

Under ACT Labor, you pay more and get less.

**How the first 12 months of the ACT Labor
government is costing you more
while services are getting less.**

Since the ACT Labor government was re-elected on 19 October 2024, Canberrans have been forced to pay more and get less in return.

It was the seventh time Labor have been elected in the ACT in a row and they have now been in power over twenty years.

But now, after twenty four years they are becoming tired and complacent, treating Canberrans with a lack of respect and assuming that they will keep their votes.

After twenty four years, it is becoming apparent that they have no vision for the future and have lost sight of what is important to Canberrans.

We have seen this first hand, when in their Budget in July this year, they increased and introduced 25 new and higher taxes.

At a time when Canberrans are doing it tough trying to pay for their groceries, fuel and electricity bills, these taxes are making life harder.

This is at the same time that essential services that all Canberrans rely upon are getting less.

ACT Labor Budget Facts:

Every household will be slugged with more than \$5,500 in higher taxes

Taxes are forecast to increase by almost 12%

Payroll tax is up \$400 million

Household rates are up \$280 million

There is a new \$100 health levy to paid by each household – every year

There is 58 per cent hike in motor vehicle stamp duty.

Despite all these massive tax increases, there is still a deficit of over \$1.1 billion and debt keeps growing to over \$22 billion.

And these tax increases are just to pay the bills, not to improve current services

Labor's 2025 Budget delivered higher taxes, higher duties and higher charges

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ACT LABOR'S 25 NEW AND HIGHER TAXES IN 2025



- A new \$100 health levy on households and \$250 health levy on commercial ratepayers**
- A 10% increase to the ambulance levy;**
- Increases to commercial rates;**
- Increases to residential rates;**
- A lower payroll tax threshold, capturing more small and medium businesses;**
- Increases to the Utilities (Network Facilities) Tax;**
- Interest added to loans in the Sustainable Household Scheme;**
- New and increased motor vehicle duties, including on electric vehicles;**
- Increased domestic animal services fees;**
- Increased vehicle impounding fees;**
- Increased tyre recycling fees;**
- Increased commercial and industrial waste fees;**
- A new priority service charge;**
- Introduction of a new \$11 fee for volunteer WWVP registration;**
- 6% increase to parking and permit fees in 2025–26;**
- An increase to the Tobacco Sale License Fee;**
- New and updated administrative fees and charges for data provision and technical advice services;**
- Updated public unleased land zoning and administrative fees;**
- Increase to the Road Safety Contribution Levy;**
- Updates to nine ACT emergency service fees and charges;**
- Increase in Police, Fire and Emergency Services Levy;**
- An increase of \$20 to the Safer Families Levy;**
- Higher driver's license fees;**
- Higher Motor vehicle registration fees;**
- An increase to the Lifetime Care and Support Levy.**

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PAYING MORE...



What cost of living crisis? Barr government goes for broke with revenue grab

Only now, in the sheer breadth, size, and audacity of its lunge for new revenue, coupled with persistent deficits for another four years, can we truly appreciate the extent of its fiscal desperation.

How else to explain the head-spinning array of higher fees, levies, and taxes the new ACT Treasurer, Chris Steel, has conjured in his first budget?

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-06-25/act-barr-government-goes-for-broke-with-revenue-grab/105456118>



How the \$250 health levy we had to have was slashed in six days

Along with planned savings and increases to fees, bus fares and existing levies, the budget added a new levy on top of every general rates bill.

It was bound to grab headlines and be controversial. By labelling it a health levy - even though, of course, it would go to consolidated revenue - Labor was seeking community buy-in to the need for more health funding.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9007949/health-levy-slashed-after-act-political-clash-what-it-means-for-govt/>



'Difficult decisions': Steel prescribes health levy, tax rises to mend Budget

Canberrans will be slugged with a new health levy, increases in taxes and charges and general rate rises, including an extra impost for high-end properties, to arrest the ACT's precarious financial position and bring the Budget back to surplus by 2027-28.

Source: <https://region.com.au/difficult-decisions-steel-prescribes-health-levy-tax-rises-to-mend-budget/880680/>

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Ratepayers slugged with new health levy as ACT budget deficit balloons to \$1.1 billion

Canberra ratepayers will be slugged with a new health levy as the ACT government works to rein in its ballooning budget deficit.

