

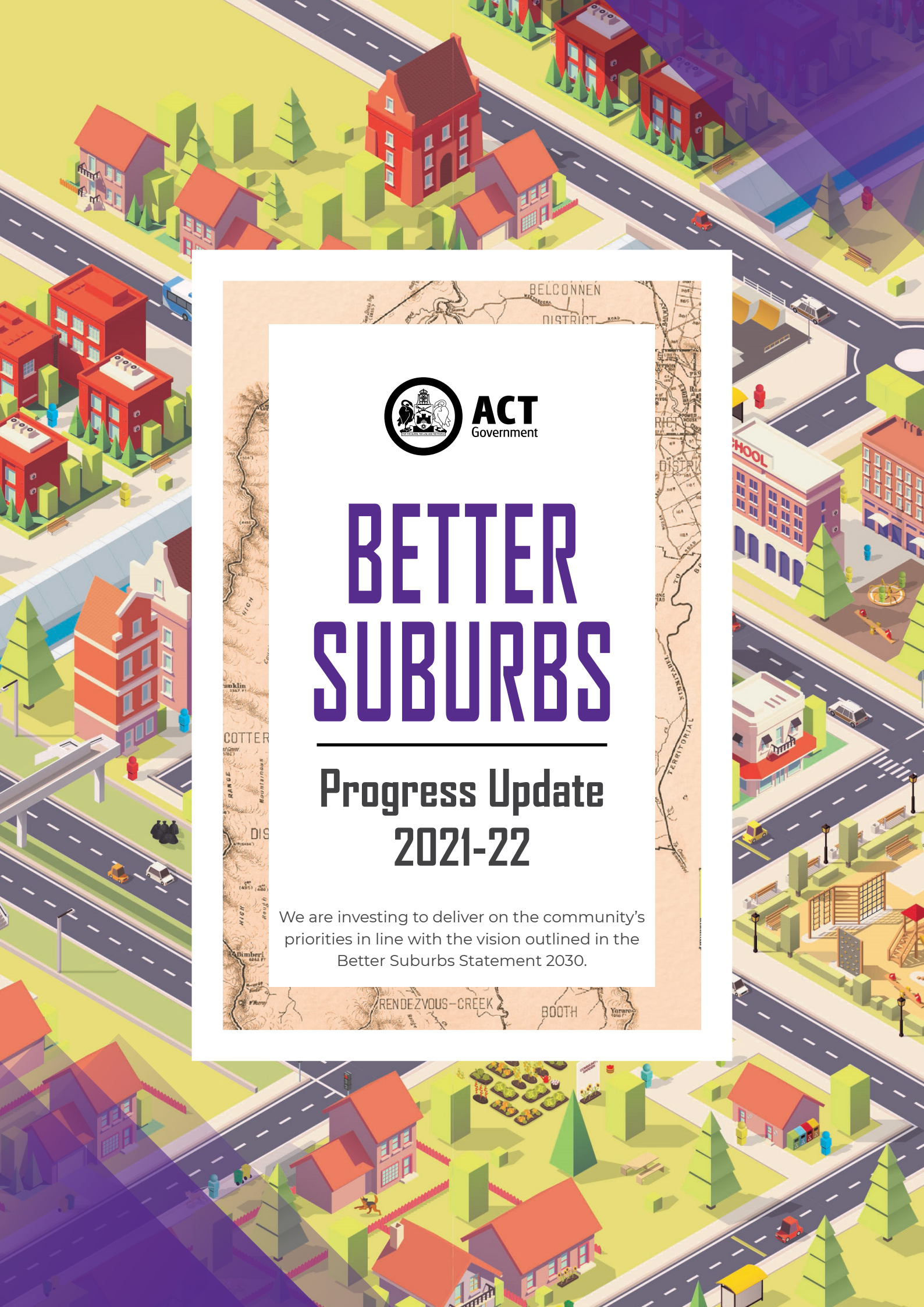


ACT
Government

BETTER SUBURBS

Progress Update 2021-22

We are investing to deliver on the community's priorities in line with the vision outlined in the Better Suburbs Statement 2030.





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INTRODUCTION

The **Better Suburbs Statement 2030** was developed through a deliberative democratic process which brought together a representative group of Canberrans to make collective decisions about services for our city.

Through the Better Suburbs process, we worked with Canberrans to better understand the community's priorities for city services and where the ACT Government should be focusing more of our efforts.

This collaborative approach has supported the planning of the delivery of services in the future. Our investments in city services through each annual ACT Budget since the Statement was released have been directly informed by this feedback. This is helping to ensure Canberra remains vibrant, beautiful and liveable today and in the coming decades.

As part of the Better Suburbs process, a Citizens' Forum of 54 representative community members came together to deliberate on the spending and service priorities for city services. Together, the Citizens' Forum identified 14 key priorities which were detailed in the Better Suburbs Statement, along with clear guidance on how the ACT Government should focus our investment to secure the future of these services.

We have now begun a rolling process to implement the Statement's directions as we move towards a more resilient and sustainable future for Canberra's city services. We are progressively adjusting our investment in each Budget round so that over time it aligns with the priorities and focus areas outlined in the Better Suburbs Statement. This document provides an update on the progress we have made since the previous Better Suburbs update report was published in 2019.

