

Sport and Recreation

ACT Labor has a proud record of supporting and promoting sport and recreation activities for the Canberra community.

We believe that an active community is a healthy and productive community and have invested in high-quality sporting activities and facilities so that all Canberrans have access to sporting and recreational activities.

ACT Labor has invested in grassroots clubs and programs to promote participation in sport by people of all ages and backgrounds and we've also provided a significant funding injection into elite-level organisations and facilities to promote Canberra's sporting teams and events around the nation and the world.

We have invested \$7.5 million in the development of the Stromlo Forest Park, now home to world-class mountain bike and cross country championships. We have ensured that sporting fields can still be used during this period of drought by investing \$16 million on changing the turf, installing irrigation and reducing our reliance on potable water for the upkeep of these fields. We have also upgraded or built new sporting facilities across all parts of the city.

We are proud of the fact that because of our investment in this area we have seen an increase of almost 29,000 people participating in organised sport and recreation in the ACT. Because we know that healthy habits start in childhood, we are very pleased that an additional 12,000 school children are now playing sport or participating in recreational activities.

Our strong financial management has allowed us to deliver this, and much more, to provide sport and recreation opportunities for all Canberrans and promote a healthier lifestyle.

ACT Labor will build on these achievements through a new vision for sport and recreation that will result in even more Canberrans getting active, becoming involved in sport and enjoying a healthier lifestyle.

Jon Stanhope
Chief Minister

Andrew Barr
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

A Proud Record of Promoting an Active Community

ACT Labor believes that regular exercise and active living establish the foundation for a happy, healthy and productive community.

ACT Labor recognises that an active community requires access to high quality facilities. We have invested heavily in sporting infrastructure across the Territory including new facilities such as swimming pools and neighbourhood ovals which are being built in areas of high population growth such as Gungahlin and Belconnen.

\$8.6 million has been invested to make the Lyneham Sports Precinct concept a reality. This significant investment includes a \$3.5 million upgrade of the ACT Netball Centre and the construction of a new 3,000 seat arena.

ACT Labor is continuing to invest in improvements and upgrades of our existing infrastructure. \$8 million has been invested to build new pavilions and install lighting at neighbourhood sporting grounds throughout the Territory. Over \$4 million has been invested to undertake important improvements at Manuka Oval, Phillip Oval and Canberra Stadium.

The ACT Labor Government has played an important leadership role by assisting the sporting industry to understand and confront the challenges of climate change and drought.

ACT Labor has made a commitment that by 2013 no outdoor sporting facility in the ACT will rely solely on the drinking water supply. To realise this ambitious vision an additional \$16 million has been provided to drought-proof our sport grounds and ovals, including those located near schools. A key aspect of this funding includes the installation of synthetic and drought-resistant turf and advanced irrigation systems to reduce our reliance on potable water.

ACT Labor understands that investment in world-class facilities attracts sporting events into the ACT from around the world. The ACT Labor Government has invested \$7.5 million in the development of the Stromlo Forest Park, an area devastated by the 2003 bush fires, which is now a world-class mountain bike and cross country facility. This investment is already attracting international events into Canberra, such as the 2009 World Mountain Bike Championship.

ACT Labor recognizes the important role played by community organisations in the sport and recreation sector and since 2001 has invested over \$16 million in grass roots organisations to promote broader participation and healthy living. New programs are being funded by ACT Labor to promote active living to those groups most likely to benefit, including children, people with disabilities and older Canberrans.

Under the ACT Labor Government organised sport and recreation has increased by almost 29,000 participants. As a result of ACT Labor initiatives an additional 12,000 school children are participating in regular physical exercise. The ACT now enjoys the greatest rate of participation in sport and recreation in the country.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will do even more to ensure we reinforce our position as the sport and fitness capital of Australia.

Our Record

Community sport and recreation

ACT Labor recognises the role sport and recreation can play in the development and maintenance of a strong community. Friendships and bonds are formed across fields, pools and tracks in the Territory every day. The ACT Labor Government will continue its strong investment in these communities to ensure that even more people get a chance to lead a healthy and happy lifestyle.

ACT Labor has:

- Provided \$16 million in annual grants to support the sustainability of local sport, recreation and community organizations and promote participation;
- Introduced an interest subsidy scheme for community sporting groups, to assist with the upgrading of their infrastructure and facilities;
- Invested more than \$600,000 in a physical activity program for the disabled;
- Provided \$380,000 to improve the availability of physical activity opportunities for the aged;
- Established the Children's Physical Activity Foundation and invested \$250,000 in funding to grow the Foundation;
- Established and funded the Canberra Festival of Running;
- Supported the Kids at Play program, which tackles the issue of childhood obesity by encouraging children to get out and play; and
- Established the Minister's Physical Activity Challenge, which is designed to encourage schools and students to be physically active for an hour a day.

Investing in our sporting facilities

Canberra is a great place to enjoy getting out and about. We have great natural venues for participating in sport and recreation such as our lakes, and fantastic facilities such as ovals and bike paths. Canberrans participating in sport and recreation deserve the best facilities in which to enjoy their active lifestyle. That is why ACT Labor has invested heavily in the ovals, pools and other facilities which make sport and recreation even more enjoyable.

