



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Tom Duncan

Clerk

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter regarding petition E-PET-002-23, lodged by Ms Jo Clay MLA, regarding restoring a bus route through the Australian National University (ANU) campus.

Transport Canberra runs a network of 458 buses, providing 4029 weekday daily services and covering 97,000km per day, throughout our beautiful but widely dispersed city. The network is designed to provide the best coverage possible for Canberrans, balancing the need to provide a comprehensive network with value for money. The network is regularly reviewed to ensure we are providing a quality service for Canberrans as new suburbs are created, and demographic needs change.

Transport Canberra has not operated a bus route that travels from Daley Road to Civic since the introduction of the new bus network in April 2019. The former route was a variation to the route 3 on weekdays and 934 on weekends. Unfortunately, these routes were very poorly patronised.

Transport Canberra currently provides bus service every few minutes to major stops at ANU on Barry Drive and Marcus Clarke St, including three rapid route services (R2, R3 and R4) and local route services (30, 50, 51). Local route 53 also provides access to the southern side of ANU via the Liversidge St bus stop. In the longer term, the delivery of Light Rail Stage 2A will see the construction of the new Edinburgh Avenue stop which will improve access to the southern end of ANU Campus.

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The ACT Government acknowledges that while Daley Road North has access to frequent rapid services that public transport options to southern end of Daley Road are further away for those with mobility issues.

The ACT Government is aware that ANU has previously provided free shuttle bus services around the ANU campus. This included a 'Campus Traveller' which provided daytime shuttle bus services from Hancock Library to the National Library, and peak-hour services to Lindsay Prior car park, as well as a 'Night Bus' service which was operated by ANU security every night except Sundays. It is our understanding that ANU has discontinued these services. The ACT Government will engage with ANU on options to reinstate these shuttle services.

Analysis has shown that to reinstate bus routes from Daley Road to Civic, it would require 3-kilometre diversions to existing routes and approximately 12-14 minutes in additional run time per trip. The current bus network uses Transport Canberra's full bus fleet and all available staff. The Daley Road to Civic bus route cannot be reinstated at this time without reducing or removing services in other areas of the bus network. Given the considerable disruption from construction in and around the city (including at the ANU campus), and historically low patronage, Transport Canberra does not support the request to reinstate bus routes from Daley Road to Civic.

The Government's focus is on the reliability of the network during the disruption period. We will be conducting a review of the current timetable in the middle of the year, once traffic impacts are realised and tested across our network.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services

7 June 2023