

COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAME TOGETHER AT A CITIZEN'S FORUM
TO SET A VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR CITY SERVICES



ACT
Government

BETTER SUBURBS

MAKING PROGRESS 2019-20



OUR FOCUS IS ON INVESTING TO DELIVER THE COMMUNITY'S PRIORITIES
IN LINE WITH THE VISION OUTLINED IN THE BETTER SUBURBS STATEMENT



INTRODUCTION

The Better Suburbs Statement 2030 was developed in 2018 through a new model of engaging with Canberrans – deliberative democracy.

Deliberative democracy uses collective decision making. Through the Better Suburbs process, we worked with Canberrans to better understand this community's priorities for the delivery of city services and where we should be focusing more of our efforts. This included the ACT's first trial of participatory budgeting, where Canberrans had the opportunity to decide how and where part of the city services budget should be allocated.

This collaborative approach has been a crucial step in planning for the delivery of city services in the future, and we have listened to what Canberrans told us through this deliberative process. Our investments in city services through the 2019-20 Budget has been directly informed by this feedback, and will set the way forward for a vibrant, beautiful and liveable Canberra in the coming decade and beyond.

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 fourteen key priorities which were detailed in the Better Suburbs Statement, along with clear guidance on how we 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. In each annual Budget round we will progressively adjust our investment so that over time it aligns with the priorities and focus areas outlined in the Better Suburbs Statement.

With the consultative phase of the Better Suburbs process now concluded, our focus is on investing to deliver the community's priorities in line with the vision outlined in the Better Suburbs Statement. 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.



PRIORITY 1 – LAKES, PONDS AND WETLANDS/STORMWATER AND WATER QUALITY

WE HEARD

We should future proof the stormwater system

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Increasing servicing for lakes, ponds and wetlands and the stormwater system

Capital spending in stormwater servicing grew by 30 per cent from 2017-18 to 2018-19.

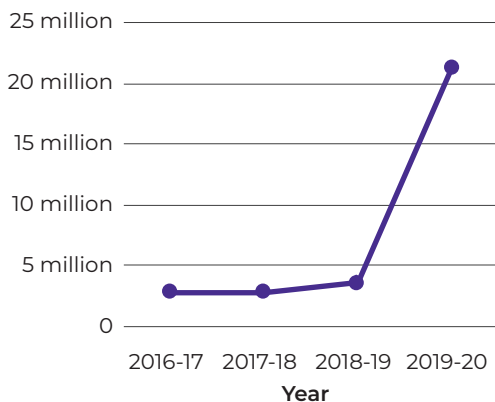
In 2019-20 we will invest over \$34 million in stormwater and water quality.

We are focused on investing in upgrades to existing water infrastructure that will help manage large volumes of stormwater runoff for our growing city, supported by improved community education and awareness.

Increasing the frequency of street sweeping will further improve water quality in our suburbs as well as boosting road safety.

Other investments we are making in 2019-20 will improve the health of our waterways, such as our significant investment in the ongoing delivery of Healthy Waterways projects across the City.

Comparative TCCS provisioned capital investment in stormwater



OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20

\$19m
capital investment
in stormwater



A total provisioned investment of **\$4.5m**

\$9.9m
for healthy waterways



for Mawson retarding basin

\$700,000
for dam safety



\$250,000
for Tuggeranong Dam infrastructure

\$180,000
Lake Ginninderra pump house upgrade



\$550,000
for improving irrigation across Canberra

\$830,000
for street sweeping



\$2.2m
for an urban stormwater upgrade program



PRIORITY 2 – STREET AND PARK TREES

WE HEARD

We should maintain and enhance the tree canopy

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Increasing funding with a change in servicing focus to tree planting and replacement

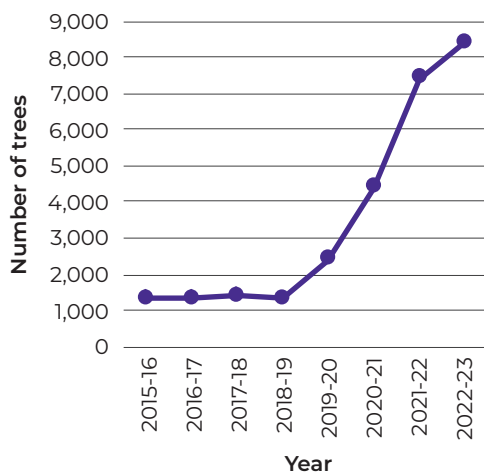
Since 2001 around 20,000 trees have been planted in established areas of Canberra to enhance and renew the urban forest. The 2019-20 Budget will see a significant step up in planting of new trees to maintain and enhance the tree canopy of Canberra.