We are working to deliver a green and vibrant city that is inclusive, diverse, clean, healthy and fosters community pride. Our investments through the ACT Budget will support this work today and in the years to come.

A number of initiatives identified in the Better Suburbs Statement are being delivered by the ACT Government with the financial support of the Australian Government.



PRIORITY 1- LAKES, PONDS AND WETLANDS STORMWATER AND WATER QUALITY

We heard: We should future-proof the stormwater system

The ACT Government's investments in stormwater infrastructure continue to grow. Since 2019 we have **invested more than \$16.3 million** (plus a further \$3.3m from the Australian Government) in new and upgraded infrastructure to improve capacity for large wet weather events, create healthier waterways and protect and enhance the amenity of public spaces and public and private property.

Work has progressed on upgrades to the network in **Fyshwick, Waramanga, Page and Weetangera**. Through the 2021-22 ACT Budget, the Government will commence construction for **stormwater and placemaking improvements at the Mawson Group Centre** to reduce flood risk along Yarralumla Creek. In addition, we are supporting the revitalisation of the heritage-listed Sydney and Melbourne buildings by mitigating flood risks through stormwater upgrades. And we will further reduce flood risks in Narrabundah by undertaking construction and commencing design on three targeted mitigation projects.

We are continuing to improve Canberra's lakes, ponds and wetlands through our proactive program of cleaning and revitalisation.

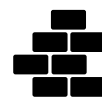
A present focus is **improving Gungahlin's popular Yerrabi Pond** through improved cleaning and natural filtration by water's edge plantings, and the addition of new community amenities at the pond's recreation areas. The 2021-22 Budget also delivers \$5 million to expand the Healthy Waterways program, to tackle water pollution that causes algal blooms by improving the management of green spaces and new developments.

Our investments in 2021-22 Budget



\$1.4m

Urban stormwater upgrade program



\$1.6m

Safer dams and weirs improvements program



\$1m

Reducing reliance on potable water to irrigate grass



\$3.1m

Mawson stormwater and placemaking improvements



\$1.2m

Goliath Court flood mitigation



PRIORITY 2 - STREET AND PARK TREES

We heard: We should maintain and enhance the tree canopy

Canberra's beautiful tree canopy is one of the best things about living in this city. The Citizens' Forum highlighted the need for expanded investment to ensure all parts of Canberra can enjoy the benefits of street trees, and ensure canopy coverage is not lost as trees from the original plantings of our city reach end of life in coming years.

That's why the ACT Government is making the fifth largest tree planting in Canberra's history and the largest in self-government under our [Urban Forest Strategy](#).

In the 2021-22 Budget we've tripled tree planting numbers, with funding now secured to [plant 54,000 trees by 2024](#). These trees will make significant progress towards our target of reaching [30% canopy cover across Canberra's urban area by 2045](#) under our Living Infrastructure Plan.

We've been planting these new trees in areas with lower canopy cover like some of Canberra's newer suburbs and regions, replanting ageing and dead trees, and also in locations requested by the community. We've received more than 2,900 requests for tree planting through our ongoing [Where should we plant trees?](#) survey on the YourSay website.

Our tree maintenance crews have also been hard at work looking after our existing trees, especially those that are ageing or have been impacted by the longer, dryer and hotter summers Canberra has experienced in recent years. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic we also funded an additional 10 staff in the tree team through the Jobs for Canberrans Fund, which has helped to keep on top of tree planting and maintenance activities.

After the huge success of the inaugural [Adopt-a-Park program](#) in 2020, we're providing a further three years of funding for the program.

The program supports local community groups to get involved in caring for their parks and open spaces and has already seen the establishment of several micro-forests across Canberra.

The Adopt-a-Park extension will focus on funding projects that support tree planting to encourage the community to help us reach our canopy cover target and ensure that more neighbourhoods can share in the many benefits of trees.

Improving our tree canopy



30%

Tree canopy cover by 2024



32

Adopt-a-Park projects undertaken during 2020



54,000

Trees to be planted by 2024



\$1.2m

Jamison water-sensitive urban design trial 2020-21



PRIORITY 3 AND 4 HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING

We heard: We should reduce our reliance on landfill for household waste and proactively address illegal dumping and littering

In recent years Australia has experienced a major upheaval in national waste management practices. The Australian Government's ban on exporting waste has led to major innovation in Australian recycling and this has been supported by significant ACT Government investments in new infrastructure and services.

With a goal of decreasing the amount of waste going to landfill, the ACT Government has completed the roll-out of green bin services to all Canberra households, **diverting 24,235 tonnes of garden organic waste from landfill in 2020-21.**

A new bulky waste collection service has been provided to all Canberra suburbs since July 2021 providing a new service for Canberrans to dispose of two cubic metres of unwanted bulky items for free. The **ACT bulky waste service recovery rate for 2020-21 was 41%** as the Government has partnered with charities providing more opportunity for the materials to go to a 'second home' before being landfilled or littered on our streets.



In line with the views of our community, the Government has taken decisive action to ban certain single-use plastics with the **first bans coming into effect in July 2021.** In addition to leading the nation in banning plastics, the ACT is also the only jurisdiction that is working to ban all single-use plastic products from public events. Further tranches of products will be banned from 2022 onwards, continuing to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

The ACT Government is currently progressing planning for a food organics collection service to be available to all Canberra households during this term of government. A pilot is commencing in selected Belconnen suburbs from late-2021. With food organics making up around a third of all residential waste, this service will divert approximately 26,000 tonnes of material from landfill each year when fully operational. This will see organic material turned into valuable compost, also contributing to a 30% reduction waste emissions.