In handing down his first ACT budget, Treasurer Chris Steel said rising healthcare costs would push the territory further into the red to the tune of \$1.1 billion for 2024-2025.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-06-24/act-budget-ratepayers-hit-with-new-healthcare-levy/105454162>



ACT Labor is bankrupting Canberra

The reckless Labor government in the Australian Capital Territory is treating taxpayers with contempt and proving why it's dangerous for any political party to hold power for more than two decades.

ACT Labor is spending uncontrollably, racking up huge debt, inventing dishonest taxes and overseeing a flawed education system that is failing children.

ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr and Treasurer Chris Steel introduced in the territory's budget last week what they claimed was a \$250 annual "health" levy on residential and commercial ratepayers, to raise more than \$200 million over four years. The levy is on top of annual land rate increases of between 3.75 per cent and 18 per cent for property owners.

Yet, the ACT's budget document shows health spending is forecast to fall by \$4.2 million, from a higher-than-expected \$2.791 billion in the 2024-25 financial year to \$2.787 billion in the budgeted 2025-26 fiscal year.

Source: <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/act-labor-is-bankrupting-canberra-20250629-p5mb2f>

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ACT Budget targets health and housing, draws fire over tax burden

The Canberra Liberals slammed the Budget as hitting homeowners and households at the worst possible time. Party leader Leanne Castley MLA said the Budget was “a doozy” that would hit homeowners, and lacked long-term vision and responsible spending.

Taxation revenue would increase by \$323 million between 2024-25 (\$2.7 billion) and 2025-26 (\$3.06 billion), the Liberals note, which they calculate will slug Canberra households with a bill of more than \$5,500. Household rates would rise by \$280 million (from \$813.5 million in 2024-25 to \$1.1 billion in 2028-29). Net debt was projected to exceed \$22 billion.

Source: <https://canberradaily.com.au/act-budget-targets-health-and-housing-draws-fire-over-tax-burden/>

Wondering what the 2025 ACT budget includes? Here are five key takeaways

Treasurer Chris Steel has used his first ACT budget to deal Canberrans a tough set of cards.

Barely two months on from a federal election dominated by the cost of living, only a very small pool of Canberrans will see any sort of relief in this latest outlook.

In fact, hip pockets will be hit even harder — especially for homeowners.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-06-24/five-key-takaways-2025-act-budget/105454828>

Hospital tax makes mockery of Labor’s health claims: Libs

Health Minister Mark Butler has distanced himself from a decision by the ACT Labor government to levy a public hospital tax on Canberra households, which the federal opposition says violates the principle of universal healthcare.

Source: <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/hospital-tax-makes-mockery-of-labor-s-health-claims-libs-20250625-p5ma2j>

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Hiking payroll tax will push firms out of ACT: business chamber

Hiking taxes on big businesses to offset a lower health levy in the ACT will stifle growth and innovation and push firms out of the territory, Canberra's peak business group says.

The Canberra Business Chamber condemned the ACT government's decision to lower a health levy for residential rate payers and instead increase payroll taxes for large employers.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9004804/act-payroll-tax-hike-to-affect-canberra-businesses/>

You were warned, but you didn't listen, Mr Barr

It may appear a very short time span over which the ACT has gone from having the highest credit rating of all Australian states and territories to the equal lowest, along with Victoria.

However, this outcome had been in the making for well over a decade because of sustained financial mismanagement and was only delayed because of the strength of the finances Andrew Barr had inherited when he was appointed Treasurer – a budget in surplus and negative net debt, while coming out of the global financial crisis.

The nationally reported reasons cited by S&P Global for the downgrade, refer to the "territory's significant budget deficits and large capital spending pipeline, including an extension to the city's light rail".

Source: <https://citynews.com.au/2025/you-were-warned-but-you-didnt-listen-mr-barr/>

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BUT GET LESS SERVICES...

The Canberra Times
TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY

‘Perfect storm’ forces \$227m cash injection into ACT’s public health system

Nearly \$230 million in extra funding will be spent on Canberra’s public health system, as the Health Minister warns a “perfect storm” of increased costs and growing demand has hit the sector.

Canberra Health Services will make \$27 million in savings this year, including replacing agency and contract staff with permanent employees and insourcing more elective surgeries.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8879031/227m-boost-for-canberras-public-health-system-as-demand-spikes/>

The Canberra Times
TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY

The one ACT directorate giving out millions in bonuses

Canberra public system doctors, already making hundreds of thousands a year, were given bonus payments while the government sought savings and paused recruitment of other health staff.

