

# Community Places

Where we live matters and ACT Labor is building a better city and a stronger community by investing in our public amenities. Our community spaces help make Canberra a great place to live and enhance our lifestyles.

We have created places for Canberrans to meet, socialise, play and shop and are committed to ensuring that our community has high-quality public facilities and a range of outdoor spaces where they can spend their recreational time.

ACT Labor is committed to making sure our local shopping centres are of a good standard and provide a central meeting place in neighbourhoods. We have already upgraded the shops at Holt, Melba, Ainslie and Garran and have a forward program to bring other local shops up to modern standards.

We have also invested in improving the look and feel of the city, through upgrades in our main shopping precinct in Canberra City and surrounding streets.

Our community parks have also received a facelift, with investment in the upgrade of the Lake Ginninderra foreshore and Glebe Park and a significant upgrade and replanting program for local parks. ACT Labor has also equipped our parks and open spaces with BBQ and picnic equipment, so Canberrans can enjoy a range of outdoor activities.

We know that Canberrans value the high quality play spaces available for children. ACT Labor has improved 68 playgrounds, including those at Turner, Isaacs, Ainslie, Spence, Latham, Evatt, Flynn, Kambah, Fadden, Florey, Weetangera, Bruce and Chifley. ACT Labor also installed the ACT's first liberty swing, for children with a disability, at Black Mountain Peninsula.

Through our strong economic management, ACT Labor has been able to deliver this, and much more, to improve our community spaces and public amenities. ACT Labor will continue these programs to ensure that Canberrans can enjoy the best lifestyle in one of Australia's most liveable cities.

**Jon Stanhope**  
Chief Minister

**John Hargreaves**  
Minister for Territory and  
Municipal Services

### **A Proud Record of Building Community Places**

Canberra is a truly sustainable and creative city and national capital. We have a community that is socially inclusive and which acknowledges and supports those who are vulnerable and in need, enabling all to reach their full potential.

Canberra is also a centre of economic growth and innovation and is proudly the nation's capital city and home to its pre-eminent cultural institutions.

Canberra is a place of great natural beauty with a proud history of balance between development and sustainability.

Our pristine natural environment is one of the things that make Canberra such a great place to live and Canberrans value the open spaces and outdoor facilities in our community.

ACT Labor has a great track record in adding to the amenity of Canberra's open spaces through the addition of 1500 extra hectares of nature parks, as well as maintaining and upgrading local neighbourhood parks and playgrounds.

Over the last term, the ACT Labor Government has implemented a series of master plans for Canberra's town and district parks. The most notable being the upgrade of Glebe Park at a cost of \$1.37 million, with park furniture improvements, pathway improvements, a new stage facility, new play facilities, expansion of shaded areas and a tree planting program.

### **Our Record**

ACT Labor has:

- Upgraded 68 playgrounds including those in Turner, Isaacs, Ainslie, Spence, Latham, Evatt, Flynn, Kambah, Fadden, Florey, Weetangera, Bruce and Chifley;
- Upgraded the Holt, Melba, Garran and Ainslie Shopping Centres and started consultation on the refurbishment of the Deakin Shopping Centre;
- Held popular 'round town' events in our local parks;
- Replaced drought affected plantings with more drought tolerant species;
- To the end of 2006 had planted 4,465,905 trees in non-urban areas and planted 30,160 trees in urban areas;
- Completed stage two of the Belconnen lakeshore refurbishment;
- Installed the ACT's first liberty swing for disabled children at Black Mountain Peninsula;
- Restored and improved the *Sanctuary @ Tidbinbilla*; and
- Updated the *Get out There Guide* brochure.

In the 2007/08 Budget, ACT Labor mapped out a four year program to upgrade local and district parks across the Territory, including:

- \$50,000 to design and construct a jetty and associated equipment for use by Sailability ACT as well as the general community at Lake Tuggeranong;
- New BBQs and picnic facilities to be installed at various district parks, including Yerrabi Pond Park, Glebe Park, Lennox Gardens, Eddison Park, Fadden Pines and Point Hut Pond Park with landscape improvements to John Knight Park BBQ areas;
- \$1.6 million towards renewal of 16 playspaces in local and district parks in Belconnen, Inner North, Oaks Estate, Woden and Tuggeranong;
- The installation of two new Liberty Wheelchair Swings –in North Canberra and Tuggeranong;
- New fitness trails to be installed at Eddison Park and John Knight Park, as well as a new flying fox for John Knight Park;
- \$390,000 to improve the Belconnen Skate Park;
- Two new dog exercise enclosures, one in Belconnen and the other in Tuggeranong. These enclosures will be fully fenced with gate access, water, signage, seating and short exercise courses for owners to train their dogs;
- 12 new mowers and 11 new trucks to help keep our City looking great. The ACT Government mows over 4,300 hectares of grass throughout the year, and these new mowers will assist in delivering an improved mowing program;
- An additional \$1.5 million to maintain young trees and remove hazardous and dead trees;
- New and replacement screen plantings along the fence lines of major arterial roads to discourage graffiti; and
- Funding to refurbish shrub beds and replace worn turf areas with more durable landscapes materials to revitalise these high use landscapes in district and neighbourhood shopping centres.

