



TUGGERANONG
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VALLEY VOICE

Tuggeranong Community Council Newsletter

Issue 14: April 2012

Light rail costing questioned



An artist's impression on light rail in Northbourne Avenue (Image ACT Government)

ACT Light Rail has questioned costings to link Gungahlin to Civic with a light rail system. A report into public transport options released recently by the ACT Government suggests a light rail line from Gungahlin and Canberra's city centre would take at least five years to plan and build and cost up to \$860 million.

Damien Haas from ACT Light Rail says pricing light rail at up to \$70 million per kilometre is a gross overestimation. Mr Haas says the Government is clearly not in favour of it and the cost estimate shows the Government is trying to get out of building the system.

He told the Canberra media that the stated cost is more than double the cost of the entire Majura Parkway.

"I don't think there's anyone in the ACT who believes that building light rail from Northbourne out to Gungahlin would cost twice as much as building the Majura Parkway which is six lanes," he said.

TCC President, Darryl Johnston, has urged the Government to get on with the job. He said the Council supports a rail based mass public transport system linking Tuggeranong to Civic and other town centres.

"The longer we procrastinate the more it will cost"

"The longer we procrastinate the more it will cost and the more choked our roads will become. Before long we will end up like Sydney," he has warned.

Last year, the ACT Government commissioned a study on building a light rail system or laying down dedicated bus transit lanes along Flemington Road and Northbourne Avenue.

The study released by Environment Minister, Simon Corbell, found a dedicated bus rapid transit would cost between \$300 million and \$360 million, while light

rail is estimated to cost between \$700 million and \$860 million. Mr Corbell describes the study as the most detailed work done to date on either of the public transport options.

However, he said cost will be a critical factor in deciding on an option, but has insisted there is no preferred option at this stage.

Mr Corbell was quoted in the media as suggesting that a bus rapid transit system can be developed and then redeveloped it into a light rail system over a period of time.

"You can build a bus rapid transit corridor which provides a dedicated right of way, dedicated roadway for the buses separating them from the general traffic."

You can build the dedicated bus stations and then convert all of that corridor to light rail at a later point in time when it's economically feasible to do so," Mr Corbell told the Canberra media.

ACT Opposition Leader, Zed Seselja, has called for more details and fears the Government will manage the projects badly. Mr Seselja told the media that whatever cost was put on the project today it could double under ACT Labor because of mismanagement.

The Greens transport spokesman, Amanda Bresnan, has welcomed the study but has accused the Government of repeated rhetoric and inaction on the issue.

Ms Bresnan says it is time public transport was given higher priority.

[The study is now open for public comment.](#)

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Park's million dollar makeover



Member for Brindabella, Joy Burch, inspects Tuggeranong Town Park with TCC President, Darryl Johnston.

ALP Member for Brindabella, Joy Burch, has invited Tuggeranong residents to provide input into the development of a Master Plan for Tuggeranong Town Park.

The ACT Government has allocated \$80,000 for the preparation of the Master Plan as part of the Town and District Park Upgrade Program, with a further \$1 million to implement improvements arising from the consultation and Master Plan. Ms Burch said the Master Plan will provide a planning and concept design document to guide future improvements as well as management, maintenance and upgrade of the park over the next five to 10 years, as funding is available.

"Tuggeranong Town Park is a popular and important area of open space adjacent to the Town Centre providing a range of recreational opportunities for the Tuggeranong community," Ms Burch said.

"Since the Town Park opened in 1995, community needs and demands have changed with the increase in residential development adjacent to the Town Centre. It is important to plan for the next stage in the park's life as the demand for higher quality recreational facilities increases," she added.

Ms Burch said a comprehensive consultation process will be held with key ACT Government and community stakeholders.

"Local residents, park users and people interested in the future of the park are invited to provide input into the development of a Master Plan by attending a

drop-in consultation session on site on Thursday, 3 May 2012 between 12:30 pm and 2 pm, or attending a consultation session at the Tuggeranong Library between 5:30pm and 7pm," Ms Burch said.

"Feedback forms are also available from the Tuggeranong Library, Tuggeranong Canberra Connect Shopfront or online at timetotalk.act.gov.au. Following input from key stakeholders and the wider community, a draft Master Plan will be developed and released for further public comment. The final Master Plan is expected to be completed mid-2012," she said.

