

100

DAYS

12 FEBRUARY 2009

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ACT LABOR GOVERNMENT

# 100 days—hundreds of achievements

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The first 100 days of a government set a tone.  
They establish an agenda.

But they must do more. If a government is serious,  
they must deliver.

Each 100 days of a government is as important as  
the next. And each is as important as the one before.

This document draws together, for the information of Canberrans, some of the things the ACT Government has achieved since 5 November 2008, when it took office.

These are achievements from a government that takes seriously the trust placed in it by Canberrans.

A government with the experience, unity and ability to work with industry to shield Canberra families, Canberra workers, Canberra businesses, from the worst effects of the current global economic downturn.

A government with the compassion to stretch out a hand to those who fall victim to these global forces.

A government with the vision to keep its eye and its faith on the day when we come out the other side of this challenge, as a community and as an economy.

And that means being ready for the future. It means delivering on the commitments we took to Canberrans last October:

- the creation of a solar city
- a focus on municipal services and the look and feel of our city
- the building of a health system for the future that will meet the surging demands we know lie ahead
- the safest streets of any capital city
- and the best schools and best teachers in the nation.

The following pages are designed to give Canberrans a rundown of the past 100 days, a glimpse at the focused activity of ministers and of our hard-working, talented and dedicated public service.

There's an update on the outcomes of the economic roundtables that were called as one of the government's first executive actions.

You'll read about the real, concrete actions that have flowed from those roundtables—a tourism campaign, a 'shop local' campaign, progress towards streamlining development applications. And much more.



# 100 days—hundreds of achievements

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There's the latest on progress towards the construction of a solar power station, capable of powering at least 10,000 homes.

You'll hear about the territory's newest schools—where they're needed.

And there's an update on the first, \$300 million stage of a billion-dollar rebuild of our public health facilities.

Amid all this activity, the ACT Government is acutely aware that some in our community are doing it tough.

That's why, among the first commitments delivered in full by the government as part of a December Appropriation Bill was a \$3.5 million injection into the welfare sector, to help households most vulnerable to economic fluctuations beyond the ACT Government's control.

Help for carers. Help for volunteers. A genuinely guiding hand and emergency relief for families feeling the pinch. And a helping hand for those who give, unstintingly, of their time and expertise.

There's also information in the coming pages about the government's determination to engage the community more fully in decision-making that affects it—and the steps we have taken to make this happen.

This document is designed to inform, and to reassure.

I want Canberrans to know that the ACT Government resumed work in November with all of the enthusiasm we brought to the task when first elected—enthusiasm now linked to experience, and the unity that allows us to focus on what truly matters—this city and its people.

And I want to assure this city and its people that every hundred days of this government, from first to last, will be dedicated to their interest.

**Jon Stanhope MLA**  
Chief Minister



The ACT Government went to the election pledging to build a better city and a stronger community. And from Day 1 that's what we've been delivering.

## In the core area of education and training we have:

- Opened the \$45 million Kingsford Smith School in Holt, with 800 students.
- Opened new early childhood schools at Southern Cross, Narrabundah, Isabella Plains and Lyons, offering preschool to Year 2 programs.
- Given school parent associations up to \$15,000 (\$2 million in total) for improvements to every ACT public and non-government school. An extra \$1,500 has gone to each preschool parent association.
- Started work on a new \$14 million horticulture facility at Bruce CIT.
- Called earthworks tenders for the Gungahlin College.
- Refurbished classrooms, playgrounds and sporting facilities at Melba Copland Secondary School, Garran Primary School and Dickson College.
- Established a Quality Teaching Team to drive improvements in teacher quality.
- Employed an extra teacher in every public secondary college to reduce class sizes.
- Opened new CIT Student Service Hubs.
- Launched a new CIT Vocational College Student Support and Advice Service.
- Begun recruiting 10 psychologists to ensure every government school has access to a school counsellor.
- Rolled out fibre optic cable to all ACT secondary schools with work to be completed this month.
- Begun the roll-out of solar panels to most government schools.
- Upgraded CIT's Reid, Bruce and Southside campuses at a cost of \$2.2 million.
- Delivered 15 hours of preschool for every child for the four early childhood schools.

