

## **A YEAR OF ACTIVITY, ACHIEVEMENT AND PURPOSE:**

### **The first year of the 3rd Stanhope Government**

The year since Stanhope Labor's formal return to Government on November 5 2008 has been one of immense activity, achievement and purpose.

In every area of service delivery and policy development, Labor has been energetically delivering on the commitments it took to the 2008 election as well as responding to emerging issues – including the advent of the Global Financial Crisis.

United, experienced and energetic, Labor has spent the past 12 months delivering for the people of Canberra, building a better, more sustainable city and a stronger, more inclusive community.

This summary gives just a taste of a year spent in the service of the Canberra community. The attached Appendix gives a longer - though by no means exhaustive - list of the year's labours.

### **A Sustainable City**

Labor's vision to make the national capital the country's solar capital is coming into sharper focus, with the successful introduction of the nation's most generous feed-in tariff. A thousand homes have had photo-voltaic arrays installed since the Scheme began in March.

The Government has also identified possible sites for a major solar power station and called for expressions of interest for the construction of the facility. Industry response has been excellent and the expressions of interest are currently being examined.

The first of 100 new-generation clean-diesel buses have joined the ACTION fleet. The buses, worth a total of \$49.5 million, have environmental credentials equal to the best of the compressed natural gas buses on the market.

GreenPower has formally become the first product to be offered to all new electricity customers in the ACT – turning what was once an ‘opt-in’ system for green energy into an ‘opt-out’ system – just one of the myriad ways in which Labor is acting to move towards the long-term target of zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the past year Labor has commissioned a multidisciplinary team from the University of Canberra to conduct research that will feed into the development of the country’s best clean industry policy.

The first sod has been turned on a Climate Change Institute, with the Stanhope Government contributing \$2.5 million towards the construction. The Institute will attract 90 of the best and brightest minds to work on the challenges of tackling climate change.

### An Educated City

Maintaining an edge in the educational arena means constant vigilance and constant improvement.

The first year of this term has seen the opening of new schools, where they are needed, and a massive investment in what goes on inside all of our schools.

Four new early-childhood schools have been opened by the Labor Government.

The state-of-the-art P-10 Kingsford Smith School has welcomed its first students and construction has begun on a secondary college for the people of Gungahlin.

Labor has completed a major investment in the facilities inside the classroom too, with the completion of the roll-out of fibre-optic cable to all secondary schools.

The most recent Budget delivered funding for an additional 70 teachers in our public schools. This will deliver on the Government’s election promise to reduce average class sizes in every single year of schooling.

A special new equity fund has been set up by the Government to ensure that children with special needs in non-government schools get access to the programs and support that will allow them to reach their educational potential.

And now, the Government is pursuing the biggest revolution in education for a decade - earn or learn - based on the proposition that every young Canberran aged 17 or under must be at school, in training, or a job.

### **A Healthy City**

In the first year of this term the Government has opened new operating theatres at our two public hospitals, opened a satellite breast screen clinic and is in the final stages of design work for the brand-new Women and Children's Hospital. All part of a billion-dollar health rebuild, to serve Canberrans today - and tomorrow.

Over the course of the year the Government has embarked on consultation for other crucial elements of this rebuild – including the Walk-in Clinics and a new mental health precinct.

In response to the global swine flu pandemic, the Government delivered 34,300 vaccinations by the end of October and operated dedicated Flu Centres at The Canberra Hospital and Calvary for the duration of the winter flu season.

A new step-up, step-down mental health facility has been opened at Lyneham, mental health training has been funded for emergency services workers and teachers, and the ACT Mental Health Services Plan 2009-14 has been released.

During the year a new equipment hire service was opened for children and young people with a disability. Eight new speech therapists have been employed and new therapy playgroups have been established for children with a disability.

## An Inclusive City

The ACT Government believes working men and women are entitled to a life that balances work, family responsibilities and leisure. It believes all Canberrans should be afforded opportunities to engage fully in the life of the community. It believes in looking out for those who are vulnerable.

Families are important. Women's participation in the workforce is important. In the first year of this term Labor has boosted paid public-sector maternity leave by four weeks to 18 weeks – making the ACT Government's scheme the most generous public-sector scheme in the country. Paid bonding leave has been doubled to two weeks.

In response to the Global Financial Crisis Labor has established a Mortgage Relief Program to hold out a hand to Canberra families at risk of losing their homes due to factors beyond their control.

Designed in consultation with finance providers, financial counsellors and the community sector, the program gives families a breathing space when temporary unemployment or major illness puts their home in jeopardy.

Labor is always alert to the needs of the most vulnerable in our community and in the past year has employed more front-line case managers for our Care and Protection Services. A major recruitment campaign in the first months of the term resulted in the employment of dozens of additional case workers.

Labor has introduced an emergency second appropriation to support volunteers and carers – and the people they support.

In recognition of the importance of the community sector, the Government has introduced legislation for a portable long service leave scheme for the community and childcare sectors.

Legislation governing the rights and responsibilities of residents and operators of retirement villages has been drafted and will shortly be tabled as an Exposure Draft for public and industry consultation.

And for Canberra's women, the Government has established a one-stop website for women's services and begun consultation on a new ACT Women's Plan.

The Government is working hard this term to find new ways of informing, engaging and consulting with Canberrans. Among the early reforms have been the introduction of weekend Community Cabinet meetings and a weekly Community Noticeboard in the Saturday *Canberra Times*, drawing together information about consultations, road closures and other government events and opportunities.

### **An Affordable City**

Building on its nation-leading 2007 Affordable Housing Action Plan, the Stanhope Labor Government has this year focused its attentions on the special housing needs of older Canberrans and Canberrans at risk of homelessness, releasing a Stage 2 report featuring dozens of innovative new actions.

Meanwhile, the Government has got on with the job of implementing the 63 actions from Stage 1, with numerous 'bricks-and-mortar' results to show for 12 months of labour.

The first proud homeowners have moved into affordable dwellings delivered under OwnPlace - a partnership between the Government and local builders. New residential fronts have opened up in three Gungahlin suburbs - with 15% of all blocks in every new estate now reserved for affordable house-and-land packages. The first dwellings delivered under the partnership between the Government and CHC Affordable Housing have welcomed their new tenants this year too, and a local lender has been secured for the Land Rent Scheme.

### **A prosperous, competitive, business-friendly city**

Despite global economic turmoil, the ACT has retained its Triple A credit rating - a welcome vote of confidence in the ACT Labor Government's plan to return to a balanced budget, and a vote of confidence in its prudent fiscal discipline throughout the crisis.

Over the first year of this term the Government has worked shoulder to shoulder with industry and the business community to confront the challenges of the financial crisis.

The Government has invested \$450,000 in a domestic tourism campaign targeting Sydney and surrounding regions and \$100,000 in a marketing campaign to promote Canberra's fantastic national attractions over summer.

At the height of the crisis the Government invested \$100,000 in a shop-local campaign to boost retail spending over the Christmas season.

A Payroll Tax Concession Scheme has been designed and implemented, to encourage businesses to the Territory.

Through an emergency third appropriation in February the Government invested \$25 million in local capital projects to support local jobs. By 30 September \$12.444m had been spent - 97.5% of the allocation for the first year.

In the wake of a series of high-level industry roundtables, significant reforms have been introduced to planning and procurement processes.

In the area of procurement, quotation and tender thresholds have been raised and changes to prequalification rules have been made. A Goods and Services procurement forecast is now published on the Procurement Solutions website and updated weekly. E-tendering has been introduced for some low-value, low-risk procurements and businesses may now quote online.

In the area of planning, Thousands of development applications have been assessed by the independent, statutory decision-maker - at arm's length from politics.

Within this independent framework, the flexibility of the Territory's planning system has allowed the Government to take decisive action over the past 12 months to support growth and jobs.

In response to the Global Financial Crisis and within weeks of forming government, Labor announced ACTPLAN – a partnership between the Government and industry – in December last year. Through ACTPLAN, the Planning and Land Authority has worked with industry and community groups to cut planning red tape and support local employment through the financial crisis.

In response to the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution program, the Government introduced special regulations to ensure all ACT schools could start building quickly with Commonwealth-provided funds.

Throughout, the Government's focus on planning for climate change has not diminished. A highlight has been the Sustainable Futures program - a critical exercise in listening to the community, and gathering the best evidence and ideas to ensure that our planning policies support our sustainability policies and our climate change action plan Weathering the Change.

A discussion paper on that program will be released by Minister in the next few weeks.

The Government has engaged the micro-business community through the first ever forum dedicated to their particular interests. And, at the 'other end of town', the Government has partnered with the ANU on a Climate Change Institute, and partnered with NICTA and industry on an e-government cluster.

Former Commissioner of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Mr John Martin, was engaged to review the Territory's Supermarket Competition Policy. His recommendations, accepted by the Government, will be implemented before the end of the year and will encourage new players and revive the fortunes of local and group centres.

Early and enhanced community consultation on the 2010-11 Budget has begun, including opportunities for online submissions from members of the public, community groups and industry organisations.

The result of all of this focused work has been a rebound in business confidence, and a city that, despite the global uncertainty of the past year, is humming.

### **A Safer City**

With another fire season looming, a brand-new Strategic Bushfire Management Plan was launched by the Government in September.

Six new Community Fire Units have been funded in the most recent Budget, and a number of new emergency vehicles have joined the fleet over the first year of this term. These include the new ACT Fire Brigade Aerial Appliance and eight new medium bush fire tankers. A revised National Scaled Warnings Framework has also been implemented.

Our public spaces have been made safer over the past 12 months. Closed-circuit television coverage of public spaces has been expanded and live CCTV monitoring on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights has begun.

A canine drug detection team has been established.

The Gungahlin Police Station has become a 24-hour, seven-day station, with an additional 24 police officers.

Video conferencing equipment has been installed in our courts for victims of sexual assault and vulnerable witnesses. And airport-style security screening has been installed at the entrance to the Magistrates and Supreme Court.

### **Building, maintaining and servicing a better city**

In the first year of this term Labor has made the largest ever ACT Government allocation to building and maintaining this city's cycling and pedestrian network.

All up, a record \$18.8 million has been assigned this year, to be spent over the next four, for construction and maintenance of cycling paths, signage and footpaths.

A \$400,000 off-road cycle path connecting to the Canberra Airport has been opened.

Feasibility studies on the upgrade of EPIC and possible on-site tourist accommodation have been conducted.

A street furniture replacement program has improved the look and feel of Civic and designers have been engaged to advise on refurbishment of the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings.

The multi-million-dollar restoration of the Albert Hall is under way.

