



PRESS RELEASE

TCC CALLS FOR DEFERRAL OF CAPITAL METRO CONSTRUCTION

At its meeting on the 1 July 2014, the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) voted firmly in favour of a motion opposing the first stage of the Capital Metro project, namely the 12 km Gungahlin-Civic tramway, principally on the grounds of the most likely, very high costs and there being no perceived benefit for Tuggeranong residents, now or in the future.

The ACT Government owes it to every Canberran taxpayer, to be frank about the potentially staggering direct and opportunity costs of this 12 km of tramway and should make public, without undue delay, the most probable estimates of the initial capital cost, ongoing annual net operating costs and the annual Government subsidy for the Gungahlin-Civic link, to be borne by taxpayers.

If the Government believes that there is "...a shift in the debate as people get into the detail...", as claimed by Minister Corbell (Canberra Times, 11Jul14), let it sponsor an impartial, statistically significant survey to prove Canberra-wide support for the project, but before any contractual commitment to start construction, with the survey questionnaire to be endorsed by the Community Councils and other representative associations.

The Government does not have a mandate to start construction of this most expensive and controversial of projects and the Parliamentary Agreement for the 8th Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, 2 November 2012, does not constitute such a mandate. While an unbiased public survey would help immensely to clear the air, the Government should defer any contractual commitment for construction of the tramway so as to seek a clear mandate for the project at the next election.

CAVEAT

The foregoing statement about the Capital Metro project, by the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) does not claim to represent the views of any other association or group within Tuggeranong.

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