What we have achieved



41%

Recovery rate for ACT bulky waste in 2020-21



262m

Eligible containers returned for recycling through the ACT Container Deposit Scheme



24,235 tonnes

Garden waste diverted from landfill during 2020-21



Banned single use plastic

Cutlery, stirrers and expanded polystyrene food and beverage containers

Significant investment in upgrades are also being made at the Materials Recovery Facility in Hume, which processes 60,000 tonnes of recycled material per year. This will help eliminate mixed plastic as a waste stream. It will also see improvements to the quality of recycled material through reducing contamination of the glass, paper and cardboard streams so that they can go on to be recycled.

The ACT's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) continues to be well received by the community with over 262 million eligible containers having been redeemed since July 2018.

The CDS has reduced bottles and other containers from once being the most prevalent items in the ACT's litter stream, to now being almost non-existent.

Enforcement continues of strengthened littering laws. The ACT Government has also commenced a trial to reintroduce public charity bins to support jobs for people with disabilities and encourage the recycling of textiles with secure, monitored drop off locations to reduce the risk of illegal dumping.

Our investments in 2021-22 Budget



\$2.8m

Food and garden organics waste collection pilot for Belconnen



\$4m

Maintaining effective recycling services



PRIORITY 5 – ROADS

We heard: The maintenance of road infrastructure is critical

Over the coming years we are investing half a billion dollars to upgrade roads along some of the ACT's key strategic transport corridors. We know that when we build roads, we are establishing the backbone upon which we deliver all forms of transport for Canberrans. Our roads provide routes for our buses to drive along, they provide the direct connections between key locations for our shared path network to follow, and they are increasingly used by Canberra's expanding zero emissions vehicle fleet.

We are supporting the growing communities of West Belconnen and the Molonglo Valley by **duplicating the final 4.5 kilometres of William Hovell Drive** from John Gorton Drive to Drake Brockman Drive, which will include an upgrade of the intersection with Drake Brockman Drive. Planning approval has been granted for the new bridge over the Molonglo River at Coppins Crossing and design work is progressing.

We will soon be finishing design and starting construction of a **grade-separated interchange at Lanyon Drive as part of significant upgrades to the Monaro Highway** to support the growth of the region and freight.

The Government will also develop a corridor plan that identifies and prioritises future infrastructure upgrades in Canberra's south-west to reduce congestion, improve road safety and strengthen opportunities for alternative forms of transport to private cars.

In Canberra's north, we are developing a hybrid traffic model for the Gungahlin Town Centre to support future strategic transport investments in the area. Meanwhile works will soon begin on improved intersections and shared paths in Kenny to support access to the new Kenny High School.

Construction is also now well underway on the duplication of the final stage of Gundaroo Drive from the Barton Highway to Ginninderra Drive, including an upgrade to the intersection with Owen Dixon Drive which will support the expected growth of Belconnen.





We know that Canberrans value the maintenance of our roads and the Citizens' Forum recommended seeking efficiencies through investigating the use of new materials. We've been challenging industry to come to us with road maintenance solutions that are innovative, sustainable and efficient including through our procurement process under a new Statement of Procurement Values.

In 2020-21 several sections of Northbourne Avenue were upgraded, with the old bitumen recycled into new asphalt. This was an Australian-first and saw more than **6,000 tonnes of pavement material recycled** reducing costs per square metre of road pavement laid.

We've bolstered our investment in road maintenance over the last year with an additional \$4 million in surge funding responding to extended La Nina weather conditions, with more than **6,375 potholes repaired** in 2020-21 and investment in more heavy patching undertaken to support the annual resurfacing program in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Improving our roads



6,000 tonnes

Amount of bitumen recycled into asphalt on Northbourne Avenue



6,375

Number of potholes fixed in 2020-21



4.5kms

Duplication of William Hovell Drive

Our investments in 2021-22 Budget



\$160.1m

Monaro Highway upgrades



\$63.3m

William Hovell Drive duplication



\$2.1m

Road safety improvements



\$0.7m

Traffic signal program



PRIORITY 6 - PARKS AND OPEN SPACES INCLUDING MOWING

We heard: We should make the park experience appealing

Investment in maintaining and improving Canberra's parks and open spaces is continuing throughout Canberra. The ACT Government currently invests **\$24.2 million or more a year in servicing our green spaces.**

We are improving the amenities at key parks and open spaces to ensure Canberrans have easy access to great recreational facilities. On the southside this includes improvements to the Tuggeranong Foreshore which will deliver improved street furniture and landscaping, a new or upgraded playground, recreation facilities and accessibility improvements. This work will build on the improvements the Government has already delivered along Anketell Street, the Tuggeranong Town Square and the Laneway precinct.

On the northside, we are planning for the refresh of facilities around Yerrabi Pond, building on our initial investments in improving the local environment there. The 2021-22 Budget includes funding to scope and design improved car parking, better public toilet facilities, more lighting and improved picnic facilities so that more people can enjoy Gungahlin's great outdoors.