Canberra Health Services is the only directorate to offer bonuses in the past three years, but says it is used to attract and keep specialist doctors in a competitive labour market.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9039849/canberra-public-doctors-given-millions-extra-despite-health-cuts/>

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Orthopedic surgeons resign over hospital 'interference' in clinical decisions

Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith has offered an olive branch to surgeons upset at the new operations centre at Canberra Hospital but insists the centralised oversight of care will continue.

The Minister was speaking after three of the hospital's 14 orthopedic surgeons, including head of department Professor Paul Smith, decided to resign over the role of the operations centre, which is designed to prioritise surgery according to patient need and the efficient allocation of resources.

Professor Smith, one of Australia's most experienced orthopedic surgeons, accused the operations centre of "administrative interference in clinician decision-making", and lack of consultation and collaboration with surgeons.

Source: <https://region.com.au/orthopedic-surgeons-resign-over-hospital-interference-in-clinical-decisions/852210/>



Three orthopaedic surgeons resign from Canberra Hospital citing concerns over operational decisions

The head of orthopaedic surgery at Canberra Hospital has resigned, along with two other surgeons, citing concerns over operational decisions being made by Canberra Health Services.

It comes as 15 orthopaedic surgeons recently signed an open letter to the ACT Health Minister expressing a vote of "no confidence" in the administration of "ACT Health and Canberra Hospital".

Another orthopaedic surgeon resigns from public hospital work

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-11/orthopaedic-surgeons-resign-canberra-hospital/105035510>

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Pressure mounts as sixth orthopaedic surgeon quits Canberra Hospital

Canberra's orthopaedic surgeons are ramping up the pressure on Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith's planned care reforms at Canberra Hospital with a sixth resigning in protest at their loss of autonomy.

Head of orthopaedics Professor Paul Smith led the walkout last month, saying the changes to how surgery is managed, involving a pooled list and the Operations Centre, would not be more efficient and compromise patient care, and five more have followed at various intervals.

It is understood that the sixth surgeon is Dr Alexander Burns, a colleague of Professor Smith at Orthopaedics ACT in Phillip.

Source: <https://region.com.au/pressure-mounts-as-sixth-orthopaedic-surgeon-quits-canberra-hospital/857903/>

Anaesthetists join orthopaedic surgeons in resigning from CHS

Two anaesthetists and five orthopaedic surgeons have resigned from Canberra Health Services as the government clashes with senior doctors over pay and policy.

Two anaesthetists resigned or expressed an intention to resign from the public health system in recent months, the directorate confirmed on Wednesday.

Spine surgery specialist Nicholas Tsai became the fifth orthopaedic surgeon to quit Canberra Health Services on Wednesday, joining Professor Paul Smith and Cindy Vrancic.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8927099/surgeons-and-anaesthetists-resign-over-pay-disputes/>

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Canberra Hospital sets new daily record of emergency department presentations amid surging demand

Health authorities confirm a new daily record number of presentations at the Canberra Hospital emergency department amid surging public system demand.

Paul Haines of the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association says patients from his state are unfairly adding to the ACT public health system's burden.

Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith is calling for the NSW government to chip-in for hospital infrastructure in the ACT.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-08-12/act-daily-record-emergency-department-presentations-hospital/105642658>



Many waiting longer than clinically recommended for orthopaedic surgery in Canberra

Earlier this year, three orthopaedic surgeons resigned from Canberra Health Services over operational concerns.

The waiting lists for orthopaedic surgery are now longer than any other specialty, including for those who have waited longer than is clinically recommended.

Canberra Health Services has apologised and said the waitlist had remained stable over the past year despite resignations.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-10-01/long-wait-time-orthopaedic-surgery-canberra/105837678>

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Carol has been waiting for surgery for 601 days, and says things just got worse

A Canberran tormented by pain while waiting for a hip replacement says the public health system has failed her amid an ongoing spat between the government and surgeons.

Carol Croce, 71, was first seen by an orthopaedic surgeon six years ago and has waited much longer than recommended for a hip replacement.

The Ainslie resident said she takes cannabis oil and a mixture of painkillers to sleep at night, and can only walk around with the help of a cane.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8920202/patients-left-in-limbo-after-canberra-orthopaedic-surgeons-resign/>

Less urgent patients on dermatology waiting lists in Canberra 'unlikely' to be seen, ACT health minister concedes

The ACT Health Minister has confirmed Canberra Health Services considered a range of proposals to address ballooning patient waitlists in speciality areas, including blocking those living outside of the territory.

