

2016-17 ACT Budget Review

Tuesday, 7 June 2016

TTF'S ACT BUDGET AGENDA

FUTURE ECONOMY FUTURE JOBS

In the lead up to the ACT Budget, TTF released a comprehensive [submission](#) outlining key budgetary and policy recommendations related to tourism, transport and aviation.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Grow Demand for Travel

- Increase tourism marketing funding
- Increase funding for events
- Leverage value of international business event markets

2. Boost investment in tourism infrastructure

- Support active visitor precincts
- Attract key accommodation investment
- Enhance nature-based experiences

3. Improve the visitor transport experience

- Attract domestic and international air services
- Improve public transport services
- Improve rental car regulation harmonisation
- Enhance the visitor retail experience

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Tourism is a key driver of the ACT economy, and the Barr Government has wholeheartedly embraced the concept of diversifying the Territory economy through tourism and events. This Budget provides a great platform for the future growth of the industry with an additional \$7.3 million over four years for destination marketing. The additional \$1.5 million towards supporting demand-driving events will further add to the vibrancy of the ACT.

The Barr Government is investing \$70 million in public transport, including establishing a free 'City Loop' service, funding for more buses and new services, progressing the introduction of an integrated ticketing system and improving walking and cycling infrastructure. There is also a significant investment in the Territory's Urban Renewal Agenda as well as \$111 million to improve roads across Canberra.

KEY BUDGET FACTS AT A GLANCE

	2014-15 Actual ¹	2015-16 Revised	2016-17 Budget	2017-18 Forecast	2018-19 Forecast	2019-20 Forecast
Surplus (deficit) (\$ millions)	(210.9)	(232.5)	(182)	(35)	33.3	66
Real Gross State Product (%)	1.4	2	2.25	2.5	2.5	2.5
Employment Growth (%)	0.0	1	1.25	1.5	1.5	1.5
Net Debt (\$ millions, excl. super liability)	1,348	1,832	2,080	2,104	2,903	2,581

¹ Budget balance and Net Debt estimates taken from 2015-16 Budget Papers.

VISITOR ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT BUDGET MEASURES

BUDGET MEASURE	ANALYSIS
GROWING DEMAND FOR TRAVEL	
Tourism marketing	<p>\$13.4 million in 2016-17</p> <p>This is an increase on the \$13.1 million allocated in 2015-16.</p> <p>The Budget also includes an additional \$7.3 million over four years to promote Canberra as a tourism destination in key domestic and international markets. This initiative will support VisitCanberra to promote Canberra as a leisure tourism destination in key domestic and priority international markets through its <i>One good thing after another</i> campaign.</p> <p>It also supports direct international flights to Canberra through the development and implementation of co-operative marketing campaigns with Singapore Airlines that target both consumer and trade partners in priority markets.</p> <p>VisitCanberra creates and implements a range of innovative tourism marketing and development programs, in partnership with local industry, national bodies and institutions, which aim to support the Territory's economic development through increased visitation to the ACT and region.</p>
Events	<p>\$13.1 million in 2016-17</p> <p>This represents an increase from the \$10.1 million allocated in 2015-16, and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.5 million towards supporting the growth of significant community events such as the Enlighten and Canberra Day celebrations • \$50,000 to promote the staging of a major show in Canberra, building on the success of major shows such as Le Noir and The Illusionists 1903 in recent years.

	Events manages and delivers major events such as Floriade, Floriade NightFest, the Enlighten Festival, New Year’s Eve, Australia Day, Canberra Festival and the Canberra Nara Candle Festival. As of 22 January 2016, this funding also includes management of stage one of the National Arboretum.
Venues	<p>\$3.76 million in 2016-17</p> <p>This represents an increase from the \$2.16 million allocated in 2015-16. Venues promotes and manages major events at venues including GIO Stadium, Exhibition Park in Canberra, Manuka Oval, Stromlo Forest Park and the Canberra Business Event Centre.</p>
Arts and culture	<p>\$11.6 million in 2016-17</p> <p>Supporting the development of the arts, encouraging community participation in and access to the arts through supporting artistic excellence and diversity, strengthening the sustainability of the arts, and promoting the capacity for arts to contribute to social and economic outcomes.</p> <p>An additional \$410,000 has been allocated to upgrade security and safety at the Canberra Theatre Centre to ensure it remains the premier performing arts venue for the region.</p>

BOOSTING INVESTMENT IN VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Urban Renewal	<p>\$46 million in 2016-17</p> <p>This represents a significant increase from the \$7.5 million allocated in 2015-16. The funding will go towards the Territory’s Urban Renewal Agenda, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivering the Asset Recycling Initiative • activating the Capital Metro corridor • progressing City to the Lake.
National Parks	<p>\$35.7 million in 2016-17</p> <p>Parks and Conservation will transfer from the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) to the Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) on 1 July 2016.</p> <p>Funding will go towards planning and management of the ACT’s parks, reserves, open space system and plantations, including associated community infrastructure.</p>
Recreational and sporting facilities	<p>\$40 million in new funding over four years for new and existing recreational facilities across Canberra</p> <p>Key projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$33 million over four years to design and construct a pool at Stromlo Forest Park • \$4.5 million over four years to fund upgrades to the Narrabundah ballpark, including the refurbishment of the existing grandstand, realignment of the playing field and improvements to public amenities and car parking facilities.

National Arboretum	\$1.7 million
	This will go towards stage two of the National Arboretum Canberra water security project.

INVESTING IN TRANSPORT

Canberra's bus network	\$61.7 million
	<p>\$61.7 million will be invested by the Government to improve access and the frequency of buses. Projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of a new, free 'City Loop' service; • \$43.8 million over four years to deliver ACTION review items; • \$10 million over two years to deliver 20 new buses; • \$3.5 million over four years for improvements to public transport services in Weston Creek and the Molonglo region; • \$900,000 for a trial of three electric buses on ACTION's services.
Integrated ticketing system	\$3 million in 2016-17
	The Government will invest \$3 million to progress the introduction of an integrated ticketing system for buses and light rail. Funding includes the development of a ticketing feasibility study and the opportunity to install new MyWay add-value machines in major bus stations through the Territory.
Walking and cycling infrastructure	\$3.6 million
	<p>The Government will invest \$3.6 million for programs to improve walking and cycling infrastructure in Canberra. Projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 million to construct walking and cycling improvements around Woden Town Centre and Kingston Group Centre; • \$175,000 for the Active Travel office to ensure active travel options are integrated with buses, light rail and road projects.
Public transport innovation	\$2.6 million
	<p>Projects to improve the public transport system by exploring innovative approaches include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.2 million over two years for organisational reform to improve business capability and systems; • \$260,000 over two years to deliver a bus fleet strategy; • \$150,000 to establish a Transport Innovation Fund.
Improving roads in Canberra	\$111 million
	<p>The Government will invest more than \$111 million to improve roads across Canberra. Key projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$57 million over three years to complete the duplication of Horse Park Drive between the Federal Highway and Mulligans Flat Road; • \$28.9 million over three years to complete the duplication of Cotter Road between the Tuggeranong Parkway and Yarralumla Creek; • \$8.4 million to be invested in road safety and maintenance measures.