ACT Labor believes all athletes should enjoy the best facilities, regardless of whether you are the starting five-eighth for the Canberra Raiders or the back-up winger for the West Belconnen under 10's. That is why we have invested in all levels of sporting facilities from our \$8.6 million investment in the Lyneham sports precinct to the \$8 million for upgrades to local canteens, pavilions and lights at our local ovals.

ACT Labor will continue to ensure that all Canberrans have access to the facilities that enable them to lead healthy, active lives.

ACT Labor has:

- Delivered an \$8.6 million investment in the Lyneham Sports Precinct, including \$3 million to redevelop the ACT Netball Centre which will include a new 3,000 seat arena as well as spectator and media facilities;
- Provided \$8 million to maintain and upgrade pavilions, canteens and lighting at local sporting venues;
- Invested over \$7 million in developing Stromlo Forest Park into a world class mountain bike and cross country facility at a cost of over \$7 million;
- Refurbished and revitalised the Lakeside Leisure Centre and Canberra Olympic Pool through an investment of \$6 million;
- Provided \$4.5 million to redevelop the Lyneham Hockey Centre;
- Invested \$3.75 million in the development of the Harrison District Playing Fields;
- Redeveloped Phillip Oval, including a new spectator pavilion;
- Upgraded Manuka Oval, including 4,000 new undercover seats, perimeter fencing and security upgrades;
- Built the \$1.3 million Harrison Neighbourhood Oval;
- Committed \$600,000 for the forward design of a multi-functional sporting facility at Throsby;
- Funded the investigation of designs for new stands at Manuka Oval;
- Progressed funding for the Gungahlin Enclosed Oval;
- Designed new player facilities at Canberra Stadium;
- Committed \$200,000 to support motor sports tenants at Fairbairn Park; and
- Restructured Canberra Stadium into a commercially focussed entity no longer reliant on government appropriations

Drought-proofing our sporting assets

One of the immediate impacts of climate change in Australia has been the effect of drought on our sporting facilities, particularly local ovals. It would be easy for Government to simply say that global weather trends and drought cannot be controlled. ACT Labor has not accepted this and has delivered a comprehensive vision to ensure a future for our local ovals regardless of drought.

We have funded an initiative to 'drought-proof' sport and recreation in Canberra. A key part of this vision is our commitment that by 2013, no oval will rely solely on the drinking water supply for irrigation. Only ACT Labor will protect local ovals from the devastating effects of drought.

ACT Labor has provided:

- \$16 million in funding to drought-proof the sport and recreation industry and fulfil the Labor Government's commitment that by 2013 no ACT oval will rely solely on the drinking water supply for irrigation; and
- \$3 million for a range of drought-proofing initiatives, including \$252,000 to fund a surface conversion project at the Hawker International Softball Centre.

Backing our elite athletes

Canberra's elite sporting teams including the Raiders, Brumbies and Capitals help put Canberra on the map. These teams are of immense benefit to the local economy, particularly in the area of tourism. ACT Labor is committed to supporting and growing these teams. By working together with the peak sporting organisations and the teams themselves, ACT Labor hopes to help each of these teams back to their championship winning ways.

ACT Labor supports all athletes who reach the pinnacle of their sport. The performance of athletes from Canberra at the recent Olympic and Paralympic games in Beijing is testament to the amazing talent pool in the ACT. ACT Labor will continue to support elite athletes as they strive for excellence.

ACT Labor has:

- Provided \$3.7 million to assist elite local sporting teams participating in national league competitions;
- Supported the World Mountain Bike Championships;
- Provided \$93,000 to assist with preparations of local Beijing hopefuls;
- Worked with the National Rugby League to bring the 2008 Rugby League World Cup to Canberra;
- Locked in regular AFL matches at Manuka Oval; and
- Provided scholarships for 66 elite local athletes selected for Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games teams.

2008-09 Budget

The 2008-09 ACT Labor budget was focused on preparing Canberra for the future. It included a range of initiatives to keep Canberrans enjoying a quality of life amongst the best in the world.

In this Budget ACT Labor invested in a range of projects to ensure Canberrans are ready for an active future. Stromlo Forest Park benefited from an additional \$2.47 million to enhance the Park for the World Mountain Bike Championships in 2009 and beyond. This will see Stromlo receive a new access road and new spectator viewing areas as well as new multi-purpose landscaped areas to allow for additional parking, event villages, team set-up areas, and event camping.

We began the process of upgrading player facilities at Canberra Stadium and grandstands at Manuka Oval and invested \$8.6 million in the first stage of the Lyneham Sports Precinct including the building of a 3,000 seat arena, complete with spectator and media facilities.

Funding was announced for forward design for a new enclosed oval on the site near the new Gungahlin College – establishing a state of the art sporting precinct in the Gungahlin Town Centre. Also in Gungahlin, an extra \$1 million was committed to the Harrison District Playing Fields and design work for the Throsby District Playing Fields and Netball Courts was funded.

These initiatives are further evidence of the ACT Labor Government's commitment to sport and recreation as a way to help all Canberrans enjoy a health, active and productive lifestyle.

