



**Canberra  
Business  
Chamber**

SUBMISSION PAPER

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# Inquiry into Commonwealth and Parliamentary approvals for the proposed Stage 2 of the ACT light rail project

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## Introduction

The Canberra Business Chamber supports the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories inquiry into Commonwealth and Parliamentary approvals for the proposed stage 2 of the ACT light rail project. The Chamber welcomes the broad scope in which the Committee is prepared to look at this matter and seeks to put forward its views to the Committee for its deliberations. The Chamber would also welcome the opportunity to present before the Committee to elaborate on any of the matters discussed within this submission.

Members of the Chamber are interested in business growth and prosperity of the Canberra and the region and recognise that stage 2 of the ACT light rail project will be a major contributor to the visitor and local economies.

## About Canberra Business Chamber

The Chamber is an employer organisation representing over 5,000 organisations and businesses in direct membership, and over 10,000 affiliated industry and association groups across the ACT Region. Members of the Chamber are typically small to medium sized businesses and community organisations.

The Chamber's aim is to represent the interests of the private sector, by providing access and avenues for members and industry to both Federal and Local Government to assist shape and develop policies that are in the best interest for ACT business.

This submission is in response to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories inquiry into Commonwealth and Parliamentary approvals for the proposed stage 2 of the ACT light rail project.

## Canberra Business Chamber Response

The Chamber 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.

## The key Issues

- 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. The Chamber also sees this route as an integral part of boosting visitor transport in and around Barton, particularly to the national institutions.

- 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.
- The Chamber's position on the alignment of the route around London Circuit errs towards taking the west side route, with some qualifications: the Chamber recognises that both sides of the city rely on ease of access provided by comprehensive transport options. The Chamber emphasises the need for a further development of light rail that 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.