

INVESTING IN OUR SUBURBS

The 2014-15 ACT Budget will see further investment in the revitalisation of our shopping centres, upgrading playgrounds and maintenance of new community infrastructure. These initiatives will ensure the ACT Government continues to deliver improvements to our local suburbs and open space as the city expands, Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Shane Rattenbury, said today.

New initiatives contained in the 2014-15 Budget form part of \$488 million spent every year on municipal services across the city.

Local shops to receive a revamp

\$2 million over two years will be invested in our local shopping centres with refurbishments planned for Cook, Rivett and on Mannheim Street in Kambah, as well as other smaller upgrades.

Upgrades will include a combination of lighting, parking and landscaping improvements that will not only improve the safety and accessibility of the shopping precincts, but will also help to make sure they remain an attractive place for locals to shop.

Safe play for Canberra's kids

Play is an important element in a child's health and development and through the *Playground Safety Program*, the ACT Government is providing safe and accessible play spaces for Canberra families. The prioritised program of playground upgrade works will continue by providing \$500,000 in funding towards ensuring equipment in our play spaces is safe and fun to use.

Services for new suburbs

Canberra's urban footprint is expanding, with major land releases in Gungahlin including the new suburbs of Bonner, Forde, Harrison, Casey, Crace as well as West Macgregor, Molonglo and North Weston. With this expansion comes the delivery of new assets such as traffic lights, street lights, community paths, stormwater drains and road pavement, which all require maintenance. To address the maintenance of new assets and service delivery requirements, the 2014-15 Budget provides \$9.6 million over the next four years.

Weston Creek Group Centre parking upgrade

The 2014-15 Budget provides \$500,000 for the construction of additional car parking facilities at the Weston Creek Group Centre.

To cater to the increasing demand on the Weston Creek Group Centre from residents of Weston Creek and the expanding Molonglo Valley, additional car parking spaces will be provided on Dillon Close and Liardet

Media contact: Alison Jaques 0481 035 764 alison.jaques@act.gov.au

Street in Weston. A portion of these parking spaces will be allocated to Park and Ride. Existing parking will also be reconfigured to optimise space, with short-term parking to be located adjacent to the group centre and long-term parking to be located on the periphery.

In addition, improvements on Namatjira Drive will improve safety for vulnerable road users including pedestrians and cyclists. Prioritising and improving safety will encourage pedestrians and cyclists to use our roads and ultimately improve Canberra's overall sustainability.

Recycling and waste

As part of the \$11.3 million in extra funding for waste management, \$400,000 has been allocated for the continuation of the trial of the ACT's bulky waste collection service. This free service helps pensioners and concession card holders who have limited financial or physical capacity to recycle or dispose of large items.