

Cable stalls park-and-ride

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By Meredith Clispy

CALWELL residents are concerned about the delay in construction for the new park-and-ride facility and are calling on the ACT government to deliver the project.

Work was supposed to begin on the Calwell park-and-ride site in October.

The ACT government has confirmed construction has been delayed due to the relocation of a telecommunication fibre optic cable that runs under the site.

Member for Brindabella, Joy Burch told residents earlier this year the project should be finished by Christmas or early 2013.

The facility, which will be located on the corner of Johnson Drive and Were Street, will include an additional 60 car spaces adjacent to the Calwell Club's car park.

South East Tuggeranong Residents Association president Russ Morrison said car parking and public transport were still the major ongoing concerns for southside residents.

He said the association was extremely concerned about the delay in the building of the project, which would not be delivered by the end of the year.

"Whilst one part of Canberra will be enjoying the benefits of light rail in the near future another part of Canberra is struggling to even get a park-and-ride developed," Mr Morrison said.

"The park-and-ride project has been successful because of strong community support, that has clearly demonstrated that this project should have been operating by now."

Calwell Club venue manager Tim Baker said the club welcomed the provision of the additional car parks to accommodate members at popular times.

Tuggeranong Community Council president Nick Tsoulas said he had



Calwell business owner Jane Hlatt, Calwell Club venue manager Tim Baker, Tuggeranong Community Council president Nick Tsoulas, South East Tuggeranong Residents Association vice-president Frank Vrins and president Russ Morrison have called for the park-and-ride to be delivered.

Picture: Elisa Lee

decided to stage a peaceful demonstration to bring attention to the fact work had not started.

"In a peaceful way we're waiting for the ACT government to claim the shovel and turn the first sod," he said. "We're just a bit concerned it's going to take so long."

A Territory and Municipal Services spokesman said relocation of the cable

should be completed in the next two to three weeks following the engagement of a contractor to carry out the work.

He said weather permitting the park-and-ride was expected to be completed by March 2013. Mr Tsoulas said the community had also thrown support behind the joint push of the council and the residents association to get My Way ticketing recharge facilities at the

Calwell shopping centre. Tuggeranong residents can only recharge their My Way cards at Wannanassa, Conder and Greenway.

More than 1200 signatures have been collected on the petition. "There's no good building a park and ride if you can't get a ticket here," Mr Tsoulas said.

The ACT government allocated

\$100,000 in the 2012/13 budget for the purchase of 10 new recharge facilities in Canberra.

A Territory and Municipal Services spokesman said the tenders for the new machines would be advertised in January.

He said specific locations of the recharge facilities would be available in the tender documents.