



Greater Gungahlin

Canberra**liberals**

8 October 2008



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Gungahlin Pool and Leisure Centre

A Canberra Liberal Government will commit \$22 million towards a Gungahlin Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre. The complex will be developed under a funding agreement with a private consortium, with the private provider to be chosen under a transparent competitive tender process.

The Government funding will be used to deliver core infrastructure associated with the pool that will be an essential condition of the funding agreement with the successful tenderer. The agreement will include the following essential requirements, to be supported by Government funding.

1. A 50-metre indoor year-round indoor pool.
2. Poolside seating for at least 700 people.
3. Indoor diving facilities.
4. A hydrotherapy pool that is suitable for a range of public and private uses.

Tenders may also include ancillary facilities such as a private gym, a crèche and play centre for children, sports health facilities, food and kiosk facilities and playing courts. The Government will favour tenders that provide more extensive facilities for the Gungahlin community, subject to assessment of the business case and the capacity of the developers.

Gungahlin has a rapidly growing population of young families. Many parents see swimming as an important life skill for their children to learn, but many have to travel across Canberra to get their kids to lessons. It is important for any kid who is learning swimming to be able to keep up regular attendance at lessons, but this access to training is harder for Gungahlin families who lack local facilities.

We will run an open tender process, overseen by independent probity advisers. This will be preceded by a process to obtain expressions of interest from the private sector. The tender process will be completed by August 2009, with a view to construction commencing before the end of the year.

The indoor diving facilities will fill a major gap in the Canberra market. These facilities will need to be used under supervised training arrangements and will be separated from other parts of the Leisure Centre that would be used for general public recreational use.

The Government will not subsidise any services or operating costs for services that are provided in the new centre. The ACT Government will retain an ownership interest in the aquatic facilities, on a shared equity basis in proportion to its contribution towards total cost of those facilities.

The funding commitment from a Canberra Liberal Government for the Gungahlin Pool and Leisure Centre is set out below.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
Capital – Investment in Gungahlin Pool	500	8,000	13,500	

The Stanhope Government Legacy on Gungahlin Pool

In the 2008 ACT budget, the Stanhope Government has found over \$1 billion for a range of infrastructure projects. Unfortunately there was nothing in this considerable spend for the much promised Gungahlin swimming pool.

Time and again the Stanhope Government has raised expectations that Gungahlin will get a public swimming pool, but the best that is offered in the 2008 budget is a feasibility study.

While Gungahlin has been rebuffed yet again, the Government has been able to find \$6 million in the same budget for refurbishing the aquatic centres in Civic and Tuggeranong.

Under the Stanhope Government, the Gungahlin swimming pool has remained a concept on a master plan. Now after years in office and at the eleventh hour near the end of an election campaign that is going badly for them, the Stanhope Government wants the residents of Gungahlin to believe that the pool might progress to the drawing board stage in the near future.

As in all things, Gungahlin is treated as the last priority when it comes to infrastructure.

This year the ACT Government announced it had “finished” the job of building Gungahlin Drive Extension – a road that was promised seven years ago and completed four years behind schedule. After years of waiting, an ever increasing volume of traffic and an investment of \$120 million, it’s a great disappointment to see just a single lane road.

There are serious concerns what the Gungahlin swimming pool will look like if it is built by the same government which downscaled a major freeway to a single lane road.

Gungahlin PCYC

A Canberra Liberal Government will provide the funding needed to establish a PCYC in Gungahlin. Gungahlin is the fastest growth town centre in Canberra. Its future population of 100,000 is likely to have the biggest youth population of any town centre. This is the one part of Canberra that has seen a surge in school construction, while the Stanhope Government has been closing schools elsewhere.

The growth in Gungahlin's youth population should be accompanied by a growth in relevant recreational and support services.

The new Gungahlin PCYC will be staffed by a locally-based Centre Manager, a Sports and Activities Officer, plus a mixture of paid and voluntary coaches. The service will also be supported by the RecLink Youth Workers and the other sport and police liaison staff who operate across the service.

The PCYC provides great opportunities for young people to experience a range of activities that many of them otherwise could not afford to participate in, as an alternative to engaging in risky behaviour on the streets. The PCYC programs include activities like boxing, aikido, circuit classes, rockwall climbing, skating and wrestling.

The PCYC provides some very practical services including youth holiday programs and self defence classes to help deal with bullying in schools. The PCYC reserves places for referred youth at risk, to provide them with the opportunity to participate in mainstream activities at no cost and to help break down barriers between young people and the police.

A Canberra Liberal Government will commence planning and construction of Gungahlin facility in 2009, with an appropriate site to be chosen in consultation with the Gungahlin community.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
Capital - Construction of Gungahlin PCYC	300	2600		
Capital – Equipment and fitout for Gungahlin PCYC			300	
Additional Grant support for staffing and operating costs.			250	300

Government Department and Office Complex

A Canberra Liberal Government will relocate an ACT Government department or agency to Gungahlin town centre.