"The ACT Government is committed to providing high quality recreation areas and facilities in the ACT. I encourage all interested people to get involved and provide their valuable input to this important project," she concluded.

TCC President, Darryl Johnston has welcomed the initiative and encourages residents to participate. He said this project will enhance the Town Park and make it a vibrant attraction and a focal point for family outdoor activities.

The consultant, Oxigen, who specialises in landscape architecture, urban design and planning, has been commissioned to prepare the document. Consultation closes 5pm Friday, 18 May 2012 for the first stage and there will be further opportunity for comment on the Draft Master Plan in June.

For more information visit timetotalk.act.gov.au

Hazzard postpones decision on South Tralee



NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure,
Hon Brad Hazzard MP

NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard, has postponed making a decision on South Tralee.

In a letter to the Tuggeranong Community Council, Mr Hazzard said, *"I have postponed making a decision on the draft Plan (rezoning of South Tralee) until such time as the Commonwealth Government has completed its work on various National Aviation Policy issues, including appropriate planning guidelines regarding aircraft noise and the consideration of the future aviation needs of the Sydney Basin."*

The letter continues, *"The NSW Government has received strong representations from both the Commonwealth and the ACT Governments regarding the potential impacts the development of South Tralee may have on aircraft operations in the Region. An independent review of the draft Plan by the Planning Assessment Commission (the PAC) also indicated it was appropriate to await the Commonwealth's implementation of its National Aviation Policy before making a final decision on Tralee. I can assure you I will also closely consider the representations of the Tuggeranong Community Council when making any final decision on this matter in the future."*

Mr Hazzard's letter follows Council correspondence to the NSW Premier, Barry O'Farrell. In that letter TCC President, Darryl Johnston said Tuggeranong residents and the TCC have been opposed to this development for almost a decade.

He said the Council and residents fear that eventually the new and future resi-

dents of Tralee will suffer from unacceptable levels of aircraft noise.

"Their objections will eventually lead to flight paths being relocated over areas of Queanbeyan and Canberra that presently do not suffer from aircraft noise," Mr. Johnston said.

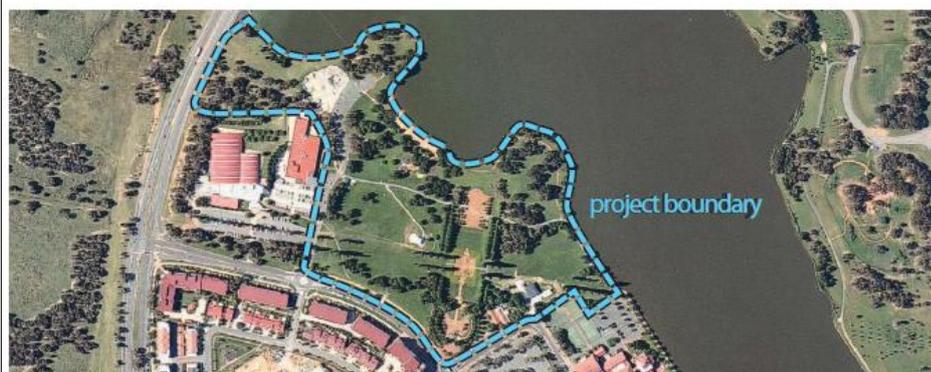
In his letter Mr. Johnston also reminded the Premier of successive official correspondence, reports and studies dating back to 2002 that had advised and recommended against residential development at South Tralee.

He also questioned how the NSW Government could now approve South Tralee given the Premier's statements in the media advocating Canberra Airport's

"Given your comments in the media, the statements and reports I have referred to you, the TCC believes it would be foolish to approve residential development at South Tralee," Mr Johnston wrote.

"While the TCC is opposed to homes being built at South Tralee it is NOT opposed to the land being developed for light industry and an extension to the existing Hume industrial estate."

"Such a development would help to provide jobs for Canberra/Queanbeyan residents and would go hand in hand with the ACT Government's plans to establish an employment corridor between Symonston and Hume. We believe that this would be a better outcome for all concerned," Mr Johnston concluded.



Tuggeranong Town Park

Master Plan Information Session

A Master Plan is being prepared for the Tuggeranong Town Park to guide its future development and create a more interesting, welcoming and vibrant place.