### Moving Forward

ACT Labor will build on these initiatives to ensure our rolling program of upgrades and building for community spaces continues. By investing in these improvements and providing more opportunities for customers to give feedback on Territory and Municipal Services, ACT Labor will build a better city and a stronger community with high-quality local facilities across Canberra.

### Upgrading our parks

ACT Labor will spend \$8.1 million on masterplans for the improvement of a number of town and district parks, to make sure that these important community facilities are of high quality and are attractive for Canberrans to use.

Town and district parks to be covered under this program include:

- **Black Mountain Peninsula District Park**

The improvement program for Black Mountain Peninsula District Park will include new play facilities with covered shade structures, to provide an even better place for young families to visit. ACT Labor will also ensure that the needs of children with a disability are catered for in the design of new play equipment.

Black Mountain Peninsula District Park will also see improvements to the BBQ areas, as well as an upgrade to the lookout area. To encourage visitors to the area, ACT Labor will upgrade the car parks and roadway as well as install a new perimeter pedestrian and cycle pathway. The natural amenity will also be improved through a tree planting program and improvements to the Nara Grove area.

- **Eddison Park**

ACT Labor will continue the upgrade program for this important community space in the Woden Valley by providing a new walking pathway network and will reinstate the bridge connection over the pond. A new play and BBQ area will also be installed to encourage users.

- **Weston Park**

A range of improvements will be made to this popular public space in Yarralumla, including a new perimeter pedestrian and cycle pathway and improvements to the car park area. ACT Labor will build a better family space by installing new play facilities with shade structures and will also upgrade and expand the BBQ and picnic areas.

- **Tuggeranong District Park**

ACT Labor will continue its commitment to providing high-quality community spaces in Tuggeranong by funding the construction of an outdoor performance venue to the value of \$200,000. A re-elected ACT Labor Government will also provide a grant of \$10,000 per annum to the Tuggeranong Arts Community to manage the venue.

ACT Labor will also improve the BBQ and picnic areas and construct new play facilities with shade structures. A new perimeter pedestrian and cycle pathway will be constructed and improvements will be made to the car park area.

- **Haig Park**

ACT Labor will continue the improvement of Haig Park by planting new trees and renewing the grassed areas and log boundaries to create even better community spaces. In addition, ACT Labor will upgrade the BBQs and public toilets and replace the outdoor furniture.

### **Improving our local shopping centres**

ACT Labor is committed to a rolling program of improvements to Canberra's neighbourhood shopping precincts. ACT Labor will continue the Precinct Refurbishment Program and will consult with the local community on what they want their local shops to be like.

Over the past year, the ACT Labor Government has carried out work at Melba, Garran and Ainslie Shopping Centres and consultation has proceeded in relation to Deakin Shopping Centre.

ACT Labor will continue to assess shopping centres for upgrade by applying a range of criteria, including the age and condition of their infrastructure, relevant health and safety issues and local crime statistics.

ACT Labor will commit \$11.5 million over the next term to conduct the following rolling program of shopping centre upgrades:

- Waramanga
- Lyons
- Red Hill
- Farrer
- Banks
- Scullin
- Lyneham
- Charnwood (local)
- Theodore
- Chapman
- Cook
- Griffith
- Torrens

### **New customer feedback measures**

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will introduce an enhanced customer feedback service for Canberrans to report problems such as graffiti, potholes, broken paving and street lighting. Through a web-based service called *Fix My Street*, ACT Labor will provide a one-stop point for customers to alert Territory and Municipal Services to problems in their neighbourhood.

### **Sydney and Melbourne Buildings**

To continue ACT Labor's strong commitment to the beautification of the Civic shopping precinct, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will commit \$2 million per annum for the refurbishment of pavement and street furniture around the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings.