



MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA

Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research
Minister for Transport and Municipal Services
Assistant Health Minister

Member for Molonglo

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

I refer to a letter of 4 May 2016 regarding petition No 2-16 lodged by Ms Vicki Dunne MLA and received by the Legislative Assembly on 24 May 2016.

My response to this petition for tabling is at Attachment A.

Yours sincerely

Meegan Fitzharris MLA
Minister for Transport and Municipal Services

1/7/2016

Attachment A

PETITION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY No 2-16 LODGED BY MS VICKI DUNNE MLA ON 4 MAY 2016.

REGARDING: PETITION FOR ACTION TO REINSTATE ACTION BUS SERVICES AND COVERED BUS STOPS WITH SEATING ON BURKITT ST PAGE

Petition: To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory.

This petition of certain residents of the Australian Capital draws to the attention of the Assembly that ACTION bus services on Burkitt Street, Page, ACT have been discontinued. As a result, public transport options for the residents of three retirement villages and aged-care centre on Burkitt Street are significantly limited.

Your petitioners therefore request the Assembly to reinstate ACTION bus services and covered bus stops with seating on Burkitt Street, Page, ACT as a service to the hundreds of aged residents living in the retirement villages as well as for other local residents.

Response: I understand the concerns that you have raised and agree that public transport is important for many Canberrans who may have no other means of transport. This is particularly true of older citizens who rely on public transport for accessing health services and facilities. I am advised that the services in Burkitt Street were removed following a review of the bus network. The review found that there was low patronage of the services in the area.

From June 2011 to August 2014 (the last week of Network 12) the daily average boardings at Burkitt Street bus stops were 4.2.

The ACT Government has introduced a free Flexible Bus Service, which may be an alternative option for the elderly or people with disabilities wishing to catch buses. This service exists to provide assistance to people with physical limitations in accessing regular public transport services.

In the inner Belconnen area, which includes Page, passengers can contact the Community Transport Coordination Centre on (02) 6205 3555 and access services to Belconnen Mall, Jamison Centre and Calvary Hospital or other areas within this zone as the service is flexible by nature. Passengers can elect to be picked up from their residence or from their nearest bus stop.

At this stage there are no plans to re-establish bus services along Burkitt Street, Page. The combination of Community Transport and minibus transport provided by individual retirement villages is catering for passengers who are unable to walk to nearby bus stop.