Master Planning is well advanced for Kingston and Dickson, tenders have been called for the Haig Park Master Plan, and the Master Plans for Black Mountain Peninsula District Park and Weston Park are in the community consultation phase.

A working harbour has been completed at the Kingston Foreshore.

Two immensely popular dedicated dog exercise areas have opened and locations are being scouted for a third.

### **Better Roads, Safer Roads, Better Buses**

Significant road-building projects are transforming the experience of commuters around town, and several milestones have been reached - and left eating dust - over the first year of this term.

The Tharwa Drive duplication has been completed, as has a major upgrade of the intersection of Mawson Drive and Yamba Drive in Woden. The Airport Roads projects are all nearing completion. Work has begun on GDE Stage 2.

Two Road Safety Roundtables have been convened in partnership with the NRMA over the past year to pursue Vision Zero – a vision of eliminating road deaths in the ACT.

Planning has been completed for a \$1 million trial of a high-frequency, limited stops, rapid bus service - REDEX – which will start operating this month. The REDEX will link Gungahlin, Mitchell, Northbourne Avenue, the City, Russell, Barton and Kingston, running every 15 minutes between 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday.

Work has begun on the \$124 million facelift to the Belconnen Town Centre, in partnership with Westfield Belconnen – a project that will deliver a new bus interchange.

Development of a Sustainable Transport Action Plan has begun. Separate strategies on public transport, cycling and walking, parking and transport infrastructure are being developed.

### **Building a Better Nation - City by City**

Over the first year of this term an unprecedented level of local activity has been generated by the Commonwealth's \$350 million investment in Canberra infrastructure, as part of its various stimulus programs. The ACT Government's delivery of this massive investment is on schedule.

Work is afoot in every school under the Building the Education Revolution program.

In the area of Social Housing, 352 new dwellings have been funded. Stage One is under way, with 33 of 57 properties now under construction.

Under the heading of Regional, Local and Community Infrastructure, an upgrade of Glebe Park and a major new skate park at Eddison Park are complete.

### **Your Labor Government in the Assembly**

Only a fraction of the work of Government takes place in the Parliament, and only a fraction of that fraction involves passing laws.

But it is an important fraction.

The past 12 months in the Legislative Assembly has seen the completion and tabling of the mandated five-year review of the Human Rights Act.

As a consequence of that review, an obligation on public authorities to act consistently with human rights has been introduced in the ACT, along with a direct right of action against public authorities.

The definition of murder has been strengthened.

Penalties for illegal dumping have been increased and new powers have been created to allow the seizure of vehicles involved in illegal dumping.

Amendments to Unit Title laws have been introduced - including publication of a *Unit Titles Dispute Resolution Guide* and *New Obligations of Owners Corporation Manager Guide*.

Legislation has been passed in relation to Conclusive Certificates under Freedom of Information laws.

A Security of Payments Bill for the building and construction industry has been introduced into the Assembly. The Bill, strongly supported by both employer and employee organisations, will protect sub-contractors and ensure they are paid.

The Work Safety Act 2008, commenced operation this year. The Act is the most advanced OH&S legislation in Australia and leaves the ACT as the best positioned jurisdiction to make the leap to nationally harmonised OH&S laws in 2012.

A Bill passed in August 2009 established the framework for portable long service leave schemes in the Territory.

**Conclusion: A good year, a better city, a stronger community**

This is a modest snapshot of the results of some of the work undertaken on behalf of the Canberra community over the past 12 months – the first year of this term.

This is not just run-of-the-mill business-as-usual stuff.

It's new things. Work completed. Visions realised. Promises delivered upon. New challenges met. It's the activity of a Government charging out of the starting gates last November like a Melbourne Cup favourite, knowing every breath, every step, every opening, is an opportunity.

## Appendix A

### REPORT CARD ON OUR FIRST YEAR

This Appendix sets out in more detail some of the achievements of the first year of the Stanhope Government's third term.

#### Health

- Three new operating theatres have opened – two at Canberra Hospital and one at Calvary Public.
- Project planning has begun for 11 more operating theatres and 3 endoscopy suites.
- Construction has begun on a state-of-the art neurosurgery suite.
- Project Planning has begun for new Emergency Departments at both public hospitals.
- \$51.3 million has been budgeted for an Enhanced Community Health Centre (EHC) at Belconnen and planning is well under way for the rebuilding of the Philip and renovation of the City and Dickson Health Centres.
- Planning has begun for a third Child and Family Centre for Belconnen.
- The ACT Government has won Commonwealth funding of \$27.8m for an ACT Integrated Cancer Care Centre (first phase operational by mid-2012).
- Three new beds have been opened on cancer ward 14B at the Canberra Hospital, increasing capacity to 26 beds.
- Work has begun on a project to digitise all mammography equipment.
- Funding has been allocated for a public diagnostic breast imaging service, to serve an estimated 2000 women a year — women who currently do not have access to BreastScreen ACT services. These include younger women and women requiring follow-up services after breast cancer surgery.
- A satellite breast screen clinic has been opened at Phillip;
- A GP Taskforce has been established to investigate GP workforce issues. The Taskforce's report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in September and the Government will respond formally by the end of the year.
- \$12m has been allocated in the interim for GP Workforce Initiatives, including scholarships, teaching incentives to GPs, junior doctor rotations into general practice, a GP Development Fund and an in-hours locum service.
- Planning is under way for the implementation of the in-hours GP locum service to serve residents of aged care facilities.
- \$8.2m has been allocated for health workforce redesign that will see the emergence of new roles, such as nurse practitioners and extended-scope allied

health professionals, reducing pressure on doctors and providing more timely and effective care for the community.