That proposal was abandoned, but the minister conceded some on the waiting list for dermatology services might never see a specialist.

Canberra Health Services says it hasn't yet made any changes to dermatological services but instead routinely monitors the "sustainability" of its waitlists.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-14/some-dermatology-patients-unlikely-seen-doctor-canberra/104592630>

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Inquiry into Canberra's MyWay+ hears some users' personal details were accessible before and after launch

A Legislative Assembly inquiry into the procurement and rollout of Canberra's troubled MyWay+ ticketing system has been told the personal details of public transport users could be accessed on the internet before and after its launch.

Australian National University computer science students Patrick Reid and Shaun Fulham were among witnesses who fronted a public hearing on Wednesday.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-26/myway-plus-rollout-personal-details-launch/105099206>



Too much, too soon, too unready: Government overpromised and underdelivered on MyWay+

There are always a few issues with the introduction of new software and a bedding-down period, but it seems the ACT Government and its Myway+ provider, NEC, were at odds from the start over what the new public transport ticketing system was going to be able to deliver and when.

It has earlier been reported that NEC wanted a slower, more incremental switchover, but the report from IT consultant Projects Assured ahead of the November 2024 launch shows just how far apart the parties were and how ill-prepared Transport Canberra was.

The government engaged Projects Assured in September to assess how ready MyWay+ was to be rolled out.

Source: <https://region.com.au/too-much-too-soon-too-unready-government-overpromised-and-underdelivered-on-myway/871036/>

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ACT public schools rocked as principals told of blown budget bombshell

Most of the ACT's public schools have run over budget or will be over their budget by the end of 2025 with a union warning the system faced an "acute financial emergency".

An Education Directorate spokesperson said the majority of government schools were forecast to overspend their internal budgets during the 2025 school year.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9021994/majority-of-act-schools-to-overspend-budgets-in-2025/>

The health blunder shaping up to mirror past costly ACT govt failures

A public health system IT project is the subject of another five detailed audits, with a warning the project, already thought to be \$160 million over budget, is set to mirror a failed ACT government IT project that cost \$78 million.

The Auditor-General has warned the findings into a complex probe into the digital health record system were on track to be as significant as those made against a failed human resources system upgrade.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8895109/act-digital-health-record-could-mirror-past-failures-auditor/>

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‘Total neglect’: minister answers to faeces, urine leaking into police station

After raw sewage contaminated Canberra’s city police station for a second time this year, the Police Minister told an opposition member, who raised the “disgusting situation”, that repairs are under way.

It comes after human waste leaked into the precinct on London Circuit on March 11, and the president of the federal police union said his concerns were ignored.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8919928/raw-sewage-leak-at-canberra-city-police-station-disgusting/>

ACT police working in ‘decaying, squalid, dangerous conditions’

The police union boss says he’s almost at the point that he wants to collect a bucket of sewage from inside the Canberra City police station and “pour it out the front” of the ACT Legislative Assembly to “see how many of those MLAs like to live and work in those conditions”.

Alex Caruana, president of the Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA), says the station on London Circuit in Civic has been at the “same level of derelict for 20 years”, with a fix from the ACT overnment still several years away at best.

Source: <https://region.com.au/act-police-working-in-decaying-squalid-dangerous-conditions/860462/>

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The public servants still working with sewage odour in the workplace

Sewage smell still lingers in ACT's City Police Station after untreated wastewater leaked into the premises twice this year.

Plumbers were called to the station, built along London Circuit in 1966, in February and March this year for repair work.

The territory's chief police officer confirmed officers and other staff based at the precinct continued to work with the smell of sewage on "most days".

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8970973/sewage-odour-persists-in-act-city-police-station-on-most-days/>

Damaged water main forces closure of another ACT Policing building

ACT Policing's warehouse for seized items, surrendered firearms and lost property has been temporarily closed to the public following damage to the building.

A statement outlined the water main to the Exhibit Management Centre in Mitchell (which includes the ACT Firearms Registry) was damaged on Wednesday (5 June) and water supply to the building was impacted.

"Efforts are being made to fix the damaged main as quickly as possible. However, no return date has been confirmed," an ACT Policing statement read.

Source: <https://region.com.au/damaged-water-main-forces-closure-of-another-act-policing-building/776475/>

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Police release footage of man with machete in Canberra Outlet

ACT Policing is seeking information regarding an incident at the Canberra Outlet Centre this afternoon, Thursday 27 February.