Have your say!

You are invited to have your say on the preparation of the Tuggeranong Town Park Master Plan by attending one of the following information sessions. The project team will be available to hear your ideas and answer any questions.

Session 1

When: 12:30pm - 2:00pm Thursday 3 May 2012

Where: Tuggeranong Town Park by the stage

Session 2

When: 5:30pm - 7:00pm Thursday 3 May 2012

Where: Tuggeranong Library, Cowlshaw Street

Feedback forms are also available online at timetotalk.act.gov.au. Consultation closes 5pm Friday 18 May 2012.

Your comments will be considered in the preparation of the draft Master Plan which is expected to be on display in June for your review and comment.

Project benefits:

- Revitalised community space with new walking and cycling paths.
- Improved facilities including shaded play equipment and bbq and picnic areas.
- Enhanced lake foreshore.
- Improved access and connection to the Tuggeranong Town Centre.



ACT
Government

For more information please visit timetotalk.act.gov.au or contact Canberra Connect 13 22 81

Chisholm developments under the spotlight



Residents express concerns over a proposed development near Chisholm shops at an onsite meeting.

Two planned developments in Chisholm have recently come under the community spotlight.

One calls for development of at least 21 dwellings on what has become a neighbourhood park on the corner of Heagney and Deamer Crescents. The other proposal calls for the construction of a four storey assisted housing complex on the corner Proctor and Mead Streets behind the Chisholm shopping centre.

The Heagney/Deamer site proposal was the subject of an onsite public meeting at which residents called for the land to be retained as open space and developed into a neighbourhood park. More than 90 residents attended the meeting.

They argued the land had been vacant for almost 30 years and over that time had become a safe and secure playground for children. They said it is the only park in the neighbourhood that is large enough for children to fly kites, kick balls and throw frisbies. Parents said it is ideal as children can play in the park while parents can still keep an eye on them from their nearby homes.

Following public outcry Economic Development Minister, Andrew Barr,

announced the planned auction of the land would now be delayed.

He said he would be writing to Chisholm residents advising them the sale of the land had been delayed to allow a workshop with residents to consider a range of options for the development of the site.

Meanwhile, a group of Chisholm residents has expressed concerns over plans for the sale of land at the corner of Proctor and Mead Streets for the development of a four storey housing project.

The land is directly behind Chisholm shops and adjoins the proposed site of a new Aldi supermarket.

TCC President, Darryl Johnston, has already expressed concerns over the scale of the development and the impact it will have on traffic flow, particularly in Benham Street.

He said Benham Street already carries buses, general traffic, large delivery trucks to Coles and smaller trucks servicing the other shops in Chisholm.

"Add to this delivery trucks to a future Aldi supermarket and cars for the residents of a new residential development," Mr. Johnston said.

"I am concerned the Chisholm shopping centre and surrounding streets will end up like Erindale with its traffic and parking chaos," he said.

Mr. Johnston said he believed all plans for the development of land behind the Chisholm shops require a rethink.

"If this area is to be developed then we must ensure that we get it right. Perhaps what is required is a Master Plan as is being prepared for Calwell," he said.

News in Brief

ACT worst retail figures

The latest CommSec economic report shows the ACT has the worst retail sector in the country and highlights the extent of Canberra's cost of living crisis, according to ACT Shadow Treasurer and member for Brindabella, Brendan Smyth.

Mr. Smyth said the report ranks the ACT at the bottom of all the States and Territories in terms of retail spending.

"It is clear that ACT Labor's ever increasing cost of living pressures are having a severe impact on Canberrans' bottom line," Mr. Smyth said.

Bad state of environment - Greens

Greens Environment spokesperson, Shane Rattenbury MLA, has described the recently released State of the Environment Report, as an illustration of 'business as usual' policies driving the Territory in completely the wrong direction.

Mr. Rattenbury said the good news stories coming out of this report are almost all community based actions. He said the failings are largely on the Government's end.

"Probably the biggest concern with the release of this report today is to reflect on what's happened since the last State of the Environment report in 2007," he said.

Call for DV306 submissions

The Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services has invited submissions to its inquiry into Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No.306: Residential and Sub-division Policy Review.