Through COVID-19 stimulus programs, we have delivered improved public toilet facilities at Belconnen's popular John Knight Memorial Park and on the Lake Tuggeranong foreshore.

To ensure our suburbs are kept tidy and looking their best, we are continuing our mowing program despite the challenges of COVID-19. From September to March, suburbs and areas of open space will be mown every four weeks with arterial road areas mown every five weeks. **There are 73 mowers in the ACT Government's fleet.**

Each mower covers an area of 68 hectares every four weeks. GPS trackers attached to each mower now support the delivery of a live mowing map which lets Canberrans monitor works in real time visit www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/maintenance/grass-mowing

The ACT Government is also planting thousands of new trees in parks across Canberra to make them more attractive places to use. We also fund the popular Adopt-a-Park initiative for another three years, providing grants to community groups so they can get involved with caring for local parks and open spaces and support the planting of thousands of new trees to build climate resilience.

Our parks are often home to play spaces. The ACT Government is consulting on a new draft Play Space Strategy which has a focus on strengthening the quality and diversity of play experiences for children. We are investing more in upgrading and building new play spaces in parks to make them accessible and appealing to a range of children and families.

Our investments in 2021-22 Budget



\$4.8m

Tuggeranong Foreshore improved parks and open spaces



\$0.6m

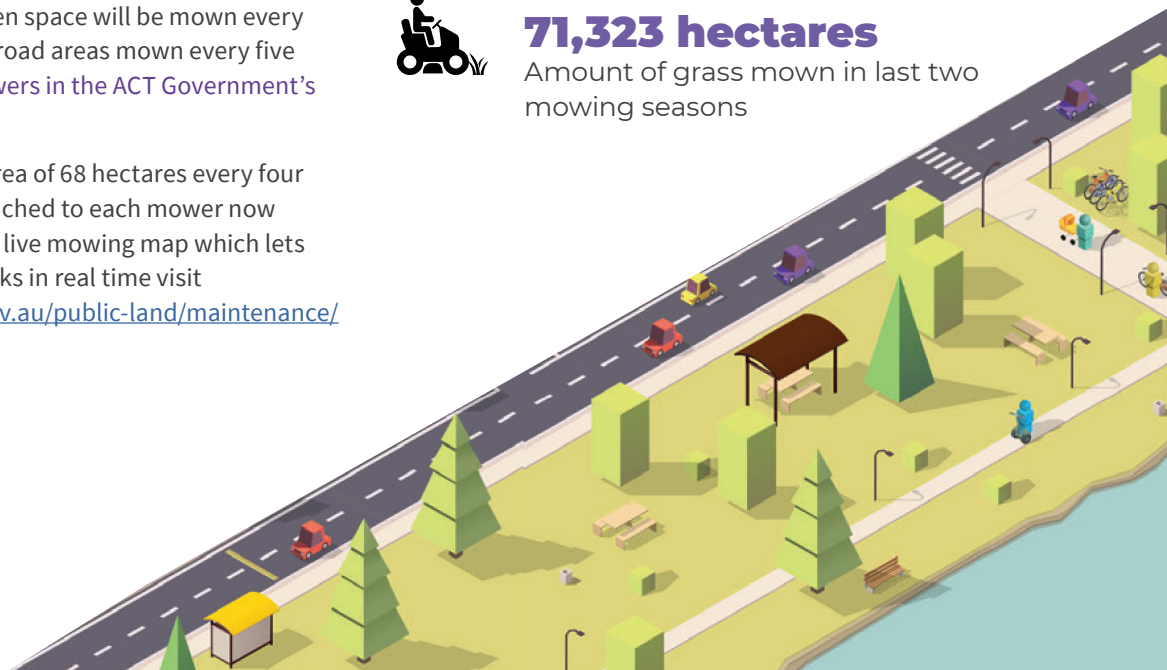
Yerrabi Pond planning for more and better amenities

What we have achieved



71,323 hectares

Amount of grass mown in last two mowing seasons



PRIORITY 7 – LIBRARY SERVICES

We heard: Evolve our library services and have more accessible locations

Canberrans love libraries and there are more than 61,000 active library members. Libraries ACT also has 190,600 registered members.

Upgrades are well advanced at Canberra's most popular library at Woden, with improvements recognising the diverse range of services libraries can provide. When complete, these upgrades will deliver a modern space for technology and knowledge sharing activities such as a recording studio and green screen. In addition, they will provide a flexible community space for learning and local organisations to meet, strengthening the role of Woden Library as a community hub.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased demand for digital library services and an additional budget was allocated to eBooks and eAudio books. During lockdowns, use of digital resources increased significantly, including 323% increase for Story Box Library and 63% for Kanopy streaming movies and documentaries.

The Mystery Box delivery service has provided services to those who can't access the library due to COVID-19. Online programs have also been offered, including Giggle & Wiggle, author talks, the Too Busy Book Club, and school holiday programs.

Libraries ACT will continue to innovate its service delivery in consultation with the community. In 2021-22 a major co-design process is underway called *Imagine 2030* to deeply engage with Canberrans on the future of libraries. This feedback will then inform the development of a libraries strategy for the next 10 years.

The ACT Government will also soon commence engagement with the Molonglo Valley community on a future library and community centre which is expected to be an important hub of social activity and learning for the growing region.