- Influenza assessment centres were established as part of a massive response to the H1N1 pandemic.
- An H1N1 vaccination program commenced on 30 September. 29,100 doses of vaccine were delivered to vaccine providers during the first 3 weeks of the program. The vaccine has been made available through general practice, hospitals and ACT Health H1N1 immunisation clinics.
- Discussions have begun on the expansion of case management and care coordination services for patients with complex chronic health needs.
- Planning is well advanced for a Chronic Disease Management Register.
- A mapping of stop-smoking initiatives available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT has been completed and a review of best practice approaches to reducing smoking rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is under way.
- A review of workplace health promotion programs has begun.
- Scoping has begun on the expansion of the existing *Kids at Play – Active Play and Eating Well Early Childhood Project*.
- The *ACT Mental Health Services Plan 2009-2014* was released in June, identifying current and future service needs and workforce implications.
- A Framework for Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT has been released.
- A Suicide Prevention Strategy for the ACT has been released.
- A Step-up Step-down residential mental health facility has been opened in Lyneham.
- \$600,000 has been allocated for mental health training for emergency service workers and teachers.
- \$9.7 million has been allocated for the establishment of a Mental Health Assessment Unit — a six-bed short-stay observation unit. Design of the unit is now being finalised.
- Funding has been allocated for a 40-bed adult mental health acute inpatient unit at the Canberra Hospital.
- An Advisory Group has been set up to help develop a Charter of Rights for Mental Health Consumers.
- Dozens of ACT health workers have been enrolled in allied health programs to address skill shortages.

## **Disability**

- A new Aged Care and Rehabilitation Service Community Precinct is being developed at Kambah that will draw together services including:

- The Equipment Loan Scheme
- The Transitional Therapy & Care Program
- Prosthetics & Orthotics
- The Specialised Wheelchair and Posture Seating Service (SWAPS)
- The Independent Living Centre
- The Aged Care & Rehabilitation Service Intake
- The Driver Assessment & Rehabilitation Service (DARS) Vocational Assessment and
- The Rehabilitation Service (VARs)
- A new equipment hire service has been established for families of children with disabilities.
- A Companion Card for people with a disability and their carers has been launched.
- An ACT Government Policy Framework for Children and Young People with a Disability and their Families has been released.
- Future Directions: Towards Challenge 2014, a policy framework to improve outcomes and opportunities for Canberrans with a disability, has been released.
- Funding has been provided for Canberrans with a disability to pursue Certificate I qualifications through Australian Apprenticeships.
- The first of 100 new wheelchair-accessible buses has arrived — with buses now arriving at the rate of one a month.
- The ACT has won the right to host the 2010 Transplant Games.
- New playgroups have been started for children with autism.
- Eight new speech therapists have been employed.

## **Education**

- Four Early Childhood Schools (Isabella Plains, Narrabundah, Lyons and Southern Cross) have opened. All, with the exception of Lyons, provide child care. Narrabundah and Southern Cross also provide health services.
- The \$45m Kingsford Smith School in Holt has opened.
- Construction has begun on Gungahlin College.
- Forward design of Harrison High School has been undertaken.
- Forward design and planning of the Canberra College Performing Arts Centre has been undertaken.
- Work has begun on the new Kambah P-10 School.
- Refurbishment of the Erindale Leisure Centre has taken place.

- Upgrades of classrooms, playgrounds and sporting facilities at Melba Copland Secondary School, Garran Primary School and Dickson College have been undertaken.
- The extension of the library at Narrabundah College has been completed.
- The roll-out of fibre optic cable to all secondary schools has been completed.
- In partnership with the Australian Government, \$150.65m has been allocated for ACT public schools under the *Building the Education Revolution* program. All projects are on track. As at 31 October, 26 projects had been completed and 43 more had commenced.
- The latest Budget funded the employment of an extra 70 teachers to reduce class sizes.
- An extra teacher has been employed in every public secondary college to reduce class sizes.
- The Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2009 – 2013 was launched in July. Literacy and Numeracy coordinators have been engaged to work with teachers and students and professional learning modules have been developed. Funding has been allocated for 14 new literacy and numeracy field officers, to commence in the 2010 school year.
- The U-CAN Read program, a joint University of Canberra and Government initiative, has expanded.
- Funding has been allocated for additional ESL teachers.
- Targeted Scholarship/Graduate Certificate programs have been offered to ACT public school teachers through the University of Canberra in Early Childhood Education, Special Education and Leadership and (through the University of Newcastle) Quality Teaching.
- Three Student Aspirations Officers have been appointed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to complete Year 12.
- A review of special education provision in ACT public and non-government schools has been undertaken.
- A new non-Government schools equity fund is providing funding for students in non-government schools with special educational needs.
- Three Achievement Centres have been established for students in years 7 and 8 experiencing difficulty in engaging with learning.
- Three Connect 10 programs have been established for students in years 9 and 10 who need flexible, personalised programs.
- The School Nurse Program has been established to improve the health and wellbeing of students.
- Two Disability Support Officers have been appointed to develop and implement individual support and community access programs for students in special settings.
- All school principals and deputies have been provided professional development on meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

- Ten scholarships of \$5000 a year have been offered to Indigenous students in Years 11 and 12 who aspire to further education.
- In partnership with the Commonwealth, the ACT Government has funded a \$7.1 million Sustainability Hub at the Bruce Campus of CIT — a pioneering facility for green skills training in emerging sustainable technologies.
- CIT has opened Student Service Hubs at Reid, Bruce and Southside campuses, to offer students a one-stop shop for advice, information and access to a wide range of services. Student Services Hubs now operate on every CIT campus.
- “Learn-or-earn” legislation has been introduced into the Assembly. This will ensure that every young Canberran is either at school, employed or in training until the age of 17 – the biggest overhaul of education in the past decade.

