

Economic Development Directorate

Achievements since 13 May 2011

Type of achievement	Name of achievement
<p>Key announcements</p>	<p>Chief Minister's Address to Canberra Times Business Lunch on 12 August 2011 Speech to set out vision for business and industry in the ACT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Minister used the address to describe her Government's priorities and the work program the Government has set itself to complete over the next 12 months. <p>Mission Australia contract Commencement of Problem Gambling Support Service (1 July 2011)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a public tender process a contract was awarded to Mission Australia to provide problem gambling support services to the ACT. This service is funded from a mandatory levy on gaming machine licensees and provides both a proactive (preventative) and reactive (counselling) approach to problem gambling issues. This combined approach under the one contract is unique in Australia. <p>National Science Week National Science Week is a major event, held nationally between 13-21 August 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT Government, with a contribution of \$120,000, is the principal sponsor of National Science Week in the ACT. National Science Week is being delivered in Canberra by the CSIRO Discovery Centre. Over 90 activities and events are planned for the week. <p>The ACT NBN rollout NBN Co has announced that site works for the Gungahlin rollout will commence in October 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT Government NBN Implementation Taskforce is meeting regularly with representatives of NBN Co to facilitate progress with the Gungahlin and Canberra-wide rollout. NBN Co is expected to announce the footprint for Gungahlin shortly. <p>Entrepreneur Development Fund Commencement of pilot program aimed at delivering specialist skills and knowledge transfer to ACT businesses with high growth potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Entrepreneur Development Fund (EDF) is an 18-month pilot program which aims to facilitate skills transfer through the engagement of professional consultancy/coaching services working in situ on a project with the applicant company. All funding support is conditional on the applicant company contributing matching dollar-for-dollar funding. EDF support is available in amounts from \$5,000 up to \$20,000. The pilot program commenced on 1 July 2011 and is being co-funded by the ACT Government and Epicorp (a company equity investor). The program is being delivered by Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre with ACT Government representation on the selection panel. <p>Government Services Export Pilot The ACT Exporting Services to Government Pilot Program was launched in July 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program will address key capability areas for success in the US, including thorough research and qualification of the market opportunities, understanding US government purchasing and building in-market relationships. The Pilot will harness the expertise of Austrade Washington, as well as locally engaged US market specialists, to develop strategic US public sector go-to-market plans for participating companies. Companies will participate in a schedule of knowledge building and development activities over 12 months to build capability to sell into the US public sector. A trade mission program is also being developed around the Program with a mission to Washington scheduled for late October 2011.

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	<p>Announcement of ACT Government support for local prospects for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Wednesday 27 July 2011 Andrew Barr MLA, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation announced ACT Government support for local prospects for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. • \$50,000 in support of the ACT Olympic Council fundraising appeal. • \$50,000 in Training Grants for local Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls to provide training, competition and equipment funding to assist in preparation for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. <p>Signing the National Institutes System Intergovernmental Agreement (NISIA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council (SRMC) meeting on 10th June 2011, the NISIA was signed by the Federal Sports Minister and Sport Minister Andrew Barr. • The NISIA will now guide the work of the National Elite Sports Council in its responsibilities to supporting national high performance outcomes. <p>3rd Annual Business in Focus Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for the month long program of events for Business in Focus Month during September 2011. The theme for 2011 is Canberra, the Creative City and the printed program showcasing the events has been distributed through The Canberra Times and at the launch event was held on Monday 15 August 2011.
<p>Key consultations/ round tables</p>	<p>Narrabundah Long Stay Park</p> <p>The Government is acting to address identified health and safety issues at the Narrabundah Long Stay Park following release of the Narrabundah Park Options Paper. Individual discussions are underway with Park residents about the outcomes of the compliance assessment process (conducted by Northrop Engineers on behalf of the ACT Government) and how this relates to their specific circumstances, with a view to identifying the best option for each resident in the future.</p> <p>The 2011-12 ACT Budget provided \$7.7m to address identified health and safety concerns at the Park, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - means-tested financial assistance measures for eligible Park residents towards rectification work or relocation costs (where agreed that relocation is the best option); and - capital works to deliver up to 25 new mobile homes as an alternative affordable accommodation option. <p>Trade Mission</p> <p>In partnership with Austrade, a delegation of five ACT companies with capabilities in ICT and security travelled to Malaysia to introduce their solutions and credentials, comprising two days of group meetings and networking events with government officials, business chamber or industry body representative and two days undertaking targeted one on one business matching meetings. All participants have produced immediate sale indications or strong leads in the medium term.</p>
<p>Other major Directorate achievements</p>	<p>National Science Week</p> <p>National Science Week is a major event, held nationally between 13-21 August 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT Government, with a contribution of \$120,000, is the principal sponsor of National Science Week in the ACT. National Science Week is being delivered in Canberra by the CSIRO Discovery Centre. Over 90 activities and events are planned for the week. <p>Tertiary Education Pathways and Education Exports Communication Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Strategy for Tertiary Education Pathways and Exports is being

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	<p>developed to establish a communications strategy that will inform the public on Tertiary education pathways and exports. The strategy will map the existing sources of information within tertiary institutions, other ACT agencies and Commonwealth and ACT Governments. The project will also involve marketing and web design.</p> <p>2010-11 Skilled Migration Achievements Meeting Skilled Migration objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2010-11, the SBM offered ACT Government certification or sponsorship to 864 potential skilled migrants with occupations in demand in Canberra. This comprised certification of 494 local Employer Sponsored nominations, and ‘sponsorship’ for 324 independent skilled migrants and 46 Student Graduates. In addition, 13 Business Migrants were supported. All these applicants then received priority processing for their visa applications with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. <p>Implementing the Civic Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first stage of Alinga Street improvements will soon be completed. Construction contracts for West Row and London Circuit have been awarded and work has begun. <p>Delivery of Land Release Program for 2010-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The end of year position was Residential, Commercial and Industrial releases exceeded the 2010-11 target of 5,000. In addition to these land releases there were a series of other sites offered to the market through the direct sales process. • The ACT Government’s 2011-12 Indicative Land Release Program, has identified the delivery of sites for 5,500 dwellings. The first release of the ACT Government’s 2011-12 Indicative Land Release Program occurred on 26 July 2011 with the auction of sites on Flemington Road - the combined sites allow a maximum of 168 dwellings to be constructed. • As at 17 August, sites for a total of 192 dwellings had been released since 1 July 2011