## In the priority area of health we have:

- Started work on three new operating theatres (two at The Canberra Hospital, one at Calvary) to create greater capacity for elective surgery.
- Embarked on a billion-dollar rebuild of the public health system that will deliver a dedicated women's and children's hospital, a cancer centre of excellence, new mental-health facilities, a neurosurgery suite, more beds, and much more.
- Opened a Step-Up Step-Down community-based residential mental-health facility in Lyneham.
- Opened a satellite breast screen clinic at Phillip.
- Put 83 ACT Health workers into allied health training programs to address skill shortages.
- Welcomed the largest intake of graduate nurses through the ACT Health Graduate Program.
- Won the right to host the 2010 Transplant Games.



## Delivering on our vision of building a stronger community we have:

- Brought 24-hour policing to the people of Gungahlin.
- Earmarked \$5.039 million to bring forward work on new regional community facilities at Cook, Village Creek and Holt.
- Delivered a \$2.5 million assistance package to help volunteers and carers meet the costs of their valuable work.
- Allocated \$400,000 for extra respite for older carers.
- Injected \$1 million into welfare and community groups to help them provide emergency relief for Canberrans struggling to meet the costs of living.
- Funded a \$100,000 rescue package for the RSPCA, to help it cope with increased demand for its services.
- Funded the printing and distribution of an updated ACT Seniors Card Directory.
- Begun renovating the Narrabundah House Indigenous Supported Accommodation Service.
- Conducted forums on homelessness and affordable housing for older Canberrans, as part of the next phase of the Affordable Housing Strategy.
- Released extra blocks to the OwnPlace Builders' Panel for affordable housing.
- Begun design work on the Mortgage Relief Fund.
- Launched a one-stop website for all ACT women's services and programs.

## Building a more sustainable city

The government's vision is to make Canberra known not just as the national capital but also the solar capital—a model for other communities to follow.

In the first 100 days of this term we have:

- Established a new Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water to consolidate and build on our capacity to respond to climate change.
- Committed \$30 million to the development of a solar power station capable of powering thousands of homes and embarked on the process of testing the market.
- Fast-tracked the introduction of the nation's most generous feed-in-tariff.
- Given a \$1.9 million funding boost to the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens to allow for the planting of another 10 forests starting this autumn.
- Injected \$500,000 into energy efficiency improvements to public housing.
- Begun examining the feasibility of upgrading older office accommodation to meet the Green Building Council's Green Star Rating Scheme.
- Started design work on a 12-month trial to cut plastic bag use.
- Doubled the ACT Government's GardenSmart rebate.



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Over the past 100 days global clouds have unleashed an economic storm on a scale no-one had anticipated. Our income has taken a major blow. Our economy faces a challenging period.

The priority now is to do what we can, as a community, to shield local businesses, local jobs, local families, from the brunt of the storm.

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## In the past 100 days the government has:

