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## Canberra Business Council supports accelerated investment in National Arboretum Canberra

Canberra Business Council (CBC) welcomed the \$22.6million announced in the ACT Budget today for the accelerated development of facilities at the National Arboretum Canberra.

“The National Arboretum is a visionary project which will increasingly be a vital part of tourism infrastructure in the National Capital”, Chris Faulks, CEO of Canberra Business Council said today. “The Council has been a strong supporter of the Arboretum since its inception and has called for the fast-tracking of infrastructure on the site in successive submissions to Government. We welcome the funding for the further development of the Arboretum included in the Budget today.”

David Marshall, Chair of the CBC Tourism, Sport and Arts Task Force said “The initiatives announced in today’s ACT Budget - a Visitor Centre, Bonsai Pavilion and Children’s Garden and the Central Valley Ceremonial Gardens at the Arboretum – will greatly enhance the visitor experience at the Arboretum.”

“In particular, the construction of a Visitor Centre on the site will not only attract many more local and interstate visitors, it will provide a revenue stream to further develop the facility. It will also enable the Arboretum to be showcased during the Centenary of Canberra celebrations in 2013.”

Canberra Business Council agrees with the Government’s acknowledgement that the tourism industry is a vital sector requiring further investment with tourism adding \$1.3b to the ACT economy and employing 13,000 people. The ability of a vibrant tourism industry to bring visitors and revenue to the ACT was clearly demonstrated by the incredible success of the recent *Masterpieces from Paris* Exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia. The National Arboretum Canberra is another important element in the tourism infrastructure in the ACT.

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