Police were called to the Canberra Outlet Centre about 3:15pm following reports of a man and a woman making threats to shop staff, a statement released by ACT Policing said.

Source: <https://canberradaily.com.au/canberra-outlet-centre-lockdown-following-threats-to-staff/>

WATCH: Spike in knife crime includes kids as young as 13 found with knives

Police have issued a warning to the community after recording a spike in knife-related incidents across the ACT in recent weeks.

These have even included police catching children with knives.

"In the past five weeks, police have responded to carjackings, assaults and burglaries involving knives," an ACT Policing spokesperson said on Tuesday (28 January).

Source: <https://region.com.au/watch-spike-in-knife-crime-includes-kids-as-young-as-13-found-with-knives/841712/>

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Parents voting with their feet as government enrolments keep falling

ACT government school enrolments are dropping at the same time as independent and Catholic enrolments are increasing, demonstrating a “significant social trend”.

New student census data highlights for the fifth consecutive year, enrolment preferences in the ACT are changing.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9007005/act-public-school-enrolments-decline-as-independents-rise/>

Shocking results in ACT early development census concerns parents

More than half of kindergarten-aged children are falling behind on basic developmental measures, as the ACT produces some of the worst results in the country.

The 2024 Australian Early Development Census results show only 43.8 per cent of all kindergarten students are on track in developmental areas.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9001412/act-2024-early-development-census-results-raise-concerns/>

Increasing incidents of sexual assault reported across ACT public schools

Reports of sexual assault incidents across the public school system have increased this year, data from the ACT Education Directorate shows.

There were five alleged sexual assault incidents reported to authorities in 2024. This year, the directorate reported it had already been alerted to seven such reports between January 1 and June 27.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9007033/rising-reports-of-sexual-assault-alleged-in-act-public-schools/>

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Is your school overcrowded? More schools added to high capacity list

More Canberran schools are operating close to capacity as students in the previous enrolment boom move to high school.

New school census data shows 11 government schools were approaching or over capacity in February 2025.

Belconnen High School, which was at 100 per cent capacity in 2024, had an additional 28 students enrolled in 2025, pushing the school to 104 per cent.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9007023/what-are-canberras-most-overcrowded-schools/>



ACT childcare centres record nation's second highest rate of 'serious incidents', data shows

An expert says a "toothless tiger" is regulating the ACT's childcare industry, which has one of the country's highest rates of "serious incidents".

Canberra mother Sarah withdrew her children from a for-profit childcare centre after discovering the operator had repeatedly delayed educator wages and had failed to pay some superannuation.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-18/act-childcare-centres-high-rate-serious-incidents-national-ly/105062414>

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Businesses slam more than 900 per cent rise in rates, call for review

The main business organisations in Canberra have asked the ACT government for an urgent review of the way rates are set after some payments jumped by more than 900 per cent.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8996765/canberra-businesses-demand-rates-review-from-act-government/>

‘We must breathe through the hard times’: Canberra businesses fight to survive

For Pierce Jackson, the past six months had been some of the quietest in his 16 years running Janine Florist in Civic.

Where there was once a steady stream of customers buying flowers for thank-yous or farewells, sales are largely confined to major life events like funerals and new births.

Daily transactions have dropped by half, and to adapt, Mr Jackson started offering smaller, budget-friendly arrangements aimed at customers struggling with the rising cost of living.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9014176/act-business-struggles-amid-rising-costs-and-higher-minimum-wage/geons-resign/>

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Here's why it's so tough to run a business in Canberra right now

The Canberra Liberals have hit out at the government for making the ACT "the worst mainland jurisdiction to run a business", based on new data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on business growth rates.

"There's a strong growth rate of businesses across the country, which is fantastic, but the reality is more and more ACT businesses are not surviving," leader Leanne Castley said in a statement.

Source: <https://region.com.au/heres-why-its-so-tough-to-run-a-business-in-canberra-right-now/899718/>

ACT leads business insolvencies in surprise figures

Businesses in Canberra are struggling to stay afloat, with new data revealing the ACT has the highest rate of insolvencies across the states and territories.

New data released by credit bureau CreditorWatch shows in the year to February 2025, businesses based in the ACT had an average insolvency rate of 1 per cent.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8920061/act-records-highest-insolvency-rate-as-canberra-business-close/>

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He's shut down 14 businesses and fears it will get worse

Commercial real estate agent Duane Dawson says he's had to terminate the leases of 14 businesses from commercial properties in Canberra recently.