- Introduced a special Appropriation Bill to inject an additional \$3.5 million into services to shield the most vulnerable in our community from the effects of the downturn.
- Drafted for introduction into the Assembly an additional Appropriation Bill to bring forward government infrastructure spending to invest in local initiatives and in Territory jobs.
- Appointed an ACT Nation Building Coordinator-General to spearhead the delivery of \$350 million in Commonwealth infrastructure spending across the city.
- Allocated almost a quarter of a million dollars to 11 innovative Canberra businesses under the brand-new grants program, InnovationConnect (Icon)
- Legislated for the relocation of the proposed Canberra Technology City data centre project.
- Announced a trade delegation to Vietnam and Malaysia to seek out new opportunities for ACT exporters.
- Hosted a national conference on overseas skills recognition.
- Funded the master planning of the Dickson and Kingston shopping precincts.
- Drafted legislation to allow the speedy and smooth implementation of the Commonwealth's boost to the first home owners' grant.
- Funded a business and industrial-relations advisory service for community organisations.
- Restructured the planning authority following an extensive review undertaken by Ernst and Young.
- Injected \$100,000 into a new marketing campaign to promote Canberra's national attractions during summer.
- Convened high-level roundtables involving ministers, senior government officials and industry, to come up with and implement strategies for stabilising the economy. As a direct result we have:
  - Employed extra staff to speed up ACTPLA's assessment of development applications. Hundreds of extra development applications have been approved since the end of November.
  - Set up an industry monitoring group to improve assessment and building practices in the ACT.
  - Ordered that all undisputed payments owed by the ACT Government must be paid within 30 days of invoicing.
  - Launched a business assistance program specifically designed to help local companies remain afloat in uncertain economic times.
  - Launched a \$100,000 'shop-local' campaign, jointly funded with Canberra CBD Ltd, to boost retail spending in Canberra over the festive season.
  - Committed \$450,000 to a domestic tourism campaign targeting Sydney and surrounding regions.
  - Supported the taxi industry in the recruitment of extra drivers.



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Government doesn't begin and end with elections. Projects delivered in part in one term are brought to fruition in the next. Long-term planning begun in one electoral cycle is pursued in the next. It's about getting on with the job of delivering a better city and a stronger community. It's about starting, on Day 1, where you left off.

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## Starting on Day 1, the ACT Government has dedicated itself to getting on with the job. We have:

- Begun work on the replacement of the Belconnen bus interchange and upgrade of the Belconnen Town Centre.
- Enhanced several bus routes in response to community feedback to Network 08.
- Completed the 1.35 kilometre south-bound duplication of the Caswell Drive section of the Gungahlin Drive Extension.
- Begun a \$6 million program of road resealing.
- Started a \$2 million Commonwealth-funded upgrade of Eddison Park, in Woden, and Glebe Park, in Civic.
- Released a Draft Fish Stocking Plan for community comment.
- Begun work on a new \$14 million horticulture facility at the Bruce CIT.
- Opened a \$400,000 off-road cycle path connecting to the Canberra Airport.
- Completed designs for a \$6 million upgrade of the Lake Ginninderra foreshore.
- Begun the \$11 million duplication of Tharwa Drive and Drakeford Drive.
- Allocated an additional \$2.6 million to upgrade cycling infrastructure across the ACT.
- Started site works on a \$1 million upgrade to Garran shops and progressed planning for upgrades to Red Hill, Lyons, Scullin and Farrer shops.
- Called for tenders to build a new jetty at John Knight Park in Belconnen.
- Embarked on a \$1.83 million enhancement of Canberra's city centre.
- Made the ACT's case for Infrastructure Australia funding for major projects. ACT projects that have made it to the Commonwealth's 'long list' include:
  - light rail
  - a solar power plant
  - a very fast train between Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra
  - a rebuild of the ACT's health system
  - a dual carriageway connecting the Monaro Highway with the Federal Highway
  - the massive enlargement of the Cotter Dam
  - the bulk transfer of water from the Murrumbidgee to Googong
  - a back-up power line into the ACT, and
  - a high-pressure trunk gas main in Canberra's south.