What we have achieved



190,600

Registered library users



Over 775,000

Digital resources accessed in 2020-21, a growth of 27% from 2019-20



\$1.7m

Woden library upgrade



Co-designing the future of libraries through the Let's Imagine 2030 community project



PRIORITY 8 – FOOTPATHS, VERGES AND NATURE STRIPS

We heard: Prevent erosion, mitigate urban temperature effects and encourage more active travel

Active travel is a key part of our plan to build a more vibrant and sustainable city and that's why we are making even more investments in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and maintenance to encourage more Canberrans to walk and cycle.

We know how important path maintenance is and that's why we've invested an **additional \$4.3 million over the next four years into repairing and replacing damaged paths**. This maintenance will help us respond to requests from the community, as well as prioritise work following a Territory-wide path audit that is currently underway.

We've invested \$2 million to fund an additional four years of the successful Age Friendly Suburbs program. This program has delivered path and crossing improvements to make it safer for older Canberrans and those with reduced mobility to get around our city. After completing upgrades in Weston, Ainslie, Monash, Kaleen, Page, Hughes, Narrabundah, Isabella Plains, Stirling, Campbell, Aranda and Holt, we will soon be rolling out the program to Chifley, Reid, Scullin and O'Connor.

We're also building new infrastructure to complete missing links in our path network and create strategic connections between key areas of employment, shopping and education. This will include delivering the construction of an off-road cycle path along Sulwood Drive between Drakeford Drive and Athllon Drive, and improving the Sulwood Drive/Mannheim Street intersection to make it safer for people to access the Mount Taylor Nature Reserve.

We are connecting the growing communities of West Belconnen and the Molonglo Valley by duplicating William Hovell Drive from John Gorton Drive to Drake Brockman Drive. This will include an upgrade to the intersection with Drake Brockman Drive and building a new seven kilometre off-road shared path providing a new cycle link to the City. We are also constructing a new shared path connection and bridge linking Coombs near Klos Crossing to the city cycle path network.

In 2021-22 we will commence initial design and feasibility for the Garden City cycle route, a significant addition to the path network that will connected the eastern side of the inner north from Watson to the City.

We've also heard from the Gungahlin community that more can be done to improve connectivity for cyclists in the Gungahlin Town Centre, so we've funded early design and planning to improve this.

These new projects are on top of the recently completed Belconnen Bikeway and the Heysen Street link, as well as the construction of a dedicated cycleway through the Woden Town Centre and improved connections in the Tuggeranong Town Centre.

During the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we also **invested almost \$10 million in cycling infrastructure to complete over 50 new paths**, fixing missing links all over Canberra.

As the ACT Government plants 54,000 trees across Canberra, planting along key active travel links is being undertaken to create 'shadeways' to make using our paths more comfortable by helping to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

Our investments in 2021-22 Budget



\$10.9m

Boosting investment in active travel



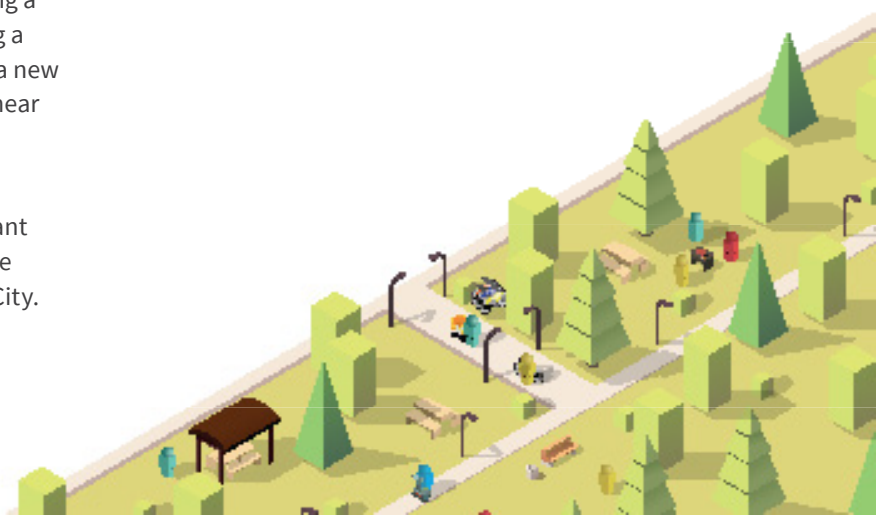
\$5.6m

Supporting road and active travel infrastructure Kenny High School



\$2.5m

Pialligo active travel and urban realm upgrades



PRIORITY 9 – GRAFFITI AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We heard: Community engagement through street art projects is important to manage graffiti

The Better Suburbs Community Forum identified the need for creative engagement with local artists as a way to address nuisance graffiti where it isn't wanted.

The ACT Government makes available legal graffiti practice sites in public places like underpasses and toilet blocks, which are usually out of sight from residential properties. The sites are available to graffiti writers and artists on an ongoing basis with no permits required.

There are currently **30 legal graffiti art sites across Canberra**, with their management being supported by a dedicated graffiti coordinator.

The ACT Government has also commissioned **67 street art projects and murals across the city** with **108 artist roles** provided, as well **28 mentoring projects** for young people and other members of the community. This involves them in meaningful street art projects which contribute to the vibrancy of the community.

