

ACT Budget 2025-26



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Foreword

The 2025–26 ACT Budget, delivered today by the Barr Government, outlines a targeted investment agenda aimed at providing cost of living relief, enhancing health services, boosting housing availability, and delivering vital local infrastructure. NECA warmly welcomes the initiatives that strengthen household resilience and essential community services, particularly appreciating the direct support provided to apprentices through financial payments and practical tool subsidies.

We recognise and support the ACT Government's investment in community infrastructure, particularly within the Tuggeranong area, as well as their ongoing commitment to promoting tourism and stimulating broader economic growth. These measures will undoubtedly provide significant benefits to local communities and businesses alike.

Nevertheless, NECA continues to advocate for greater recognition and equitable investment in industry-led Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), including our own, to ensure a balanced and robust skills pipeline for the electrical and communications sector. Strengthening the partnership between government and industry-based training providers is essential to meet current and future skills demands effectively.

More Information

If you have any questions relating to how the budget impacts you and your business, please contact us at memberservices@neca.asn.au.

NECA welcomes suggestions and feedback as it continues to advocate on issues that affect and shape the electrotechnology sector in Australia.

This is a cautious, community-focused budget with positive signals for vulnerable households, apprentices and local infrastructure.

NECA ACT will continue to press for transparent funding models, practical investment in training and apprenticeships, and active involvement of our sector in policy and program design.

Budget Outlook

ACT remains in modest deficit, with a surplus projected by 2026–27

Revenue boosted through payroll tax and new short-term rental levies

GST volatility remains a risk to long-term planning

Infrastructure staging used to manage delivery and cost pressures

Housing & Local Infrastructure

- \$285 million for housing support, including \$118 million for social housing and homelessness services
- \$15 million for local projects in Tuggeranong (playgrounds, footpaths, community facilities)
- Planning support for growth suburbs and targeted rent relief for low-income tenants

Skills & Workforce

- \$250 cost-of-living payment for all ACT apprentices
- Additional \$250 support for first-year apprentices to buy tools and equipment
- Continued expansion of the Future of Education Equity Fund
- No new investment in industry RTO

partnerships or major skills pipeline initiatives

Health & Mental Health

- \$2.6 billion health package including hospital investment and frontline services
- \$9.4 million for expanded youth mental health access and early intervention programs

Cost-of-Living Relief

- Electricity, gas and water rebate increased to \$800 per year for eligible low-income households
- Additional \$150 in bill relief available through the Commonwealth Energy Fund
- Reduced registration fees for light trailers and caravans

Education

- Free school camps extended to another 1,000 students through Birrigai program
- Support for trainees and apprentices in education settings

Economic Development & Tourism

- \$15+ million for Canberra events, the Convention Bureau, Telstra Tower upgrades and aviation marketing
- Renewed emphasis on growing tourism and supporting the creative sector