

Deb Foskey MLA

Member for Molonglo
Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory
GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Phone 61 (02) 6205 0161 Fax 6205 0007



15 February 08

Invest windfall in sustainable Canberra

Deb Foskey, Greens MLA, urged the ACT Government to think carefully about the way it disburses the huge windfall announced yesterday.

"Much of this windfall is based upon land sales. This is not a sustainable income source and this revenue should be spent in ways that will deliver returns for many year," said Dr Foskey.

"Spending on infrastructure, public transport, public housing, health and education spending and other community investments will ensure that Canberra's citizens will benefit from this income for several generations."

"It also means that we can implement a strengthened Climate Change Strategy which the science is telling us we need and economic analysis is indicating we can afford."

"Although some of this revenue is due to a larger than expected GST gain from the Federal Government, much was gained at the cost of some of our community's most disadvantaged people and inflicted after a Functional Review with only one aim: cut costs and increase the government's surplus."

"The impact of those cuts to services needs to be assessed from the perspective of our most vulnerable people, and effort made to restore services where they were lost."

"We know the ACT public service was left reeling and losses of skilled personnel to the Commonwealth have reduced its capacity to fulfil the social justice and environmental objectives that Stanhope won the last election on."

"Any tax cuts should be aimed at evening the balance between rich and poor in this town. Most people are doing very well but some are faring worse as costs - housing, food and services - rise."

"I urge the Treasurer to treat the windfall responsibly and ensure it is spent for the good of Canberra into the future, not as an aid to re-election this year," said Deb Foskey.

MEDIA CONTACT Deb Foskey 62050161 or 0413 223 585

another world is possible...