



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 3-23, lodged by Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, regarding various matters in Casey and surrounding areas. I have addressed the petitioners concerns in the order they were raised.

The ACT Government is delivering on its 2020 election commitment to develop traffic models for the Gungahlin region. These models will assist with assessment of land use policy and inform evidence-based infrastructure planning and prioritisation of road network upgrades within the Gungahlin region – with accurate outputs such as forecast traffic volumes, travel times, queue lengths, and congestion delays.

The ACT Government is developing a Multimodal Network Plan (MNP) which will confirm the modal priorities and vision for key corridors and transport areas, including Gungahlin Town Centre and its surrounding corridors, including to the Casey Group Centre.

The ACT Government takes a considered approach to investing in transport infrastructure, including our road network, to ensure investment is consistent with the strategic priorities outlined in the ACT Planning Strategy, the ACT Climate Change Strategy and the ACT Transport Strategy.

Regarding car park access, TCCS will raise issues with access arrangements to the privately-owned open air carpark on Kingsland Parade with the shopping centre management which owns and operates the car park.

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The ACT Government has provided an extensive network of paths around Casey Shops for all types of users. The link between the Retirement Village and Casey Shops is well developed through a network of main and local community routes. Canberra's community footpaths have been delivered over many years to the design standards of the era in which they were built. Work is underway to better connect existing path networks and create new connections. This is a significant undertaking and TCCS approaches this task strategically by assessing and prioritising requests. TCCS will investigate opportunities to improve the path network in Casey, including maintaining and augmenting existing paths, and creating new path connections.

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.

Casey residents are currently serviced by local bus routes 25, 26, 27 and 28 which all operate at a minimum of 30 minutes service frequency during the day from 7am - 7pm. These local bus routes provide a direct service into Gungahlin where passengers can transfer onto light rail into the city or onto rapid route 8 into Belconnen. Transport Canberra remains committed to working towards increasing weekend local bus services to an hourly frequency, starting with Saturday services in the future.

Currently, light rail network planning is focussed on the options for Stage 2 City to Woden, before it moves onto planning Stage 3 from Belconnen to the City and investigating extension options to Russell and the Airport. Investigations for other light rail extensions are undertaken as part of the planning processes Transport Canberra conducts for future stages of the network. Light Rail connections are nominally informed by high utilisation of Rapid bus routes, which are supported by bus network patronage data analysis.

The ACT Government offers an online service, Fix My Street, which is a tool that lets ACT residents report issues and track the progress of a request. Residents may submit feedback anonymously or create an account to track the progress of their service requests. Residents can submit feedback and service requests relating to a variety of issues ranging from overgrown grass to nuisance animals.

In relation to the community consultation process for planning and decisions regarding the remaining parcels of land in Casey, the ACT Government has committed to preparing an Estate Development Plan (EDP) for the 2.5 hectares of undeveloped land adjacent to the Casey Group Centre between Kingsland Parade and Horse Park Drive (Blocks 12 and 13 Section 132 in Casey). The EDP will explore the development of a number of community facilities for ACT Health, Sport and Recreation and Emergency Services, and mixed use development (residential and commercial).

At a broad level, the need for community facilities was identified through the preparation of the Gungahlin Community and Recreation Needs Assessment released in March 2022. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate's (EPSDD) role is now to facilitate conversations between the community and relevant government agencies to ensure the land is effectively utilised to deliver the facilities that are appropriate for the Casey Group Centre.

The first meeting of community and ACT Government directorates was convened by EPSDD on 9 March 2023. The meeting discussed the scope of the EDP for Blocks 12 and 13 Section 132 Casey and the process for involving the community in exploring options and developing the EDP.

A consultancy tender to prepare the EDP closed on 13 April 2023 and a consultancy contract is expected to be in place in May 2023. The second community meeting that will see the exchange of information between the community and the consultant is expected to be scheduled for late June or early July 2023. Further meetings will then occur over the following six months leading to a draft EDP being produced by early 2024. The EDP process will then culminate with the lodgement of a formal Development Application which will be publicly notified. This will provide the community with a formal process to make comments which will be considered prior to finalising and approving the EDP during 2024.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services
5 June 2023