We will invest \$7.5 million for a four-year rolling program of tree planting and replacement, including a community tree planting program.

This will see a significant boost in tree canopy coverage through the planting of over 17,000 trees over the next four years – the largest urban tree planting program in the ACT since 2000.

To complement this initiative, a new targeted compliance team is also being established to respond to illegal behaviour that damages our urban forest.

Projected tree planting increases under four-year program



OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20



Over 17,000 trees planted

\$7.5m for urban forest renewal over four years



New targeted compliance team with six dedicated resources



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

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Increasing servicing for household waste and recycling, and retaining the current servicing level for public space waste and recycling, but with a change of service focus

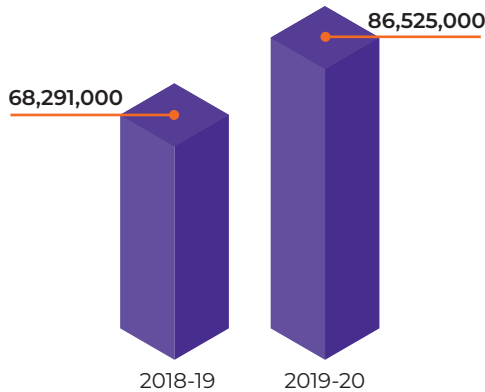
In 2019-20 we will invest over \$10 million in new waste and recycling initiatives, including providing more bins, upgrading critical infrastructure and starting planning to divert food waste from landfill.

This year the Government has completed the roll out of green bins to all of Canberra, ahead of schedule and under budget. In 2019-20 we will introduce a pilot program to educate the community on reducing food waste and start the necessary planning work to expand Canberra's green bin service to accept food waste.

We will deliver an additional 150 public bins across the city at local shops and other high demand areas, making it easier for Canberrans to recycle and divert more waste from landfill.

We will also undertake increased compliance activity against illegal dumping and littering, based on new legislation amending the *Litter Act 2004*. The legislation, which will be introduced in June 2019, will increase penalties for illegal dumping and improve enforcement powers. To complement this initiative, we are establishing a new targeted compliance team to respond to illegal behaviour like dumping.

Increased total investment in waste and recycling



OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20



\$6.2m
for critical waste infrastructure upgrades



\$560,000
for additional garbage and recycling bins for new dwellings



\$980,000
to divert organics



\$2m
for more bins and pickups across the City, including more recycling bins



\$250,000
for recycling drop off centres



New targeted compliance team with six dedicated resources

PRIORITY 5 – ROADS

WE HEARD

That maintenance of road infrastructure is critical

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Maintaining the current servicing levels and amenity and seeking efficiencies through outcome-based contracting and investigating the use of new materials

In 2019-20 our investment will focus on maintaining a safe road network to keep Canberra moving as we grow. We will continue to progress work on the use of recycled materials in roads across the ACT.

Through this year's Budget we are delivering a significant program of road duplications, including for Athllon Drive and the main arterial road between Belconnen and Gungahlin. We will also deliver major improvements to boost safety and speeds on the Monaro Highway, and upgrade intersections across Canberra to make it easier for Canberrans to move around in our suburbs.

And we are delivering ongoing investment to maintain Canberra's existing road infrastructure, with up to 5 per cent of roads to be re-sealed each year. We have also increased the amount of recycling going into our roads.

OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20



\$14m

for better intersections



\$20m

for improvements on the Monaro Highway



\$1.2m

for traffic signal upgrades



\$4.1m

for planning and study of future road works, including William Hovel Drive, Morisset Drive and Athlon Drive



\$3.05m

for safety improvements for heavy vehicle movement



\$2.3m

road resealing program



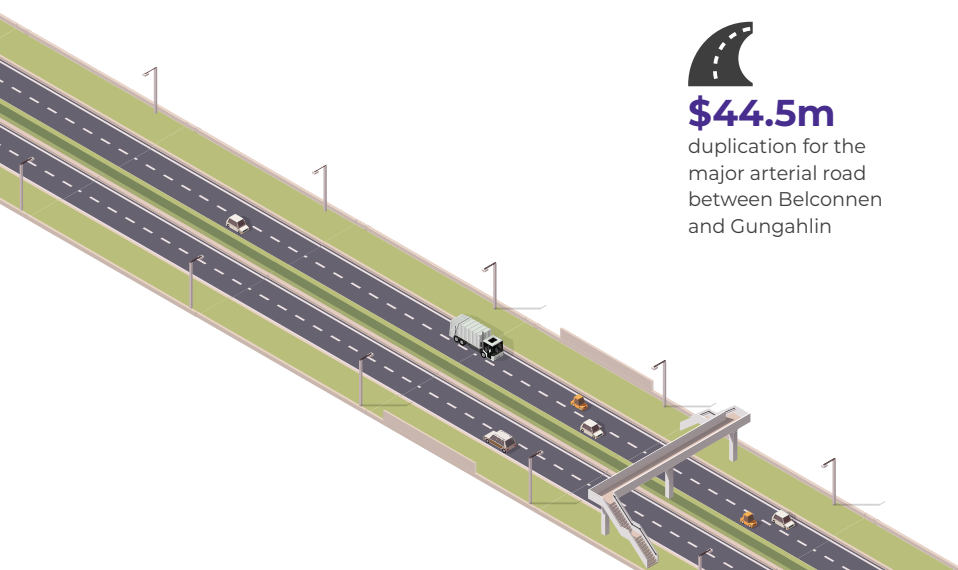
\$44.5m

duplication for the major arterial road between Belconnen and Gungahlin



\$6.65m

for Northbourne Avenue pavement rehabilitation



PRIORITY 6 – PUBLIC SPACES (PARKS AND OPEN SPACES) INCLUDING MOWING

WE HEARD

We should make the park experience appealing

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

To increase funding for public space servicing, with some change in focus

Last year we commenced a four-year program of surge mowing to meet seasonal demands and keep our parks tidier. Through this \$1 million investment we are also stepping up weeding of public places, cleaning of lakes and ponds and graffiti removal programs, and delivering an adopt-a-park program. This investment continues in 2019-20.

We are also exploring new innovations to support a change in focus that can improve efficiency in the delivery of these services, such as automated litter pickers, weeding equipment and mowing.

OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20



\$2m

for bins and cleaner parks and open areas



New targeted compliance team with six dedicated resources



Continue funding of weeding, cleaning lakes and ponds and delivering of graffiti programs from 2018-19

PRIORITY 7 – LIBRARY SERVICES

WE HEARD

Evolve our library services and have more accessible locations

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Maintaining the current level of funding

In 2019-20 we will be working with the community through a targeted co-design process to develop a new strategic plan for libraries. This is an Australian first and will guide how we continue to deliver improved services that adapt to the needs of the community over the next three to five years, ensuring libraries can continue to provide a valued and meaningful service to the community over time.

Upgrades will also be made to Woden Library to improve community use of this central library service.

OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20



\$500,000

for upgrades to Woden library

PRIORITY 8 – FOOTPATHS, VERGES AND NATURE STRIPS

WE HEARD

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

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

That funding remain unchanged, but services should respond to changing needs

Community path upgrades and age friendly suburb improvements are an important part of our active travel investments through the 2019-20 ACT Budget.

We are also constructing a path from the EPIC light rail stop to Mitchell to make it easier for Canberrans to get active on their daily commute, no matter where they live or work across our city.

To encourage more school kids and families to get active and make better use of our existing path networks, we will focus on the delivery of safe school travel plans and continuing the popular school crossing supervisors program at 25 local schools.

In response to changing needs in the community, we are shifting the focus of our ongoing investment to repairing footpaths and verges as well as closing footpath gaps. Investments will also be made in 2019-20 to refurbish existing dog parks and regenerate grassed areas.

OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20



\$1m

for age friendly community infrastructure



\$2.2m

for Flemington Road shared path upgrade



\$1.25m

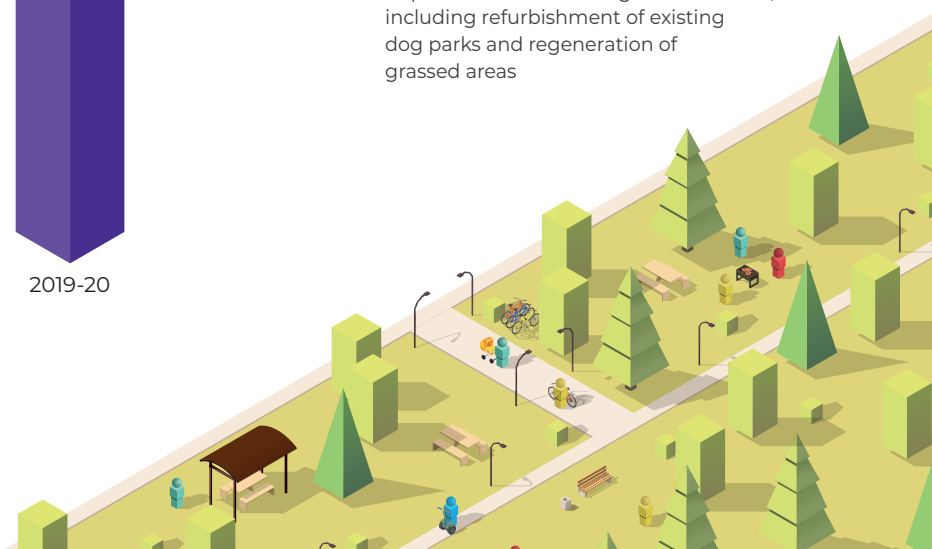
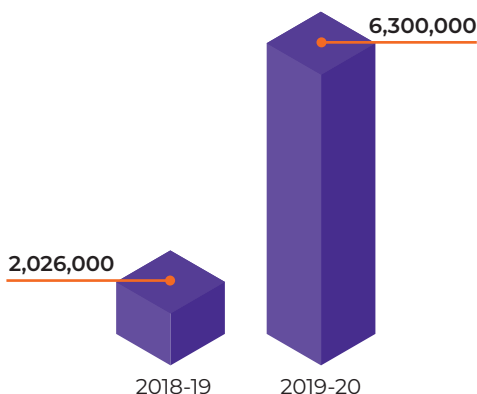
for safer walking around schools



\$10m

has been committed to deliver improvements to existing infrastructure, including refurbishment of existing dog parks and regeneration of grassed areas

Increased capital investment in footpaths, verges and nature strips



PRIORITY 9 – GRAFFITI AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WE HEARD

Community engagement through street art projects is important to manage graffiti

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Maintaining current funding levels for the graffiti program

In the 2017-18 Budget, we boosted the graffiti removal program with four years of investment to engage the community in activities that address graffiti and contribute to the vibrancy and attractiveness of our city and suburbs.

These graffiti removal and prevention initiatives will continue in 2019-20, led by a dedicated Graffiti Coordinator. We will also undertake a review of the Graffiti Management Strategy to guide the next phase of our work in the years ahead.

OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20



\$250,000

for continued better suburbs

PRIORITY 10 – STREETLIGHTS

WE HEARD

That streetlights are important to maintain public and traffic safety

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Maintaining current funding levels for the service, and prioritising infill activity

Work is already underway to upgrade most of Canberra's 80,000 streetlights to energy efficient LED lights. In 2019-20, we will continue streetlight maintenance with a \$2.5 million program of work. This builds on our previous expansion of streetlight maintenance crews which saw a 40 per cent increase in staffing to maintain community safety and ensure repairs are carried out in a timely manner, while prioritising infill activity.

OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20



\$2.5m

streetlight
maintenance

PRIORITY 11 – PLAY SPACES

WE HEARD

That the quality of the playspace is more important than the number of them

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Maintaining the level of funding but changing the focus

Canberra has over 500 play spaces – a much higher number per capita than many other Australian cities. By 2020, 50 per cent of playgrounds across Canberra will be more than 25 years old.

