



Andrew Barr MLA

Chief Minister

Treasurer

Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality

Minister for Tourism and Special Events

Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment

Member for Kurrajong

Dr Leo Dobes
President
Griffith Narrabundah Community Association
PO Box 4127
Manuka ACT 2603

Dear Mr Dobes,

Through the 2019-20 ACT Budget, we are stepping up investment today to grow services and infrastructure that can meet our community's needs in the years ahead. Making the right investments now will help keep Canberra liveable and protect our city's unique character as we grow.

Under the federal Coalition Government, we have had to do the heavy lifting of delivering infrastructure and services for Canberrans. Despite the ACT being one of the fastest growing communities in Australia, we have received far less than our fair share of national infrastructure investment. Public service job cuts, decentralisation and unequal funding deals in key areas like health and education have underlined the Coalition's disregard for Canberra.

With the Coalition Government having just been returned for a further three years, there is little prospect of this changing anytime soon. But with Canberra growing by around 8,000 people a year, we cannot allow local services and infrastructure to fall behind as our community continues to grow.

So we are building for the future with significant new ACT Budget investments in health, education and transport. We are also making a big investment in people – growing early intervention and social services to help tackle the causes of stubborn disadvantage and see Canberra continue becoming even more inclusive.

We particularly wanted to let you know about some of our investments in Canberra's Inner South.

- We will resource the development of a planning framework to identify suitable and appropriate opportunities for urban renewal surrounding the future City to Woden light rail corridor. This work will build on the lessons learned through the delivery of Stage 1 of light rail from Gungahlin to Civic, and ensure the right balance is maintained between urban renewal and protecting the special character of the suburbs and sites Stage 2 will pass through.

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actchiefminister



- We are upgrading and modernising heating systems at ACT public schools to improve comfort for staff and students, including at Forrest Primary School, Red Hill Primary School, Alfred Deakin High School and Telopea Park School.
- Through the *Better Infrastructure Fund*, we deliver annual footpath and cycleway upgrades to help make suburbs more age-friendly and promote active travel. In 2019-20 we will deliver these works in Narrabundah, as well as in Aranda, Campbell, Holt, Isabella Plains and Stirling.
- We are investing to strengthen local suburban infrastructure by improving the amenity of dog parks across Canberra and continuing to upgrade local ovals. This year's Budget will deliver these improvements in Narrabundah and Yarralumla, as well as in Phillip and Nicholls.
- We will also deliver \$800,000 in 2019-20 to upgrade to Manuka Pool to increase accessibility and safety, while protecting the heritage character of Canberra's oldest community pool.
- We will deliver on our election commitment to provide safer intersections through upgrades to key sites across Canberra. This will include upgrading the intersection at Kent Street and Novar Street in Yarralumla. Through this initiative we will also conduct a scoping study to improve the Hume Circle roundabout at Narrabundah.
- We will expand the CIT Fyshwick campus by constructing an additional 1,450 square meters of new workshop space. The new workshops will create simulated work environments that can deliver better hands-on training for Canberra's future tradespeople, and support CIT in providing more contemporary models of teaching and learning.
- And we will continue to attract more great sporting content to Manuka Oval, by hosting five women's group matches there as part of the International Cricket Council's Women's Twenty20 World Cup in February 2020.

Through this year's Budget we will continue implementing the priorities mapped out in the *Better Suburbs Statement* by providing more public rubbish and recycling bins and pick-ups, and planting at least 17,000 more trees to renew Canberra's urban forest. The *Better Suburbs Statement* is guiding us in progressively transitioning our investment in city services to the Canberra community's highest priority areas.

We also wanted to let you know that in response to feedback from the community, we will continue working to improve building quality across our suburbs and town centres by boosting resources for the ACT's building regulator. Good quality building is important to ensure new homes and apartments are liveable, safe and don't end up with expensive defects.

We will hire 16 more staff for Access Canberra to undertake more monitoring and compliance activity, as well as provide more information to industry and homebuyers about their rights and obligations when carrying out building work. These staff will also deliver more examinations for builders' licences, ensuring local builders have the right knowledge and skills to do quality work.

We will also provide additional resourcing to meet the growing demand for advice on heritage applications. Protecting Canberra's heritage is an important part of maintaining our city's unique character as we continue to grow and more development takes place on infill sites.

My colleagues and I will be in touch with your organisation in the weeks to come to provide more details on our individual investments through this year's Budget, and discuss how we will deliver these in partnership with stakeholders and the community.

The investments we are making today in infrastructure, services and better social outcomes will benefit Canberrans for years to come. So we aren't going to ask the community to pay for these upfront through higher taxes or more fees and charges.

We will use the ACT's balance sheet to get on with this important work because it needs to happen now. If we fall behind with building our schools, hospitals and social infrastructure, Canberrans would pay the price as our city continues to grow.

We are building for the future and using the ACT Budget to do it because we know a strong community and a liveable city are what matter most to Canberrans.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Barr".

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister