



Minister Meegan Fitzharris MLA
Minister for Transport Canberra and City Services
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Re: **Light Rail Route to Woden.**

Dear Minister Fitzharris,

I was very concerned when I heard mentioned in Hansard 6 June 2018 that the Chief Minister stated: *The city to Woden stage of the light rail network provides an essential north-south transport spine, allowing Gungahlin residents to easily get to work in the Barton or Woden regions, and allowing residents to travel to and from an employment hub in Dickson. Indeed, as more commonwealth and ACT government and private sector employment is located in the Gungahlin town centre, it will enable residents all the way along that transport spine from Woden through to the inner south and the inner north to make their way to Gungahlin for work.*

Tuggeranong residents have expressed concerns regarding the impact this decision might have on residents that live in the south of Canberra and their future transport needs. The community have been told that Light Rail would become the back bone of the transport system in Canberra and would facilitate fast connections to major regions like Civic and the various town centres. However, this does not appear to be the case. It looks as though Stage 2 is being built to support those in the north of Canberra to encourage better use of Stage 1 of the line and give northern residents more opportunities to access various work places. In contrast, residents from the south will have a longer trip to Civic and beyond (aside from people who work in Parkes or Barton).

The main argument for Light Rail has been to provide the people of Canberra with an efficient direct transport spine. The proposed route from Civic to Woden supports residents from Gungahlin and the inner north to the detriment of residents from Woden, Weston Creek and Tuggeranong. The proposed route will take longer to get to the city than the current Blue Rapid bus route for people in Woden, Weston Creek and Tuggeranong.

Another concern once Light Rail is up and running is whether the Blue Rapid bus service from Woden to the city will be discontinued. If the service is discontinued then residents on the southside of Canberra will have a less direct and more time-consuming route to the city from Woden (possibly an extra eight to ten minutes in travel time, maybe longer with changeover from bus to tram at Woden). Tuggeranong residents are concerned with the amount of extra time the proposed Stage 2 route will add to their current journey.

It would be appreciated if the points raised could be considered and subsequent clarification provided to the residents of the south side of Canberra as they will be directly affected by the proposed Light Rail route.

Yours sincerely,
Glenys Patulny
President, Tuggeranong Community Council
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