

2013–14 Update of the ACT Government Infrastructure Plan

December 2013

On Monday 9 December, ACT Deputy Chief Minister and Treasurer Andrew Barr MLA released the 2013–14 Update of the ACT Government Infrastructure Plan. The Plan updates the *ACT Government Infrastructure Plan 2011–2021* and provides an overview of \$10 billion of key infrastructure projects that the ACT Government has funded through the 2013–14 Budget or is considering for funding over the next decade. The Plan also includes information on significant non-government investment initiatives underway in the Territory.

The 2013-14 Update of the ACT Government Infrastructure Plan is available [here](#).

Context

The Plan has been developed in the context of the infrastructure planning of other jurisdictions, most significantly the Federal and NSW governments.

In 2013, Infrastructure Australia's Annual Report outlined a package of seven reforms around governance and financing of infrastructure, setting targets for productivity growth, increasing private investment in infrastructure and eliminating urban congestion. These suggested reforms have informed the ACT Government's Infrastructure Plan.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the Infrastructure Australia Annual Report 2012–13 and Updated National Priority List is available [here](#).

The Hawker Britton Agency Snapshot for Infrastructure Australia, updated in response to Coalition changes to the agency, is available [here](#).

In October 2012, Infrastructure NSW released [First Things First: The State Infrastructure Strategy 2012–2032](#), which recommended priorities for infrastructure development across NSW. Most relevantly for the ACT, it included priorities for regional transport, health, energy, water, and education infrastructure needs over the next two decades.

Infrastructure and the 2013-14 ACT Budget

2013–14 Budget provides \$272.2 million for new investment in infrastructure over four years. This includes new capital works, feasibility studies, forward design projects (\$193.5 million), plant and equipment (\$4.7million), and information and communication technology investments (\$24.9 million).

Additionally, the Capital Upgrades Program will provide \$49.1 million to improve and enhance existing assets and infrastructure in the Territory.

The Budget continues the work undertaken by the ACT Government in recent years to improve how infrastructure projects are planned, approved and managed. A policy framework for the delivery of Public Private Partnerships in the Territory is currently being developed by the ACT Government. This framework will draw on best practice and existing materials from other Australian jurisdictions.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the 2013–14 ACT Budget is available [here](#).

Significant projects 2013–14

This pipeline of projects sorted using the Government’s four longer-term objectives for the ACT: ‘healthy and smart’, ‘liveability and opportunity’, ‘growing the economy’ and ‘urban renewal’.

The full pipeline of projects is available in the 2013–14 Update and can be accessed [here](#).

Healthy and Smart

The ACT Government is committed to invest in infrastructure that will assist the Territory with its ageing population and encourage educational outcomes. Some key projects in the Plan that showcase this commitment are:

- the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children Stage 2, which will provide 150 additional beds, increased number of ambulatory care (outpatient) consult rooms and a 4 bed Birth Centre;
- the University of Canberra Public Hospital—a new public hospital which will offer a range of rehabilitation services such as neurological rehabilitation and older persons’ rehabilitation, mental health services and day hospital services;
- the Franklin Early Childhood School—the first purpose-built Early Childhood School designed and constructed in Australia;
- early planning for the Stromlo Leisure Centre; and
- a \$13 million upgrade of Taylor Primary School.

Key education and healthcare projects are listed on pages 11–15 of the Plan.

Liveability and Opportunity

The ACT Government will also be pursuing projects to improve liveability and opportunities in the Territory. Key projects delivering this objective include:

- a redevelopment of the ACT Courts;
- \$17.360 million for the construction of a new fire and rescue station in South Tuggeranong;
- the release of the new suburb of Lawson, which will accommodate approximately 1 850 dwellings in a mix of low, medium and higher density housing; and
- the development of West Belconnen over the next 10–15 years, which is predicted to accommodate approximately 4 500 dwellings in the ACT, with a possibility to extend across the border into NSW with another 3 000 dwellings.

Key ‘liveability and opportunity’ projects are listed on pages 20–24 of the Plan.

Growing the Economy

Infrastructure investment outlined in the Plan will also focus on promoting ongoing growth and diversification, as well as local jobs in the ACT. This will be achieved through projects such as:

- construction of the New CIT Tuggeranong Forward Design, a 2000m² facility to accommodate enhanced learning services and expanded course delivery for the Tuggeranong community; and
- a new Data Centre for the ACT Government; and
- a new Molongolo Arts Centre and Kingston Visual Arts Hub.

Key projects for growing the economy are listed on pages 26–27 of the Plan.

Urban Renewal

Finally, the 2013-14 Plan also outlines long-term investment in key urban renewal projects, including:

- Capital Metro Stage 1—a light rail service along a 12 kilometre route from Hibberson Street in Gungahlin to the City centre;
- the *City to the Lake Project*—a project to better utilise the broad southern flank of the City which will investigate a number of infrastructure elements, including improvements to Parkes Way, identifying and reserving potential locations for a new convention centre, a 30 000+ seat rectangular stadium, and a regional aquatic centre; and
- an upgrade to the Woden Bus Interchange, to be considered by the ACT Government in the 2014–15 Budget context, subject to relevant planning approvals being obtained.

Key urban renewal projects are listed on pages 31–34 of the Plan.

Private Sector Infrastructure Projects

Significant local initiatives currently being delivered by entities other than the ACT Government also form part of the Plan. These include:

- Improvements to Canberra Airport, including an additional link road between the Majura Parkway and the Airport, an upgrade to a CATII navigational system, extension of the main runway and completion of the \$43 million international component of the Airport's terminal development by Christmas 2013.
- ActewAGL upgrades, including the 'Second Bulk Supply Point' – Stage Two; new substation installations at East Lake, Mongolo, Civic, Belconnen, and Fyshwick; the 'Hume Primary Mains Extension and Prime Regulating Station' project; the 'Hume to Tuggeranong Interconnection (Stage 2)' and the 'Gungahlin to Amaroo Secondary Mains Extension'.
- ACTEW infrastructure projects, including a new Uriarra Link water main to the Molonglo Valley, a new water reservoir in Stromlo Forest Park south of Uriarra Road and a solid handling systems upgrade for the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre.
- The National Broadband Network, subject to Commonwealth investment.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the National Broadband Network is available [here](#).

Financing new developments

On 4 December 2013, Treasurer Andrew Barr launched 'Invest Canberra', the ACT Government's plan to enhance the Territory's capacity to attract new investment. Invest Canberra operates as a dedicated investment promotion entity within the Economic Development Directorate and will focus on investment priorities that match Canberra's competitive advantage and seek to attract investors for the ACT's infrastructure priorities.

Additionally, the Government has also announced that it is considering selling off assets including some office blocks and public housing to qualify for federal financial help with infrastructure projects.

The Invest Canberra website provides an investment directory, investor toolkit and various other resources for investment in Canberra and is accessible [here](#).

The Treasurer's media release is available [here](#).