There are a number of ACT Government departments and agencies with head office staff numbers that range in the hundreds.

A Canberra Liberal Government will review leasing arrangements of all ACT departments and agencies, to identify leases that are up for renewal. We will identify an agency that has a large portion of staffing residing in the northern end of Canberra and with business interests that focus strongly on activity on the north side of Canberra.

We will issue a tender for a private company to construct and lease a new office building in Gungahlin Town Centre with a long-term lease. Preference will be given to tenders that include provision for collocated facilities such as:

- a gym;
- conference facilities; or
- a hotel.

There will be a variety of benefits for Gungahlin from the relocation of a government agency office. A number of ACT Government agencies use a range of contractors and consultants to support their work. Some of the consulting businesses will find it convenient to locate their premises close to a relocated agency, to ensure close relationships with government clients.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
Review of leases and assessment of suitable agency for relocation	70			

Children's Play Area

A Canberra Liberal Government will provide \$600,000 for the construction of a major children's Activity Park in Gungahlin Town Centre, to include facilities such as:

- a flying fox;
- a maze;
- climbing towers and a climbing net;
- rope bridge and slides;
- a toddler play area including sea-saws;
- play equipment suitable for children with a disability;
- jumping water jets;
- family picnic and barbeque shelters; and
- cyclepath and walkway connections.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
Capital - Gungahlin Children's Activity Park		600		

Parking

A Canberra Liberal Government will not introduce pay parking in Gungahlin. We will uphold a moratorium on pay parking in Gungahlin during the term of the next Legislative Assembly.

We will invest \$500,000 in Gungahlin towards additional free parking to expand areas for Park 'n' Ride commuters.

The new Park 'n' Ride space at Gungahlin will also include lockers for "cycle and ride" commuters. Secure lockers help to protect bicycles from vandalism and theft. They can also provide storage for bicycle accessories such as helmets, pumps and clothing.

The Park 'n' Ride area will be positioned near lighting to ensure the security of the locations for both the travellers and their vehicles. It will be targeted at a safe location close to both bus services and busy shopping areas. The selection of a site will be made in consultation with the community.

The search for a suitable Gungahlin Park 'n' Ride site will be based on a requirement to find land adjoining a future mass public transit corridor. A site will be chosen that has potential for a multi-story car park in future. As Gungahlin grows, the site will be developed to accommodate commuter growth.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
Capital - Gungahlin Park 'n' Ride			200	300

Public Art

A Canberra Liberal Government will consult the Gungahlin community and give local residents the choice of art they want in their town centre. The Stanhope Government has decided to impose a new sculpture in Linear Park, without any effort to ask the residents of Gungahlin their view on a work that best expresses what they want.

The Canberra Liberals offer a fresh new approach to the selection of the public artworks as announced in our policy *Public Art that the Public Wants*.

Under a Canberra Liberal Government any proposed public artworks will be subject

to expert scrutiny to compile a shortlist of suggested art pieces. This shortlist will then be published, with the power of selection vested in the Canberra public, who can then vote from the shortlist to select the successful work.

This selection process is a new way of approaching public art, to re-engage the community and make them feel part of the arts process instead of having it imposed upon them. It will create public art that the public wants.

Gungahlin Drive

Traffic on Gungahlin Drive Extension is not moving with the smoothness and efficiency we should expect after a seven year wait and an investment of \$120 million. When the road was opened earlier this year, the ACT Government told the public that duplication is “not on the books at all” and any such capital works will be five to ten years away.

It is quite timely to look back at the seven year story of this road, to consider what the people of Gungahlin have been promised and what the Stanhope Government has actually delivered.

Way back in May 2001 the then Liberal ACT Government handed down a budget which included sufficient funding at that time to build the GDE as a four lane road.

It was the Stanhope Government that downsized the road to two lanes. This government has known for years that traffic will be close to capacity on a mere two lane road. Official ACT Government studies published in 2002 warned that “GDE will be busy upon opening, and that widening to four lanes will need to be considered relatively soon after the opening of the initial construction”.

Only the Canberra Liberals have a credible plan to fix the single lane GDE.

- A Canberra Liberal Government will spend \$93.5 million to finish the duplication of GDE. Labor has not budgeted all that is needed to finish the job. They are likely to face more blowouts!
- We will finish this job in two years, not four years as now planned by the Stanhope Government.
- We will also spend \$1.5 million to plant vegetation alongside the road to upgrade it, from a Freeway, to a Parkway that is scenic for motorists and screens the road from neighbouring areas.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
GDE Duplication from Barton Highway to Glenloch Interchange	13,500	55,000	25,000	
Parkway Vegetation		500	1,000	