These are some of the facts that the Play Spaces Forum considered during their participatory budgeting trial. The Forum gave a group of Canberrans the opportunity to decide how funding should be allocated for playspace improvements across Canberra, and which specific projects should be priorities for new investment.

The Forum's decisions are now actioned through the delivery of funding in the 2019-20 Budget for new and upgraded playspaces. The partnership between community and government which kicked off with this participatory exercise is continuing to strengthen as we undertake

community co-design activities in suburb reviews and the construction of new nature play sites at Eddison Park in Woden and Glebe Park in the City. Playspace reviews will occur at Richardson, Waramanga, Torrens, Higgins and Narrabundah and nature play amenities will also be added to the district parks at Yerrabi Ponds and Kambah.

OUR INVESTMENT IN 2019-20



\$2.15m

for improved play spaces



PRIORITY 12 – SHOPPING CENTRE EXPERIENCE

WE HEARD

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

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Maintaining the current level of servicing

The Better Suburbs Statement recognised that it is important for shopping centre safety standards to be met and maintained. In line with this advice, in 2019-20 we will upgrade local shopping centres across the ACT, including improving footpaths, benches and installing new infrastructure at the Dunlop and Fraser shops.

To cater for our growing communities in Gungahlin and Molonglo, we will also deliver new car parks at Coleman Court (150 spaces) and Palmerston Shops (25 spaces), making these popular group centres easier to access.

2019-20 INITIATIVES



\$420,000

for more shopping centre carparks



\$500,000

for local centre upgrades



PRIORITY 13 – RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

WE HEARD

It's important to educate the community and keep better pet records

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Maintaining the current resourcing but changing the focus

The Better Suburbs Statement recognised there is an opportunity for the ACT to become a leader in responsible pet ownership. We have undertaken significant policy and engagement work in this area over the past year, resulting in the release of the Canberra Dog Model and a draft ACT Cat Plan.

These plans reflect the themes raised in the Better Suburbs Statement, including the need for more education and enforcement of responsible pet ownership and the benefits of annual registration to improve data on pet ownership across Canberra.

This year's Budget also delivers new investment to improve the amenity of dog parks across Canberra.

2019-20 INITIATIVES



\$200,000

dog park improvement program



\$400,000

for planning and design of a collocated depot for Domestic Animal Services and City Presentation, and Nicholls depot



New targeted compliance team with six dedicated resources

PRIORITY 14 – COMMUNITY OVALS AND FITNESS STATIONS

WE HEARD

Repurpose unused ovals and improve ovals with complementary amenity

THE CITIZENS' FORUM RECOMMENDED

Decreasing servicing and changing focus

In 2019-20 we will continue investing in local sportsground facility improvements at high priority sites across Canberra, while we further explore how best to action this feedback from the Better Suburbs Statement.

2019-20 INITIATIVES



\$1.3m

for sportsground facility improvements

INVESTING IN BETTER SUBURBS



Investment of over

\$34 million

in stormwater and water quality, and our lakes, ponds and wetlands



Investment of over

\$3 million

for age friendly footpath and verge infrastructure, Flemington Road shared path upgrade and safer walking around schools, encouraging active travel



Investment of over

\$7 million

in our urban forest, facilitating the planting of over 17,000 trees – the biggest replacement planting program since 2000



Investment of over

\$2 million

in streetlights, focusing on existing urban areas



Investment in waste and recycling of over

\$10 million

including more bins and critical infrastructure upgrades as well as a focus on diverting organics



Continuation of funding for improved play spaces, with an investment of another more than

\$2 million in this area



Continued significant investment in our roads of over

\$95 million

Including key improvements to:

- Monaro Highway
- The major arterial road between Belconnen and Gungahlin
- Northbourne Avenue pavement



New compliance targeting team with six dedicated resources



Investment of over

\$1 million

for improvements to our sportsground facilities



Close to a million-dollar investment in improving shopping centres



Investment of

\$2 million

for more bins and cleaner parks and open spaces



Continuation of funding of weeding, cleaning lakes and ponds and delivering of graffiti programs