## Social Services and Community Consultation

- The Government has boosted public-sector paid maternity and primary carer leave by four weeks to 18 weeks, making the ACT scheme the most generous public-sector scheme in the country, and paid bonding leave has been doubled to two weeks.
- Legislation governing the rights and responsibilities of residents and operators of retirement villages has been drafted and will shortly be tabled as an Exposure Draft for public and industry consultation.
- A mortgage relief program has been established to help Canberrans at risk of losing their homes due to the global financial crisis.
- More front-line case managers have been recruited for Care and Protection Services.
- A Homeless Person’s Legal Service (HPLS) has been established, to improve access to legal advice and assistance by homeless Canberrans.
- The Government has dramatically boosted funding for organisations that provide emergency relief, to help them cope with new demand generated by the GFC.
- An additional four properties have been added to the Men’s Accommodation Support Service program.
- Funding has been allocated to a new program to enable women and children who are victims of domestic violence to remain in their existing housing.
- The Carers’ Grandparents Support Service has been established.
- The Seniors Card Directory has been reprinted.
- A one-stop website has been launched for all women’s services and programs.
- A Multicultural Seniors’ Club has been established.
- A new funding model has been developed for the new Out-of-Home Care Framework, which will deliver higher subsidy to parents/foster carers.
- The Development of a new Multicultural Strategy for the ACT is nearing completion.

- A micro-credit program to support women wanting to establish small businesses has been established and funded. The first loans are expected to flow in early 2010.
- A system-to-system concession validation scheme for vehicle registration and driver licence concessions has been implemented. The scheme links the ACT rego.act database with Centrelink and enables Centrelink and Department of Veteran's Affairs concessions to be validated. This allows around 30,000 concession holders the convenience of renewing their registration by Bpay, the Internet, at Australia Post outlets and by phone.
- Saturday Community Cabinet meetings have been introduced.
- A weekly Community Noticeboard is now published in the Saturday *Canberra Times*, bringing together information about consultations, road closures and government events.
- The community has been consulted on its preferred methods of engaging with Government.
- Quarterly meetings between the Chief Minister and the Queanbeyan Mayor are being held to discuss cross-border issues.

## Community Safety

- A new Strategic Bushfire Management Plan was launched in September.
- Six new Community Fire Units were funded in the most recent ACT Budget.
- In support of the Victorian Bushfire effort the Government facilitated the deployment of 600 Emergency Services Agency (ESA) volunteers and employees in February.
- Several new emergency services vehicles have been added to the fleet, including the new ACT Fire Brigade Aerial Appliance, eight new medium bush fire tankers and a specialist bariatric ambulance.
- Closed-circuit television coverage of public spaces has been expanded and live CCTV monitoring on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights has begun.
- A canine drug detection team has been established.
- The definition of murder has been strengthened.
- A revised National Scaled Warnings Framework has been implemented.
- The ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal has commenced operations.
- The Gungahlin Police Station has become a 24-hour, seven-day station, with an additional 24 police officers.
- ACT prisoners have returned from NSW jails, on the commissioning of the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- A Managed Accommodation Program (MAP) for offenders exiting the AMC has been established, providing intensive supported accommodation for up to five individuals at a time.

- The Belconnen Remand Centre has been decommissioned.
- Video conferencing equipment has been installed in both the Magistrates and the Supreme Court for victims of sexual assault and vulnerable witnesses. The upgrade includes three witness rooms and a remote (off-site) room.
- Airport-style security screening has been installed at the entrance to the Magistrates and Supreme Court, increasing the safety of Court users, Judicial Officers and staff.
- Construction of CCTV facilities at the Winchester Police Centre is complete and peak-period monitoring is under way.
- CCTV has been installed at EPIC and Canberra Stadium and is expanding into Manuka and Kingston.
- Reforms have been passed in relation to committals, sexual assault and offences involving violence.
- Reforms to the Children and Young People Act concerning young offenders have been introduced.
- The Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act has been reformed.
- The Government has reported to the Assembly on serious and organised crime groups and activities.
- The Government has brought forward the programmed review of the ACT Asbestos Management Strategy. It will now commence in November 2009.

### **Housing affordability**

- Stage 2 of the Affordable Housing Action Plan has been released, focusing on accommodation options for older Canberrans and Canberrans at risk of homelessness.
- Record land releases have been achieved, with 4200 blocks released over the financial year.
- A local lender has been secured for the innovative Land Rent scheme.
- New residential fronts have opened up in three Gungahlin suburbs.
- The first residents have moved into homes developed under the OwnPlace initiative, a partnership between the Government and local builders.
- The first dwellings built in a partnership between the Government and CHC Affordable Housing have been completed and many more are under construction.
- The Indicative Residential Land Release Program to 2013/14 has been published. It anticipates the release of 4,380 dwelling sites over the next five years in Molonglo Valley, 6,240 dwelling sites in Gungahlin and 500 sites in East Lake.
- Housing ACT has appointed a 'right-sizing' officer to work primarily with older tenants whose children have left home and help them transfer them to smaller dwellings more suited to their changing needs, thereby freeing up larger homes for young families.