Written submissions should be lodged by 1 June 2012, however extensions may be granted. They should include full name, postal address and telephone number. Electronic lodgement is preferred and an indication if the author/s wish to appear before the Committee.

For further information contact:
(02) 6205 0435 or
committees@parliament.act.gov.au



Pollution flows down drain



Frothy water flowing down the stormwater channel at Isabella Plains

An Isabella Plains resident has raised concerns over what appears to be soapy water flowing into Lake Tuggeranong.

The resident took a series of photos of what she described as frothy and soapy water flowing down the open concrete channel near Isabella Drive.

She contacted the Tuggeranong Community Council saying she was walking her dog at about 10.30am on 16 April along the open drain parallel to Isabella Drive.

"I noticed bubbles in the water. There was considerable froth going from as far as the eye could see in both directions," she said.

"I took photos. My concern is that someone is putting a huge amount of something into our water way and it's going unfiltered into Lake Tuggeranong."

She said she was concerned over the environmental impact all this frothy water was having on Lake Tuggeranong.

The resident said she immediately attempted to contact Canberra Connect to alert them to the problem but was left hanging on hold on her mobile phone for 20 minutes.

She emailed the Tuggeranong Community Council and attached the photos.

President Darryl Johnston said an official complaint has been lodged with Canberra Connect that includes copies of the photos and he hoped to have a response soon.

Bus trial for visually impaired

ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher, recently launched a three-month trial of bus hailing kits to improve accessibility to bus services for vision impaired passengers.

Ms Gallagher said the bus hailing kit is a pocket-sized set of numbered cards that are printed with large-text and Braille numbers designed for use by visually-impaired people to help signal the bus route they wish to board.

She said the kits come with a clear plastic pouch that has three slots in which to place the desired route number. The inserts that are used are in large print to help customers and drivers see them easily.

"A customer waiting at the bus stop will hold the kit at shoulder height to signal to the driver that they need to catch the route indicated by the hailing kit," the Chief Minister said.

The bus hailing kits have been supplied by the public transport provider, Transpo, in the city of Ottawa, Canada. Vision Australia and Guide Dogs ACT will con-

tinue to be consulted during the trial to assist in the development and implementation of the kits.

Trial participants will be asked to provide feedback on ease of use, functionality, size, convenience, Braille legibility, driver response and night-time usage. Factors observed by trial participants will be noted and used to improve the kits prior to the implementation.

Ms Gallagher said this service is ideal for when a customer is waiting at a stop where multiple routes stop, such as Cohen Street, Alinga Street and Northbourne Avenue. She said the ACT Government is working to make bus travel more accessible and the recently released draft Transport for Canberra strategy outlines the goal of getting 23% of Canberrans to use public transport, walk or cycle to get to and from work by 2016.

"In addition to the bus hailing kit trial, a project is also currently underway to upgrade 300 bus stops across Canberra to improve accessibility for people with disabilities," she said.

Source: Media Release

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Greens push for pedestrian safety



The ACT Greens have promised a focus on improving safety and convenience for Canberra's pedestrians, with an initiative to build more pedestrian crossings and slow down traffic in pedestrian areas.

Greens Transport spokesman and Member for Brindabella, Amanda Bresnan says that while Canberra generally has excellent arterial roads to carry motorists quickly between its town, group and local centres many of these centres are still difficult and dangerous for pedestrians.

She said it can particularly affect older Canberrans and children.

"Our policy is to make these areas safer and friendlier to pedestrians wherever we can," Ms Bresnan said.

"This can usually be done without impacting on motorists' travel times," she said.

"An important part of the Greens' transport strategy is to reduce traffic speeds at key pedestrian areas such as schools, shopping centres and community centres, and to install new pedestrian crossings and footpaths," she said.

"We have already made submissions to the upcoming ACT Budget for \$3million over three years to improve walking paths and crossings around the Erindale Centre."

"Through the Parliamentary Agreement we also secured 40kmh speed limit trials in Gungahlin and Woden town centres, as well as millions of extra dollars to improve paths. In addition, the ACT Greens want to:

- Lower traffic speed limits in select areas such as shopping precincts and community facilities such as

schools and aged care;

- Review the guidelines governing the setting of speed limits, and the installation of pedestrian crossings, to favour safe and easy pedestrian travel;
- Install new pedestrian crossings and footpaths. Many pedestrian routes still lack safe crossings, and 20% of Canberra streets have no footpaths.

