



**Canberra
Business
Chamber**

SUBMISSION TO ACT Government Transport Canberra

RE: Have Your Say: Feedback on Stage 2 Light Rail proposed route and selection of alignment and stop locations

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Canberra Business Chamber

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ABOUT CANBERRA BUSINESS CHAMBER

Canberra Business Chamber (CBC) represents private sector businesses in Canberra. We support business growth by connecting, advising and educating our members and by advocating for policy and investment decisions which will facilitate economic development in the Canberra Region. Canberra Business Chamber is the leading voice of business in a growing regional economy with increasing global reach.

SUPPORT FOR CANBERRA'S LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM

CBC openly supports the ACT Government in its commitment to providing an integrated transport solution for Canberra. The current construction activity clearly indicates to residents and visitors alike that our city is in a strong state of economic growth, and is demonstrating responsibility in creating a sustainable city. The ongoing development of the light rail system beyond its current stage illustrates a genuine and conscientious response to the above-mentioned indicators.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED STAGE 2 ROUTE AND IMPLICATIONS OF DESIGN

The proposed Stage 2 extension of Canberra's Light Rail system, from the City to Woden, will be a key addition to implementing an integrated transport solution for the City.

CBC commends the proposal and makes the following submission in response to the request from Government on feedback of design and route options for Stage 2:

CBC's preferred proposed Route is 2b.

Encompassing Barton in the route embeds the value of the light rail transport system as more than simply a commuter route. It reinforces the benefits to the City of tourism, as the cultural institution precinct and hotels in Barton are made accessible through the proposed route, giving visitors to the city enhanced ease and capacity to move across the city. This route also provides greater access for workers to office buildings in Barton- a highly populated workforce area.

Extending the route to the hospital is seen by members as a valuable and logical linkage to prioritise in this early stage.

CBC's position on the alignment of the route around London Circuit errs towards taking the west side route, with some qualifications:

CBC recognises that both sides of the city rely on ease of access provided by comprehensive transport options.

CBC emphasises the need for Government to prioritise and extend its commitment to build a comprehensive light rail network and recommends ensuring Stage 3 encompasses the City East/ Russell /Airport precinct. The future success of the light rail is dependent on the system being comprehensive, allowing users to move around the network in a logical and functional manner.

The stop on the west side of London Hill needs to be aligned in front of QT to best facilitate pedestrian and cycle access from west to east.

The wayfinding signage, lighting and pedestrian pathway and cycleways to facilitate crossing the London Circuit precinct and accessing the city safely and in an integrated manner are key to east west integration of movement. This requires significant improvements to the current state of access and integration.

That mitigation of the impact of ongoing construction in the city area be borne in mind and managed carefully, in particular the impact on parking availability.

CBC makes the additional comments:

That passenger services continue with continuity right through the city between Stages 1 and 2 without the need for transfer in the city.

That the Government continues to investigate lower cost per km light rail construction principals as it builds the business case to progress Stage 2.

That comprehensive integration with bus services; Park and Ride; and Active Travel initiatives including Park and Pedal; be prioritised, as the key to comprehensive passenger activation along Adelaide Avenue and further south towards Tuggeranong.

For further details contact:

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