## **Environment and Sustainability**

- A new Department Of Environment Climate Change Energy and Water has been established.
- The Government has introduced the nation's most advanced and generous feed-in tariff, with 1000 households installing photo-voltaic arrays since March.
- An MOU has been signed for the new Climate Change Institute.
- Concessional stamp duty was introduced for low emission vehicles.
- The roll-out of solar panels to most government schools is under way.
- The ACT's first Carbon Sequestration Audit was conducted.
- The first of 74 new-generation MAN Euro 5 clean diesel buses and 26 Scania larger-capacity clean diesel buses have joined the fleet (total value \$49.5 million).
- GreenPower has become the first product to be offered to all new electricity customers.
- Solar hot water rebates have been offered to home energy audit clients.
- An Assembly Inquiry has been established into a legislative target on greenhouse gas reduction.
- The Government has committed to a long-term target of zero net emissions.
- A road map to zero net emissions is under development.
- Possible sites for an ACT Solar Power Facility have been identified and expressions of interest were called for and are now being examined.
- Funding has been provided to not-for-profit organisations to help them install renewable energy technologies on the buildings they occupy.
- The \$14.4 million "Switch Your Thinking" and "ACTSmart" climate campaigns are under way.
- The Canberra Plant Selector and the Waterright Web Tool have been launched.
- The Commercial Bathroom Retrofit Program has begun.
- The Development Application for the Enlarged Cotter Dam has been approved.
- Preliminary and detailed research has been conducted for an energy policy discussion paper that will have carbon neutrality as the guiding principle.
- The Flemington Road Ponds have been completed – the start of a network of stormwater ponds, aquifer storage and recovery schemes.
- Community consultation on reducing plastic bag use has been conducted.
- The Noise Pollution Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) has been reviewed and a review of the Contaminated Sites EPP has begun.
- A community education campaign to reduce noise pollution has been designed.
- 32 Environmental Protection Agreements have been signed with local businesses.

- The *Weed Strategy 2009-2014* has been launched.
- The ACT has secured \$670,000 in *Caring for our Country* grants for repair and rehabilitation of our two major rivers, the Murrumbidgee and the Molonglo.
- 47,800 seedlings have been planted in the Murrumbidgee River Corridor over spring.
- The redevelopment of Hawker Enclosed Oval has been completed, including the installation of a FIFA 2-Star synthetic grass football pitch and match play standard lights. The facility no longer requires water for irrigation purposes, saving approximately five megalitres of water each year.
- Two expert roundtables have been conducted on the future of the Jerrabomberra Wetlands.
- A predator-proof fence at Mulligans Flat has been completed.
- Work has begun on remediation of sullage pit at West Belconnen Resource Management Centre.
- Tenders have been called for new operator of Mugga Lane reusables facility.
- An E-waste recycling event in August, held in conjunction with Apple Pty Ltd and the Queanbeyan City Council, resulted in around 450 tonnes of e-waste being recycled.
- Master Plans for the Mugga Lane and West Belconnen Resource Management Centres have been commissioned.
- CIT has launched the CIT Environmental Sustainability Charter. CIT has also signed the Talloires Declaration, a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy into teaching, research, operations and outreach in higher education institutions.

## **Legislative reforms**

- The five-year review of the *Human Rights Act 2004* was completed and tabled.
- An obligation on public authorities to act consistently with human rights was introduced, along with a direct right of action against public authorities.
- Unit title amendments were introduced, including publication of a *Unit Titles Dispute Resolution Guide* and *New Obligations of Owners Corporation Manager Guide*.
- Legislation has been tabled and passed in relation to Freedom of Information (conclusive certificates).
- The *Road Transport (Mass, Dimensions and Loading) Act 2009* has been passed, incorporating into ACT law national model provisions for compliance and enforcement and introducing the concept of chain of responsibility where all responsible parties in the supply chain can be brought to account in relation to actions or offences of drivers and/or operators.
- A Security of Payments Bill for the building and construction industry has been introduced into the Assembly. The Bill, strongly supported by both employer and

employee organisations, will provide protection for sub-contractors and ensure that are paid in line with contracted obligations.

- Reforms to the ACT Default Insurance Fund have been introduced into the Assembly. The Default Insurance Fund provides protection to injured workers where those workers' employers do not have workers compensation insurance arrangements in place.
- The *Work Safety Act 2008*, commenced operation. The Act is the most advanced OHS legislation in Australia and leaves the ACT as the best positioned jurisdiction to make the leap to nationally harmonised OHS laws in 2012.
- A Bill passed in August establishes the framework for portable long service leave schemes in the Territory.
- Legislation was passed to allow the speedy implementation of the Commonwealth's boost to the first home-owners' grant.
- Penalties for illegal dumping have been increased and new powers have been created to allow the seizure of vehicles involved in illegal dumping.

