



\$350 million Convention Centre for the Nation by 2013

The Canberra Business Council is leading the push for a new \$350 million Convention Centre for the Nation to be built in Canberra by its Centenary in 2013.

“The Council first mooted the idea in 2006 and is delighted that the ACT Government has come on board with this initiative,” Canberra Business Council Chief Executive Officer, Chris Faulks, said today.

The Canberra Business Council and the ACT Government have committed \$250,000 each for a scoping study of the project and are calling on the Federal Government to put in \$250,000 as well.

“Canberra, the ‘meeting place of the nation’, must have a world class ‘convention centre for the nation’ to add to our other national iconic institutions such as the National Gallery and the National Museum,” Ms Faulks said. “The Council has included the proposal in its Federal Budget Submission**. The next step is for the Council and ACT Government to work to gain a commitment from the Rudd Government for the project”.

“The Council sees a new Convention Centre as an essential part of the infrastructure of Canberra,” Ms Faulks said. “The ideal time to open a ‘convention centre for the nation’ would be Canberra’s Centenary in 2013.”

The ACT Government, the business community, and the tourism and convention industry all publicly support a new Convention Centre for the ACT.

“To get the project underway, the Canberra Business Council has pressed for a partnership model between the Australian and ACT Governments and the business sector and has proposed the establishment of a Trust to administer the project in its entirety. The Trust would be headed by an eminent Australian and include other prominent Australians,” Ms Faulks said.

“The Council wholeheartedly supported the upgrade of the current Convention Centre but was aware that this would only provide a short-term “breathing space” while a new facility, iconic in design, and reflective of the status of Canberra as the nation’s capital, is designed and built,” Ms Faulks said.

Further information: Chris Faulks | Canberra Business Council 6247 4199 | 0421 994 488
| ceo@canberrabusinesscouncil.com.au | 29 January 2008

**Attached is an excerpt from the Canberra Business Council’s Federal Government Budget Submission for 2008-09.