## In pursuit of a stronger and more inclusive community over the past 100 days we have:

- Completed two new dog exercise parks, in Tuggeranong and Belconnen.
- Introduced Bills to impose tougher penalties for illegal bill posting and illegal dumping.
- Allocated an additional 120 childcare places and 15 occasional care places in areas such as Gowrie, Rivett and Yarralumla.
- Opened the new Bimberi Youth Detention Centre.
- Delivered a dedicated Christmas and New Year road safety campaign.
- Begun work on a new program—Healthy Parks Healthy People—to promote the physical, social and mental health benefits of our parks.
- Recruited more front-line case managers for Care and Protection Services.
- Secured three more major international sporting events for 2009:
  - QANTAS Wallabies vs Italy
  - QANTAS Socceroos vs Kuwait
  - Westfield Matildas vs Italy
- Installed closed-circuit television and a new public sound system at Canberra Stadium.
- Hosted the Pacific School Games, involving over 5000 athletes, 900 volunteers and 20,000 spectators from 25 nations.
- Re-opened the Civic and Tuggeranong pools after multi-million-dollar refurbishments.
- Started site work for Harrison district playing fields.
- Filled the first staff positions for the new \$9 million Belconnen Arts Centre.
- Signed an agreement with the Commonwealth to work collaboratively to plan and deliver the Centenary of Canberra program in 2013.
- Signed a national agreement entitling ACT Seniors Card holders to travel at concession rates on public transport interstate.
- Contracted the CREATE Foundation to connect young people in public housing with employment, education and training.
- Freed up additional houses for use as domestic violence crisis accommodation over the Christmas-New Year period.
- Introduced a Bill to toughen the offence of murder.
- Introduced legislation to abolish 'conclusive certificates', improving public access to government information.
- Launched the ACT's new consolidated ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- Established a new canine drug detection team.



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The ACT Government is determined to better engage the community in government decision-making and give all Canberrans the opportunity to have a say on some of the big issues that will affect our city's future.

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## In the past 100 days we have:

- Reinstated the Community Engagement Unit in the Chief Minister's Department, with the task of implementing a new approach to community engagement as part of the citizen-centred governance initiative
- Consolidated vital information and news from across government into a new *Community Noticeboard*, to be published weekly in *The Canberra Times*.
- Expanded opportunities for the public to provide input into the ACT Budget process, with a new Budget Consultation Website.
- Mandated larger and more prominent signs to notify the community of development applications (DAs) and improved public notification of DAs in *The Canberra Times*.
- Agreed to a program of quarterly meetings between the Chief Minister and the Queanbeyan Mayor to discuss cross-border issues.
- The announcement of a series of public forums on positive ageing.
- The announcement of the membership of the 2009–2010 Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing.
- Consultation with local business owners and others regarding the installation of extra closed circuit television technology in Civic.
- The release for comment of the ACT Multicultural Strategy 2009–12.
- The release of a discussion paper and consultation on the Tidbinbilla's precinct plan of management.
- The release for public comment of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Lanyon Drive upgrade and duplication.
- Consultation on a proposal to ban smoking in cars while children are present.
- The release of a study examining the retail needs in north-east Belconnen.
- Consultation on the Gungahlin Town Centre Planning Study.
- Consultation with Narrabundah long-stay caravan park residents on future management options.
- Consultation on a \$4 million upgrade of Bunda Street.
- Consultation on a Specialised Equipment Service for children and young people.

Among the hundreds of large and small community consultations conducted over the past 100 days have been:

- Public forums on the draft *ACT Mental Health Services Plan*.
- Consultation on the location and preferred model for a new acute psychiatric health facility.
- Community consultation on models for the new walk-in medical centres.
- Extensive consultation on the Weston Park Draft Master Plan.
- Consultation with the tourism sector regarding a major new autumn event.
- Consultation with the West Belconnen community regarding a planned Child and Family Centre.



# Parliamentary reform

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The ACT Government is moving swiftly to initiate changes to Legislative Assembly Standing Orders, to deliver on elements of its parliamentary agreement with the ACT Greens.

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## Changes, designed to enhance accountability and transparency, achieved in the past 100 days include:

- According equal status not only to the opposition member responding to a Bill proposed by a minister but also to the crossbench member responding.
- Changes to the meeting times of the Assembly itself, including evening sittings on a Tuesday to facilitate the attendance of members of the public.
- Reforms to the procedure of Question Time, designed to ensure answers are directly relevant to the question asked.
- Amendments to ensure that Bills are not debated in the same sitting period they are introduced. This change reflects the importance of scrutiny in the Assembly.
- A requirement for ministers to provide an explanation to committee chairs in the event that a committee report is not responded to within three months.

The ACT Government has also moved a Legislative Assembly standing resolution endorsing the Commonwealth (Latimer) House Principles on the Three Branches of Government, and supported an Assembly motion referring implementation of the principles to the Standing Committee for Administration and Procedure.