"Businesses are really fighting for every dollar," Mr Dawson of Dawson Commercial said.

"Rates and insurance increase year on year by ten to 24 per cent. Businesses are suffering year on year. Staffing costs are going through the roof."

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9051177/canberra-businesses-struggle-amid-rising-costs-and-taxes/ness-close/>

Canberra Daily Weak business growth in ACT

The ACT recorded the weakest business growth rate of any mainland jurisdiction in 2024–25, according to new Australian Bureau of Statistics figures.

Nationally, business numbers rose by 2.5 per cent, but in the ACT growth was 1.9 per cent — ahead only of Tasmania.

The ACT's business entry rate of 17.4 per cent was above the national average of 16.4 per cent, but its exit rate was the highest in the country at 15.1 per cent, compared with 13.9 per cent nationally.

Source: <https://canberradaily.com.au/weak-business-growth-in-act/>

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Revealed: the light rail price the government wanted to keep secret

The release of a business case the government wanted to keep secret has revealed the cost of extending light rail to Woden was estimated more than half a decade ago to be \$1.5 billion.

A cost-benefit assessment also found the government would lose 6 cents in every dollar spent on the project if they picked the recommended route.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8968619/canberras-light-rail-extension-15-billion-cost-disclosure/>

‘Crooked thinking’ buckles light rail track to Woden

In our opinion, neither the case prepared by Transport Canberra nor Major Projects should have proceeded to cabinet due to their poor quality and shallow analysis.

To be fair, the Transport Canberra offering appears a tad more realistic, albeit, suffering from the sense that it is to some extent a response to a pre-determined expectation that the project needs to be justified and delivered.

Source: <https://citynews.com.au/2025/crooked-thinking-buckles-light-rail-track-to-woden/>

Govt loses bid to keep Woden light rail business cases under wraps

The government’s bid to keep early business cases for the light rail extension to Woden secret has failed, with a retired judge finding no reason they cannot be made public.

The Canberra Liberals had sought the release of documents related to the public health system spending during the 2024 caretaker period along with business cases from the light rail extension to Woden.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8968020/canberra-light-rail-business-case-to-be-released/>

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ACT govt wants to keep Russell light rail business case under wraps

The fate of a nearly decade-old business case for the shelved Russell light rail extension sits with an independent legal arbiter after Chief Minister Andrew Barr sought to block its release.

The government wants to keep the Russell extension document secret because it “contains material that would prejudice a deliberative process of government and disclose the deliberations of cabinet in relation to future budget decisions”.

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8963293/russell-light-rail-extension-secrecy-debate-over-business-case/>

Light rail Woden route options all result in longer trips than Rapid bus, documents from 2019 reveal

Light rail Woden route options all result in longer trips than Rapid bus, documents from 2019 reveal

The recently released preliminary draft business case for light rail Stage 2 included three route options for the then-ACT Government to consider.

All three City to Woden light rail routes considered in the 2019 preliminary draft business case would take longer to travel than the current Rapid bus routes.

The ACT Government recently published a raft of light rail documents after the independent legal arbiter found none of them could claim privilege.

Source: <https://region.com.au/light-rail-woden-route-options-all-result-in-longer-trips-than-rapid-bus-documents-from-2019-reveal/870085/>

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Canberra Daily ‘Years of congestion’ from bridge works

Opposition leader Leanne Castley MLA has called on the ACT Labor Government to address long-term traffic congestion expected from strengthening the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and constructing light rail.

She said motorists and public transport users face “a congestion storm” without clearer information and better planning.

“Motorists travelling into Civic from the south, centre and west of Canberra will be particularly affected, and the congestion will impact their day-to-day plans including getting to work on time or school drop-offs,” Ms Castley said.

Source: <https://canberradaily.com.au/years-of-congestion-from-bridge-works/>

The Canberra Times
TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY

Why is it now taking so long to get into the city?

Commuters may have found themselves sitting in their cars for some time on Tuesday morning as traffic backed up around the city and in Parkes.

But what exactly was causing (for Canberra standards) the traffic jams?

Source: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8889202/road-closures-create-traffic-jams-in-canberra/>

Under ACT Labor, you pay more and get less.



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Authorised by Leanne Castley MLA for the Canberra Liberals.