

8 October 2008

## **OUTDOOR STAGE FOR TUGGERANONG VALLEY**

An outdoor stage for live musical and dramatic performances would be built in Tuggeranong by a re-elected ACT Labor Government, Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, John Hargreaves, announced today.

“The stage, at the Tuggeranong Town Park, will create another high-quality venue for hosting arts events in Tuggeranong and builds on ACT Labor’s other commitments to fostering the arts in Canberra’s south — including the building of a performing arts centre at Calwell High,” Mr Hargreaves said.

“Unlike the Liberals — in particular Brendan Smyth and Steve Pratt, who talk down investment in the arts at every opportunity — ACT Labor understands that community-based facilities such as this stage, school venues and our local arts centres are crucial to building a better city and a stronger community.

“In addition to the estimated \$200,000 construction costs, ACT Labor will provide the Tuggeranong arts community with an annual \$10,000 grant to manage the new venue.

“ACT Labor is responding directly to representations from the people of Tuggeranong, who have come up with this idea for an outdoor stage and have made a good case for this additional facility, which will be a great addition to Tuggeranong’s public facilities,” Mr Hargreaves said.

“Should ACT Labor be re-elected, the tender for the construction of the stage will be part of a significant upgrade of the park precinct. Over the next term Labor will spend approximately \$2 million on the upgrade of the Tuggeranong Town Park.” Mr Hargreaves said.

Statement Ends

**Media Contact:**

**Kim Fischer**      **6205 0300**    **0434 020 498**      [kim.fischer@act.gov.au](mailto:kim.fischer@act.gov.au)  
(Minister Hargreaves’ Office)

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