

MORE LIGHT RAIL, FASTER

CANBERRANS LOVE LIGHT RAIL, SO LET'S KEEP IT MOVING

The Greens have always championed the vision of a light rail network across Canberra, that makes it easier and faster to get where you need to go on emissions-free public transport.

We are proud to have delivered the first stage of light rail, and of its immense popularity. But how long is the community meant to wait for the next stages? How long must we wait for the entire network that we all envisage?

This election the Greens are doubling down on light rail. We will increase frequency on the existing line and speed up the delivery of Stage 2 to Woden. We will stay on the front foot with a rolling program of planning and construction to get moving on the next stages to Belconnen, the airport and Tuggeranong so more people can enjoy the benefits of light rail, sooner.

THE ACT GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Make commuting more comfortable and convenient with more frequent light rail services between Gungahlin and the city during the morning and afternoon peaks, on Friday nights and on weekends
- ▲ Make light rail a government priority with more ambitious deadlines, a bigger project team and the budget funding required to get Stage 2 to Woden moving sooner
- ▲ Develop and keep hold of a skilled and stable light rail workforce by switching to a rolling program of planning and construction. This will also provide better value for money and quicker delivery of future stages
- ▲ Investigate longer platforms at existing and new stops to accommodate more carriages, in anticipation of more passengers using light rail once the line runs all the way from Gungahlin to Woden
- ▲ Plan to crack the housing crisis and maximise convenience for Canberrans with more dense housing permitted along the Stage 2B route near future light rail stops
- ▲ Continue to plan for a short extension of Stage 2 to Mawson

PICK UP THE PACE TO GET LIGHT RAIL TO WODEN

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CANBERRA

Transport is central to the way we live our lives in Canberra. It's how we connect to our friends, our jobs, and our communities.

But in a climate crisis and a cost of living crisis, transport is letting Canberrans down. Infrequent and inconvenient bus services lock most people into the expense of having to own a car. With so much private car travel, transport is the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT. We must improve public transport and given Canberrans the options they want.

The Liberals want to axe light rail and Labor is saying 2033 is the best they can do. But the Greens want to push harder so that today's 9-year-olds can ride light rail to Woden before they turn 18.

And we have a plan to do it.

PRIORITISE THE PROJECT

The Light Rail Stage 2 project has been identified as the most complicated project in the history of the ACT. But the Stage 2 project team has been too small, particularly between 2016-2021.

The Stage 2 project team was provided fewer full-time equivalent positions for

the first six years of planning than the Stage 1 team had by its second year.

If the line from the City to Woden is so much more complicated than Gungahlin to the City, then it needs a larger team to deliver it.

The Greens will ensure the ACT Government sets deadlines, adequately resources our public service and commits the budget funding required to get this important project moving sooner.

LET'S GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES

Construction on Stage 2B to Woden is such a long way off.

The ACT Government's light rail project timeline says they won't even finish procurement for the Stage 2B construction works until 2028, when services are rolling on Stage 2A to Commonwealth Park. But this doesn't need to be the case.

Instead of waiting another four years, the Greens will immediately progress detailed planning and design for stage 2B to Woden. This means construction can begin while Stage 2A is still being tested and commissioned.

Moving away from the current stop-start rollout will provide better value for money, quicker delivery and a better use of an ongoing workforce.

THINK BIG AND PLAN THE CITY-WIDE NETWORK

The ACT Greens will plan our city-wide network, identify future light rail corridors and get going on important early works so that the construction of future light rail stages can begin sooner.

Many enabling works can be undertaken well ahead of construction, such as relocating utilities and earthworks.

We want to avoid another situation where the contracts for raising London Circuit weren't signed until six years after the government's decision to extend light rail from the City to Commonwealth Park and Woden.

START EARLY PLANNING FOR LIGHT RAIL TO BELCONNEN, THE AIRPORT AND TUGGERANONG

Planning for future stages of light rail has been delayed. This means we aren't seeing the network built soon enough. Parts of our city without light rail are suffering growing pains with poor transport and planning.

The ACT Greens will begin early planning for light rail connections to Belconnen, the airport and Tuggeranong within the next term of government.

This will include route identification and feasibility assessments so these future stages can be built sooner.

CONTINUE TO PLAN THE MAWSON EXTENSION

Light Rail Stage 2B as planned will end in the Woden Town Centre. This misses an excellent opportunity to extend the route

to Mawson. That would be fast to deliver and it would expand the benefits of light rail to many more people in the Woden community.

The ACT Greens will progress detailed planning and approvals for a short extension to Mawson to be started before the completion of Stage 2B to Woden.

MINIMISE DELAYS

The Greens will examine the assessing, testing and commissioning timelines, to see if these can be shortened.

The ACT's Stage 2A project to Commonwealth Park is expected to be completed by 2027, but the testing and commissioning process following construction is expected to take 9 months.

Other Light Rail projects like the Gold Coast seek to complete these processes in 3 months or less and the ACT Greens will investigate how we can reduce time delays between construction completion and operations of light rail stages without compromising safety or quality.

