western side of the Aranda District Playing Fields, with construction expected to start in late 2014 and anticipated to be completed in mid 2016.

### Investment in frontline services

The government has also committed to a number of other frontline emergency and policing services initiatives including:

- **\$7.4 million to upgrade the Territory Radio Network (TRN) and the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system in the ESA Emergency Triple Zero (000) Communications Centre.**
- **\$455,000 to continue a trial of the ACT Ambulance Service Extended Care Paramedic Program for a further 12 months (pending an evaluation).**
- **\$450,000 for a study on the future use of the Gungahlin Joint Emergency Services Centre.**

### Supporting ongoing operations

An additional \$16 million over the next four years will be provided to the ESA to offset the Commonwealth's significant reduction in annual payments to the ACT for fire services. This will help ensure frontline emergency services are not affected by the Federal cuts.



# AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUDGET 2014-15

\$424,000 will be provided to enhance existing emergency management facilities within the ESA HQ at Fairbairn, including enlarging the Emergency Triple Zero (000) Communications Centre.

The ACT Government will also provide \$160,000 to develop a *Women in Emergency Services Strategy*, with a focus on encouraging women to join our emergency services, including ACT Fire & Rescue.

The Women in Emergency Services Strategy will ensure the ESA builds a workforce that better reflects the community it serves, and provides an inclusive environment that respects and values all of its members, affording equitable opportunities and fully utilising the capabilities of all staff.

Media contact: Andrew Benson      0481 004 015      [andrew.benson@act.gov.au](mailto:andrew.benson@act.gov.au)

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