## **Business and the economy**

- The ACT has retained its Triple A Credit Rating.
- A new budget consultation website has been launched and the Budget consultation process has been brought forward by six months.
- The Government has partnered with National ICT Australia and the private sector to deliver the nation's most prestigious e-government research and commercialisation cluster.
- A number of roundtables have been held with industry groups to drive reforms in planning and procurement processes.
- Amendments to the *Workers' Compensation Act 1951* have been finalised, for introduction into the Assembly this year. The amendments will deliver savings to business of over \$4M a year.
- The inaugural Small and Micro Business Forum was held in September.
- The inaugural Business in Focus Month was held in September.
- A payroll tax concession program has been designed and introduced.
- A multi-disciplinary team from the University of Canberra has embarked on research that will lead to the development of an ACT Government Clean Economy Strategy.
- A Government-led trade mission to the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom has been conducted.
- Supermarket competition policy has been reviewed and a new policy that will encourage new entrants and help revitalise local and group centres will be finalised by the end of the year.

- The Government has released a Construction Snapshot, bringing together information about all current and planned capital projects, public and private, in the Territory.
- The Government has announced the creation of a new department drawing together land release policy and delivery activities across Government. The department will be created before the end of the year.
- InTACT has opened up opportunities for local ICT companies through the creation of its Consult-IT Panel for a range of ICT business services. Intellectual property rules have been relaxed to allow SMEs to maintain ownership of any IP developed through the panel.
- An information and communications technology industry development program, CollabIT, has been launched, to be delivered by the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) with the support of the ACT Government.
- Almost a quarter of a million dollars was allocated to 11 innovative companies under the new InnovationConnect (Icon) program.
- The first sod has been turned on the ANU Climate Change Institute, which will bring together over 90 researchers. The ACT Government is contributing \$2.5 million towards the \$8.1 million building.
- \$450,000 was invested in a domestic tourism campaign targeting Sydney and surrounding regions.
- \$100,000 was invested in a marketing campaign to promote Canberra's national attractions during summer.
- \$100,000 was invested in a shop-local campaign to boost retail spending over the 2008 Christmas season.
- In response to the Global Financial Crisis and within weeks of forming government, Labor announced ACTPLAN in December last year. Through ACTPLAN, the Planning and Land Authority has worked with industry and community groups to cut planning red tape and support local employment through the financial crisis.
- In response to the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution program, the Government introduced special regulations to ensure all ACT schools could start building quickly with Commonwealth-provided funds.
- Throughout, the Government's focus on planning for climate change has not diminished. A highlight has been the Sustainable Futures program - a critical exercise in listening to the community, and gathering the best evidence and ideas to ensure that planning policies support the Government's sustainability policies and the climate change action plan, *Weathering the Change*. A discussion paper on that program will be released by Minister in the next few weeks.
- ACT Government Procurement processes have been reformed. Quotation and tender thresholds have been raised and changes to prequalification rules have been made. A Goods and Services procurement forecast is now published on the Procurement Solutions website and updated weekly. E-tendering has been introduced for some low-value, low-risk procurements and businesses may now quote online.

- Extra staff have been employed in ACTPLA to speed up approval of Development Applications.
- An Industry Monitoring Group has been established to help reform assessment and building practices.
- A nation-building coordinator general was appointed to manage the delivery of \$350 million in Commonwealth infrastructure spending across the city.
- Under Building the Education Revolution 127 schools are receiving Commonwealth support totalling \$242.6 million. Work is under way at government school sites across the city. To enable this work, the Government has exempted the Development Applications from third-party appeals and tree requirements.
- In the area of Social Housing 351 new dwellings have been funded. Stage One is under way, with 33 of 57 properties now under construction. Stage 2 has been approved. 189 properties are being built through panel of builders for Housing ACT, many on community facilities land, for older tenants. 115 properties are being built for community providers through developers. 47 are being built for Housing ACT through developers. To enable this work, three panels of builders (for different dwelling types) and one panel of architects have been appointed. DA modifications have been introduced for multi-unit properties.
- In the area of Regional, Local and Community Infrastructure Glebe Park and Eddison Park are complete.
- New improved signage for Development Applications has been implemented. Newly formatted and more prominent advertisements are used in the *Canberra Times*. Wherever possible all of the notifications on a particular day are consolidated in the one block advertisement. Improvements are continuing to be made to ACTPLA's web site to enable easier access to information on development proposals;

## **Infrastructure and Municipal Services**

- Cycling and footpath infrastructure has been upgraded and extended with a massive funding injection through the 2nd and 3rd Appropriations and the latest Budget. All up, \$18.8 million has been assigned this year over the next four years for construction and maintenance of cycling paths, signage and footpaths — the largest ever ACT Government allocation to building and maintaining our pedestrian and cycling network.
- A \$400,000 off-road cycle path connecting to the Canberra Airport was opened.
- New directional signage has been installed to help cyclists and pedestrians navigate the community path networks.
- A study is under way to identify gaps and improve access for pedestrians and cyclists on the community paths network, with a particular focus on town centres and other major employment nodes.
- The 2009 UCI World Mountain Bike and Trials Championships were successfully delivered at Stromlo Forest Park.