PLANNING FOR CONVENIENCE & CONNECTION

LIVE CLOSE TO LIGHT RAIL

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Authorised by Pat Dollard for the ACT Greens

One of the key benefits of building fixed transport infrastructure, like a light rail line, is that it enables transit-oriented development to grow up around it.

We've already seen the success of thousands of new homes built on the light rail stage 1 corridor.

Along the route to Woden there may be large brownfield sites that are suitable for medium and high-density infill, like multi-unit and commercial development, and the Greens will ensure these are identified and gazetted ahead of the construction of Stage 2B.

MORE HOMES WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE

The Greens will increase development rights for residential land within 800m of future light rail stops to allow 3 storey and taller apartment and townhouse developments, where appropriate, in these locations.

The ACT Greens will identify the route for Stage 2B and progress rezoning of residential and commercial land, where appropriate, within walking distance of future Light Rail stops.

This early planning will mean that we can see more homes built sooner, and give people more certainty about the future of their suburbs.

FILLING THE GAPS ALONG STAGE 1

While thousands of homes have already been built along the light rail route from Gungahlin to the city, there are many

areas on the Stage 1 Light Rail line which haven't seen any additional homes.

We will work to upzone areas within 800m of existing Light Rail stations so that suburbs such as Downer and Watson can continue to grow and thrive, with more neighbours moving in on a high-quality transport corridor.

This commitment aligns with the ACT Greens planning policy.



Example of Medium-Density Transit-Oriented Development in Turner.

WHAT'S THE INVESTMENT?

Infill development saves the ACT Government \$50-60K per home, compared with greenfield developments on the outskirts. Infill along the light rail corridor from the City to Woden could deliver economic savings of up to \$950 million for the ACT on this basis, based on dwelling predictions in the Mecone study

FREQUENT & FUTURE-PROOF

IMPROVING LIGHT RAIL STAGE 1

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Stage 1 of Light Rail between Gungahlin and the city has been an overwhelming success. It is so busy that peak hour journeys can be completely full.

To reduce crowding and allow more people to choose light rail as their peak-hour commute, the Greens will increase frequency from every 5 minutes to every 4 minutes in the AM peak between 7-9am, and from every 6 minutes to every 5 minutes in the PM peak from 3.30-6.30pm.

A TRUE 7-DAY PER WEEK SERVICE

To get more people choosing light rail at night and on weekends we will increase frequency of light rail at those periods to make it a better choice 7 days a week.

The Greens will increase Friday night services to run every 10 minutes from 6.30-11.30pm, Saturday services to run every 10 minutes between 9am-9pm, and Sunday services to run every 10 minutes between 9am-6pm.

LONGER PLATFORMS, MORE CARRIAGES

Canberra’s Light Rail from Gungahlin to the City was designed to be expanded to meet future demand and growth. The service has proven more popular than planned, which means we now have an opportunity to run light rail services with more carriages between larger light rail stations.

The ACT Greens will investigate expanding light rail platforms and light rail vehicles to 7-car sets, which would

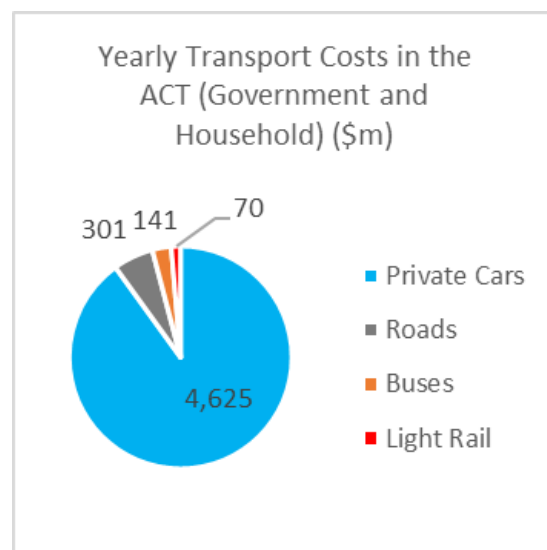
expand capacity by up to 85 passengers per service.

Light Rail Stage 2 will bring more people into the system and the Gungahlin to City corridor will become busier as a result. Expanding the platforms and vehicles ahead of the completion of the extension to Woden will mean the network keeps moving even more people around Canberra.

INVEST IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO CUT THE COST OF LIVING

We all want Canberra to be a liveable city that’s easy and affordable to get around. But right now, too many people are locked into the expense of owning a car.

Of total transport expenditure in the ACT, 90 per cent is shouldered by individual people, running their cars. The Government spends 6 per cent of the total on roads, 3 per cent on buses and 1 per cent on light rail.



Light rail is an investment in our community. Right now, people are shouldering this burden alone, spending \$4.6 billion every year on car costs like petrol and insurance. Government needs to share these costs and provide proper public transport that meets people's needs. Light rail is a key element of that.

The Greens will run more frequent buses across Canberra and deliver a city-wide light rail network. Combined, this will give Canberrans great transport options and reduce the cost on individuals.

Investing together as a community in buses and light rail provides an efficient, affordable, high-quality service that will be used by generations of Canberrans, helping us reach net-zero emissions.