Building on these initiatives, in 2021-22 the ACT Government will deliver Canberra's first ever dedicated street art festival called Surface. The festival will help enliven the streets and laneways of our city, as well as seeing some feature pieces appear in Canberra's suburbs.

Local and interstate artists will be commissioned to paint up to 15 walls with colourful, textured and wild surfaces. The works will showcase a diversity of themes and subjects, including portraits.

What we have achieved



30

Legal graffiti art sites across Canberra



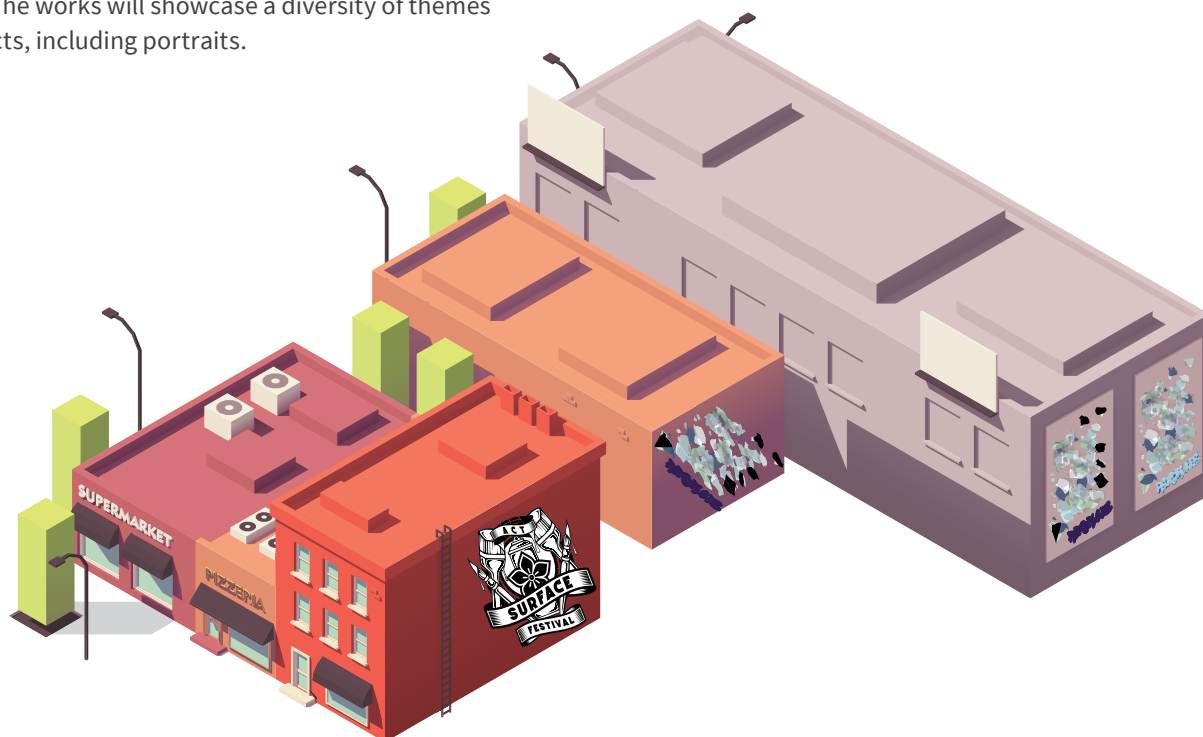
67

New artworks and murals adding colour to our city



Enlivening Canberra

by planning our city's first street art festival



PRIORITY 10 – STREETLIGHTS

We heard: That streetlights are important to maintain public and traffic safety

The ACT Government continues to improve the quality and efficiency of lighting throughout the city. We are progressively upgrading 80,000 of Canberra's streetlights to energy efficient LED technology.

In the last two years 25,000 streetlights have been upgraded, improving brightness and safety while making our city more sustainable.

The Government is also progressively upgrading streetlighting as part of other community infrastructure projects and improvements to our parks and open spaces. For example, improved streetlighting will be part of the Yerrabi Pond and Tuggeranong Foreshore upgrades (see Priority 6), the Mawson placemaking improvements (see Priority 1) and various road infrastructure projects (see Priority 5).

Work continues to improve the coverage of streetlight network through the Streetlight Infill program and other initiatives including bus stop upgrades to improve safety and inclusion in Canberra.