- The Pacific School Games were successfully hosted.
- Feasibility studies on the upgrade/development of the EPIC Main Event precinct and a Tourist Accommodation development have been conducted.
- The street furniture replacement program has improved the look of Civic. Additional work has been carried out in City Walk and Northbourne Avenue to improve the visual amenity of these locations, including the installation of additional planter boxes.
- Contracts have been let with design consultants relating to the refurbishment of Sydney and Melbourne Building.
- A multi-million-dollar restoration of the Albert Hall has begun.
- A Latin American Plaza has been designated in Civic, in collaboration with the diplomatic community.
- The Melba Shopping Centre has been upgraded and the Garran, Deakin and Ainslie Shopping Centre upgrades are under way. Forward Design Studies have been completed for the Scullin, Farrer, Lyons, Red Hill and Waramanga Shopping Centres. Contracts are in place with design consultancies for the Lyons, Red Hill and Scullin Shopping Centre upgrade projects.
- Masterplanning studies are under way for Kingston and Dickson.
- Work has begun on a \$1.2 million neighbourhood hall in Bonython.
- Work has begun on upgrading five playgrounds – at Finn Street, O'Connor, the water play area at Weston Park, at Allchin Crescent, Kambah, at Morice Place, Bonython, and Bonython Street, Downer.
- Tenders have been called for the Haig Park Master Plan and Conservation Management Plan.
- The Master Plan for Black Mountain Peninsula District Park (Draft) 2009 is in its final community consultation phase.
- An additional round of consultation has been undertaken for the Weston Park Master Plan and a scoping document has been completed for the Weston Park Conservation Management Plan.
- Work around the Gungahlin town centre is improving driver and pedestrian safety. Roads ACT is improving signage at the Hibberston Street/Gozzard Street and Hinder Street/Hibberston Street intersections and improving linemarking on the approach to the Hinder Street/Hibberston Street intersection. A new pedestrian crossing is going in on Ernest Cavanagh Street in front of the Gungahlin Library; a new loading zone is being installed on the southern verge of Hibberston Street between Hinder Street and Gungahlin Place and tactiles in Gungahlin Place and Gungahlin Garden Park are being realigned to improve access for people with disabilities.
- The LDA's Kingston Foreshore development won the Urban Development Institute of Australia's national excellence award for urban renewal.
- The Kingston Harbour was completed.

- Work is nearing completion on the new Inner South Library at the Kingston Shops.
- Plans for Gungahlin's new \$12 million district library have been released.
- Canberra Connect Shopfronts have been modified to improve security and accessibility.
- Designs have been approved for a new morgue.
- The upgrade of the Lyneham Sports Precinct has begun.
- A multi-million-dollar refurbishment of the Civic and Tuggeranong pools was completed.
- A \$2 million, Commonwealth-funded skate park in Eddison Park was delivered.
- Two dog exercise areas were opened and consideration has begun on the location of a third.
- A \$100,000 upgrade of the Casuarina Walking Trail on Mount Majura has been completed.

## **Roads, Road Safety and Transport**

- Better Place has announced that Canberra will be the first Australian destination for the roll-out of electric car technologies and the Government has announced its intention to commence the conversion of the Government fleet to electric.
- Two Road Safety Roundtables have been convened in partnership with the NRMA to pursue Vision Zero — a vision of eliminating road deaths in the ACT.
- New road safety signage has been installed at numerous locations around the city.
- An ACT Motorcycle Riders' Handbook has been released, providing targeted information on road rules and safety specific to the needs of motorcycle riders.
- ACTION is embarking on a \$1 million trial of a high-frequency, limited stops, rapid bus service – REDEX — starting this month. The REDEX route will link Gungahlin, Mitchell, Northbourne Avenue, the City, Russell, Barton and Kingston. REDEX services will run every 15 minutes between 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday.
- An updated 'Accessible Public Transport Action Plan' has been released.
- Work has begun on the \$124 million facelift to the Belconnen Town Centre, in partnership with Westfield Belconnen – a project that will deliver a new bus interchange.
- Procurement processes for a new smartcard ticketing system for ACTION have been completed.
- Development of a Sustainable Transport Action Plan has begun. Separate strategies on public transport, cycling and walking, parking and transport infrastructure are being developed.

- Work has begun on GDE Stage 2. Construction contracts have been let for two of the five stages. Construction is under way at the Glenloch interchange and construction will start on the Belconnen Way Bridge this month.
- The Tharwa Drive duplication was completed in September.
- The Airport Roads projects are nearing completion.
- A major upgrade of the intersection of Mawson Drive and Yamba Drive in Woden has been completed.
- Federal funding has been used to advance planning and design for the Majura Parkway project. The balance of funds will be used to complete the duplication of the Monaro Highway through Fyshwick.
- A new feedback service has been established for passengers with views about their experiences with wheelchair-accessible taxis.
- The roll-out of safety screens on pedestrian bridges has begun as part of a \$2.4 million initiative to prevent rock-throwing at cars.

## **The Arts**

- The new \$9 million Belconnen Arts Centre has opened.
- Robyn Archer has been appointed Artistic Director of the Centenary.
- Peter Loxton has been commissioned to conduct a review of government support for the Arts.
- The ACT Government, in partnership with the National Gallery, has secured the next blockbuster for the Gallery – *Masterpieces from Paris: Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne and Beyond* - for Canberra from 4 December 2009 to 5 April 2010.
- Expressions of interest have been called for a new arts event associated with Celebrate in the Park – Canberra’s birthday celebrations.
- The Tuggeranong Town Park Stage Concept Plan has been completed.
- Five-year funding of Key Arts Organisations was introduced, giving greater certainty to arts bodies.