Ms Bresnan said the Greens have identified many areas around Canberra that need safer crossing points or slower speed limits.

"These include the Erindale Centre, Deakin School, Mawson Shopping Centre, Florey Shops, Woden Town Centre, and Cooleman Court," she said.

"It is a Greens' priority to improve conditions for pedestrians in Canberra. Everyone is a pedestrian, whether they usually drive a car, catch a bus or ride a bike, and we need to ensure they are central to transport planning," Ms Bresnan concluded.

Source: Media Release

Corbell defends ACAT

Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell, has defended the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT).

In a letter to the Combined Community Councils Mr. Corbell said the ACAT was established to provide a forum for administrative law matters with comparably low application fees where parties primarily bear their own legal costs.

At its last meeting the Combined Community Councils passed a motion expressing its concerns about the role of the ACAT in resolving planning disputes.

The Councils said residents and residents groups can incur high legal costs when battling against developments and wealthy developers.

Mr. Corbell said parties are not required to be legally represented in the ACAT, and as such each party's costs are within their control and that ACAT offered mediation at no cost to parties.

"While I am sympathetic to the costs that can be incurred by individuals in conducting litigation, I remain confident that the ACAT strikes an appropriate balance between the significant legal and other costs incurred by developers," Mr. Corbell said.

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Off Beat

"Beer me up Scotty"



Scientists at the Queensland University of Technology's new zero gravity research facility have been testing the effect of zero gravity on the carbonation and palatability of beer in space, anticipating a burgeoning space tourism industry.

The microgravity tower is the only one of its kind in the southern hemisphere and one of only a few worldwide able to simulate the low gravity level present in space, here on Earth. Experiments are loaded into a 400 kg metal capsule, winched 27 m to the top of the tower and then released, allowing the experiment to freefall and experience two seconds of microgravity prior to bringing it to a rest at the bottom of the tower.

The beer experiments prepared the space beer for the world's first "space beer taste test" in February, when an astronaut aboard a parabolic trajectory microgravity flight out of Cape Canaveral, drank 6 x 150 ml samples of "space beer" which passed the taste and carbonation tests.

The university's Professor Ted Steinberg says, "The beer experiments assisted in determining the correct level of carbonation, so that it can in the future be appropriately enjoyed by humans in reduced gravity."

Source: www.sciencealert.com.au



May 1: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club

1: [World Asthma Day](#)

11 to 20: Canberra International [Music Festival](#)

13: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets

20: [RSPCA Million Paws Walk](#).

Jun 5: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club

10: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets

23-24: [Lifeline Book Fair](#). Vikings Erindale

30: Applications close for the [Community Centenary Initiatives Fund](#)

Jul 3: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club

8: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets

Aug 7: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club

12: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets.

Sept 4: TCC Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club.

9: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets.

Valley Voice



Tuggeranong Community Council's newsletter, *Valley Voice* is designed to inform Valley residents of issues that impact on them and to act as a vehicle for other community groups and organisations to communicate with residents.

Valley Voice is produced on a regular basis and is circulated amongst TCC members and friends. If you wish to receive copies of *Valley Voice* in the future please email info@tuggcc.com.

Meanwhile, if you have articles or images you wish to contribute to *Valley Voice* please email them to info@tuggcc.com by the 20th of each month.

Please feel free to pass *Valley Voice* on to those who you think may be interested in its contents.

Valley Voice is published by the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC). Material in this publication comes from a variety of community and government based sources and therefore does not necessarily reflect the views of the TCC.

Material submitted to the TCC for inclusion in *Valley Voice* may be subject to editorial changes. Material that includes dates, times and contact details is correct at the time of publishing. Therefore, the TCC cannot be held responsible if it is not informed of any changes to that information prior to publication.

Tuggeranong Community Council.
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Tuggeranong Community Council Inc. (TCC) is an incorporated, voluntary, not for profit, non political, community based association operating within the Tuggeranong district of the Australian Capital Territory.

TCC is formally recognised as the peak community representative body in Tuggeranong promoting the goals and aspirations of local residents and other community groups and organisations within the Tuggeranong Valley. TCC receives partial funding from the ACT Government.

Tuggeranong Community Council acknowledges its supporters.



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