Our investments in 2021-22 Budget



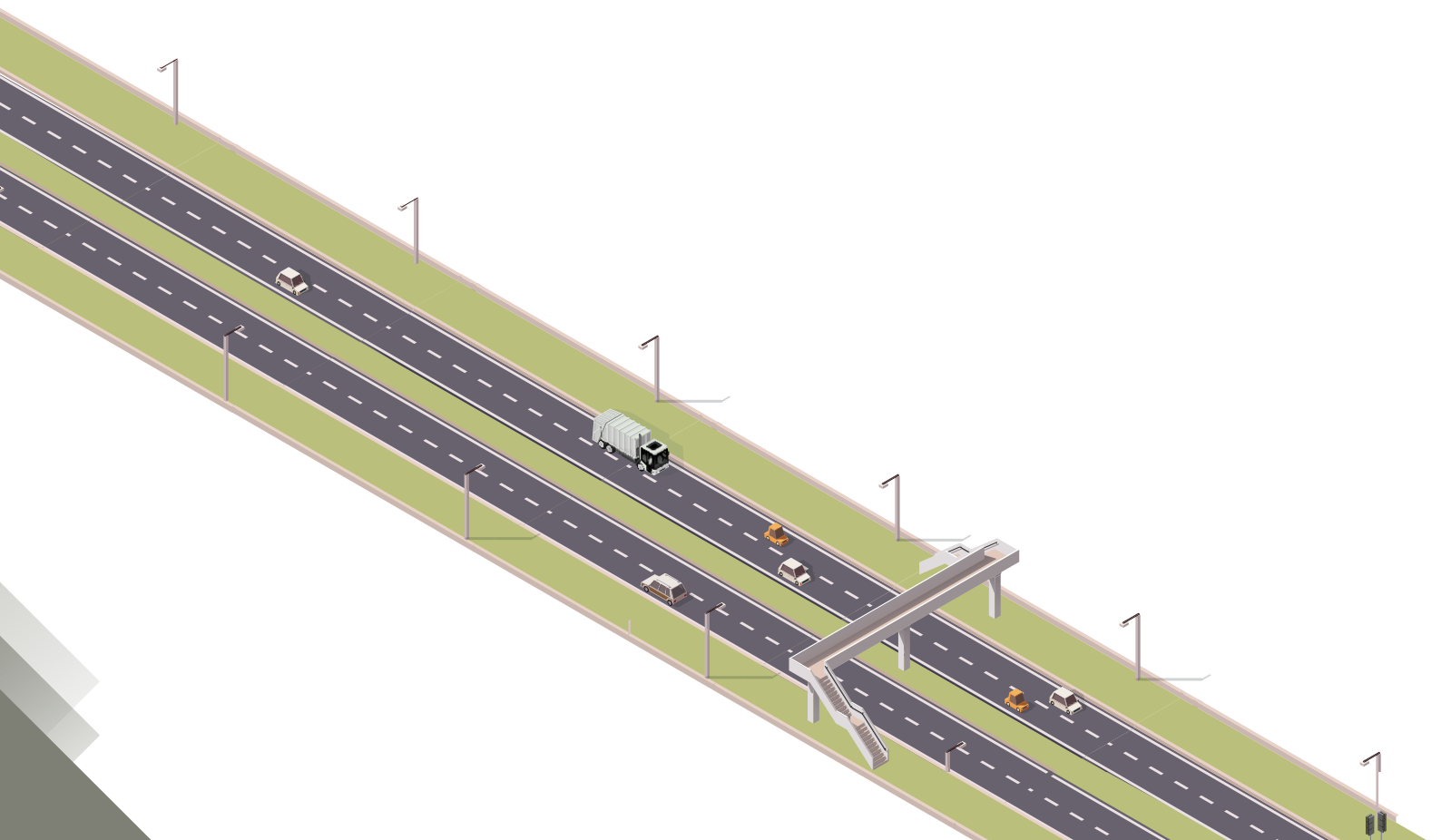
\$0.5m

Streetlight program



\$2.05m

Streetlight energy performance contract



PRIORITY 11 – PLAY SPACES

We heard: The quality of the play spaces is more important than the number of them

The ACT Government recognises the importance of play and is continuing to invest in new and upgraded play spaces across Canberra. We have among the highest number of play spaces per capita of all Australian cities. **Canberra has 515 play spaces** serving a diverse age range.

Since 2018, the ACT Government has invested **\$5.8 million in play spaces, including building 10 new play spaces**, undertaking upgrades and refreshes at 66 existing play spaces. The Government has conducted **26,000 safety inspections per year**. The ACT Government is also continuing to install shade sails and fencing at central community play spaces across the city.

Through investments in the 2021-22 ACT Budget, the Government will upgrade a further six suburban play spaces across Canberra in Kaleen, Ngunnawal, Chisholm, Gordon, Lyons and Aranda. Community consultation will also get underway in coming months on a new destination play space for the inner north. In Casey, we will deliver a new \$3 million community recreation park to support the health and recreation needs of the local community.

The Government has developed a draft Play Spaces Strategy to provide a community-centred approach to planning for play and future investments in play spaces. This Strategy was a direct outcome of the Better Suburbs Play Spaces Forum and the Better Suburbs Citizens' Forum.

The strategy outlines six key actions that will shape the ACT Government's ongoing delivery of play spaces:

1. Deliver better quality play spaces equitably and sustainably across the play spaces network – including by prioritising district and central play spaces for major upgrade and refresh works.
2. Make underused play spaces available to the community for more play uses – such as by working with communities to identify preferred community uses like nature play, community gardens or bike trails.
3. Strengthen the quality and diversity of play experiences for children – including by adding types of play experiences which are less common within the existing network.
4. Ensure play spaces are accessible for all – with an emphasis on strengthening delivery of play spaces that are accessible for people with physical and psychosocial disabilities, neurodiverse people and those across the age spectrum.
5. Assess play value and use this to improve delivery and maintenance of play spaces – through the development of a tailored Play Value Index which can help inform future investment priorities.
6. Ensure play spaces are sustainable and resilient to a changing climate – with a particular emphasis on tree planting in and around play spaces and accessibility of play spaces by public transport and active travel.