Moving Forward

Canberra has come a long way as an active community over the last seven years but there is still more to do. ACT Labor will continue to improve sporting facilities to ensure that we all have access to quality local sporting facilities. ACT Labor will continue to reflect the contribution of our elite athletes to our local community. We will do this by upgrading their facilities and supporting their administration so that they can concentrate on striving for excellence. ACT Labor also recognises the challenge of childhood obesity and will work with the community to increase the activity levels of Canberra's kids.

Lyneham Sports Precinct

Building on work already commenced, ACT Labor will continue to invest in the future of the Lyneham Sports Precinct.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Provide an additional \$8.5 million in funding to redevelop the ACT Tennis Centre on the Precinct's western side. This investment will fund the construction of new international standard tennis courts, improved player amenities and a multi-purpose sport facility and the necessary additional road and infrastructure works in the Precinct area.

A basketball centre of excellence

ACT Labor is committed to securing the future of basketball in the Territory.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Invest \$3 million to develop a new state-of-the-art basketball centre of excellence consisting of a stadium and player amenities for the Capitals, Gunners and club basketball teams.

Gungahlin Pool

ACT Labor recognises the important role played by swimming pools in supporting active and healthy lifestyles for residents of Canberra. We also recognise that as communities grow, so do their need for facilities. That is why Labor has committed funding in previous Budgets to the establishment of the Harrison District Playing Fields and neighbourhood oval, feasibility and forward design of the Throsby district playing fields and the forward design of an enclosed oval for Canberra's fastest growing area - Gungahlin.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Invest up to \$20 million to fund the construction of a new aquatic and recreation centre for Gungahlin. Financing models will be determined after the feasibility study is complete in 2009. This new facility will provide a place where all members of the Gungahlin community can come to enjoy an active, healthy lifestyle all year round. It will be co-located with the Gungahlin College in the Town Centre and provide a great place for swimming training and classes for all the schools in the region; and
- Invest \$200,000 to begin the feasibility and design work for a pool in the new community of Molonglo, improving access to high-quality swimming facilities for Molonglo and Weston Creek.

National League Teams

ACT Labor understands that the ACT has a proud sporting tradition. Our elite athletes and national league teams provide role models for our children and are a source of inspiration for many Canberrans.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Provide \$1 million to fund improvements to Griffith Oval for the Brumbies.
- Provide the Brumbies with an additional \$265,000 to secure their ongoing presence in the nation's capital;
- Support the bid for an A-League football team in Canberra with \$2.5 million to the team subject to the bid's success; and
- Supplement the National League Team Program (NLTP) with an additional \$660,000 over four years.

Children's physical activity

ACT Labor acknowledges that Australia is in the midst of a national childhood obesity epidemic. Children in the ACT are healthier and more active than anywhere else in the country. Nevertheless, more needs to be done to ensure the future health and well-being of our community.

ACT Labor has established the Children's Physical Activity Foundation and the Minister's Physical Activity Challenge, which has seen more than 13,000 school children become physically active in its first year.

To build on this success, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Provide an additional \$300,000 over four years to support the important work of the Children's Physical Activity Foundation; and
- Provide \$800,000 over four years to fund the SmartStart program, an initiative designed to identify obese and unhealthy children, provide fitness programs and evaluate progress.

15 ASBA's for sporting organisations

ACT Labor recognises that the ACT sport and recreation industry is a major economic driver for the territory. It is important for the future of this industry that the next generation of sporting administrators and officials are trained to the highest possible standard and understand the industry inside out.

A re-elected ACT Labor government will:

- Invest \$225,000 over four years to give 15 young Canberrans each year the opportunity to complete an Australian School Based Apprenticeship in the sport and recreation industry.

Supporting our local sporting clubs - Woden Gymnastics Club and Belconnen Magpies AFL Club

ACT Labor recognises the important role played by local clubs. We believe that the time and effort put in by volunteers should be recognised by ensuring that participants enjoy quality facilities in which to practice and perform. Local sporting clubs strengthen the community and provide an outlet for positive, active interaction for kids and adults alike.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Invest \$670,000 to upgrade and expand the Woden Gymnastics club recognising the commitment and dedication of the Woden Gymnastics community; and
- Invest \$2 million to assist with the re-development of the Belconnen Magpies AFL Club's Kippax fields by improving the community facilities.

Motorsport funding

ACT Labor will invest the \$8 million earmarked for the drag way in the expansion and promotion of motorsport in the Territory.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Invest up to \$200,000 in a motorsport strategy that will inform the Government of an overall strategy for the promotion and growth of motorsport in the ACT;
- Invest up to \$3.5 million for the upgrade and refurbishment of Fairbairn Motorsport Park and surrounds, including the possible development of facilities at Kowen Forest and the Speedway, for specific projects to be determined by the strategy;
- Allocate up to \$3.8 million to a motorsport investment fund. This fund will provide support for motorsport organisations to invest in their facilities and/or run events stemming from recommendations in the strategy; and
- Invest up to \$500,000 for the allocation and development of a recreational off road riding area to enable off-road motorbike riders to undertake activities in a safe and legal environment.