More and better play spaces



Play space upgrades

for Kaleen, Ngunnawal, Chisholm, Gordon, Lyons and Aranda



10 new play spaces

66 upgrades to improve safety, amenity and quality of play



515 play spaces

across Canberra



PRIORITY 12 – SHOPPING CENTRE EXPERIENCE

We heard: Future improvements should be made after considering changing demographics and commercial circumstances

Local shops are important community hubs, providing services and jobs at the heart of neighbourhoods. The ACT Government recognises the importance of local shops, which is why we've supported refresh works and upgrades at 13 of Canberra's 66 local shopping centres as part of the COVID-19 economic stimulus program. This has delivered better local shops for Gordon, Hackett, Kaleen (East), Lyneham (North), Kambah (Castley Circuit and Marconi Crescent), Macgregor, Macquarie, Page, Phillip, Spence (Copland Drive and Glassey Place) and Weetangera.

The 2021-22 Budget invests in the next stage of local shopping centre renewal, with upgrades planned for Duffy, Campbell, Gwydir Square in Kaleen, Narrabundah, Evatt, Macquarie, Monash, Calwell and Lanyon.

Upgrades at the group centres of Kippax and Cooleman Court will also support the growing new regions of Ginninderry and Molonglo. The ACT Government is also working closely with the Molonglo community to ensure this new part of Canberra is well serviced with local shops, services and community amenities.

Planning is underway for the future Molonglo Commercial Centre. The Coombs and Wright Village Design and Place Framework was released in July 2021 to guide the development of a vibrant village centre for the area.

The framework includes plans to see Steve Irwin and Fred Daly avenues become a village main street with multiple rows of shade trees, along with a new public square which will become a community meeting and outdoor dining space.

The works also include a small public pavilion, toilets and a performance space in the nearby Coombs Park which will be welcome additions to what is currently an underutilised space. Together, these works will ensure residents of Molonglo have access to great local shops in a welcoming community environment in the years to come.

Our investments in 2021-22 Budget



\$17.5m

Shopping centre improvements



PRIORITY 13 – RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

We heard: It's important to educate the community about responsible pet ownership and keep better pet records

The ACT is a leader in animal welfare and management and we want to ensure Canberra remains a safe, pet-friendly city.

Following the release of the Canberra Dog Model, a document highlighting best-practice actions to encourage responsible dog ownership, the ACT Government has introduced annual registration for all dogs at no extra cost to owners. The **new dog registration system** will improve the information we have about dogs in the ACT, ensuring we can contact owners quickly if lost or roaming dogs need to be returned to their families. It will also allow the government to deliver better education and services to pet owners, and manage dangerous dogs to help prevent and respond to dog attacks.

To continue improving local facilities for pets, the 2021-22 Budget invests in two new dog parks in Franklin and Lanyon, as well as upgrades for the popular Casey and O'Connor dog parks. This follows on from upgrades to Yarralumla, Forde, Belconnen, Duffy and Tuggeranong dog parks between 2020 and 2021 and the delivery of the new Duffy dog park in 2018 which will bring the total number of dog parks in Canberra to nine.

Improved dog registration



Over 8500

Dog registrations have been updated since July 2021.

In May 2021 the final ACT Cat Plan was released outlining eight strategies to promote responsible cat ownership. From July 2022 all cats owners will need to register their cats for the first time and update their pet's registration annually. In addition all cats adopted after this date will be contained so that they can live longer, healthier lives while protecting native wildlife.

The ACT Government is committed to improving animal welfare outcomes in the ACT. A part of our work towards this objective, we will be delivering a new home for the RSPCA with a purpose-built facility on a dedicated site with feasibility and design funded in the 2021-22 Budget. The new facility will house the RSPCA's animal management, veterinary and education services, allowing them to better care for animals and strengthen their engagement with the Canberra community about animal welfare.

Our investments in 2021-22 Budget



\$1m

To design a new purpose-built facility for the RSPCA



\$1.8m

to deliver two new dog parks in Franklin and Lanyon



PRIORITY 14 – COMMUNITY OVALS AND FITNESS STATIONS

We heard: Repurpose unused ovals and improve ovals with complementary amenity

Canberra's ovals and sports facilities play a key role in keeping people of all ages active and healthy. The ACT Government has been investing in new and better amenities at community ovals to ensure these meet the needs of a diverse range of users.

We have provided \$567,000 to begin designing improvements for the Phillip District Enclosed Oval, including a new pavilion, upgraded grandstand and lights and additional parking. The project will benefit the sports and players that regularly use this facility, including rugby union, rugby league and cricket.

We have also used COVID-19 economic stimulus programs to undertake a range of amenity upgrades at local ovals, including pavilion upgrades at the Amaroo, Deakin, Kaleen, Narrabundah, O'Connor, Stirling and Wanniasa district playing fields to deliver more female-friendly change rooms.

The 2021-22 Budget will deliver further lighting and amenity upgrades at Mawson and Kambah district playing fields, and cricket facility upgrades at Taylor and Melba. This \$950,000 investment will assist to deliver ACTIVE 2020 which is a long-term strategic plan for sport and active recreation in the ACT and region. We will also install water fountains at a further 10 community ovals.

What are we doing



Better facilities

at Phillip District Enclosed Oval for rugby and cricket



Delivering female-friendly

change rooms at more district playing fields



Providing water fountains

for 10 more community ovals



\$950,000

Sport and Recreation upgrades





