



Light Rail Stage 2: Frequently Asked Questions



The Light Rail Masterplan

Why does Canberra need light rail?

- Light rail will help achieve our vision of a more sustainable and modern city.
- Without improvements to public transport infrastructure, road congestion will continue to grow as Canberra's population increases, impacting on travel times and the overall quality of life that we enjoy in Canberra.
- We cannot leave public transport investment until traffic delays reach unacceptable levels and impose high social, environmental and economic costs to the community.
- The Australian Infrastructure Audit Reports prepared by Infrastructure Australia (May 2013) found that without additional investment, the cost of road congestion in the ACT will increase from \$208 million per annum in 2011 to \$703 million per annum in 2031.

What is being done to select future routes?

- The Light Rail Network has mapped the future potential light rail network. Workshops with key stakeholders were held in June 2014. Community consultation was undertaken in November 2015 with almost 2,000 responses received.
- The Light Rail Network will be an integrated land use and transport plan and will link residential development with areas of employment, retail and entertainment with high quality, fast and frequent light rail.
- The plan will deliver on government policies, including Transport for Canberra, the ACT Planning Strategy and the City Plan and will build on the government's work already undertaken on light rail and integrated land use and transport planning.

Selection of the City to Woden Corridor

Why was Woden chosen over the other corridors?

- The Woden to city corridor was selected as the most appropriate second stage corridor after we considered community feedback, existing technical constraints and the ACT Government's overarching vision for our city. Light Rail to Woden will create a public transport 'spine' for the city, connecting employment hubs, community services and commuters from the north to south.
- The Woden to city corridor also gives the ACT Government an opportunity to consider other infrastructure investments in the south and their synergies with Light Rail.
- Other preferred corridors identified through community consultation – Belconnen, the Airport and the Parliamentary Triangle – will remain priority corridors for future stages of the city-wide network.



Has a decision been made on the final route for Light Rail between Woden and the city?

- The selection of the route will be consulted on publicly and will be subject to future analysis before being finalised.
- Light Rail to Woden will travel through some of our most iconic areas, including the Parliamentary Zone and Lake Burley Griffin. Despite some of the difficulties the route presents, the ACT Government is committed to providing a Light Rail service for commuters in the south.

Stage 2 Business Case

Will there be a business case?

- Yes a business case will be developed in 2017 and include feedback from stakeholders and the community.
- Government will consider the business case at the end of 2017 or beginning of 2018.
- Similar to the Stage 1 approach, the Government anticipates it may release any such business case in due course.

What will the business case cover?

- The business case will consider the precise route, the procurement approach, detailed costs estimates, benefits, economic analysis and other matters.

Do you need to compulsorily acquire land?

- This will be a matter for when design develops and for inclusion in the business case. However, we do not anticipate the need to undertake any large scale land acquisitions.

What Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) do you need to go ahead with Stage 2?

- The BCR is just one tool the government will look at when making further commitments to the network. It may help shape how we develop Light Rail Stage 2, but does have constraints. It is not the determining factor in the ACT Government's decision making process. The ACT Government sees Light Rail Stage 2 as a city-shaping project.
- The ACT Government will look at a range of information during the next phase of analysis to make its decision, including community feedback.
- In the delivery of a wider light rail network across Canberra, it will be necessary to cross the Lake and enter the Parliamentary Zone. These will present some of the more significant engineering and planning challenges in construction of our city-wide network, but must be tackled to connect north and south.

Will Stage 2 be a PPP?

- It is too early in the planning process to confirm what model the Government would use to build further stages of the network, however, a PPP would be one option to be explored.



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Costs

What is the cost of Stage 2 light rail to Woden?

- It is too early to put a cost on Stage 2 of the light rail network. The cost will depend on the final route which is chosen among other factors.
- Building a city-wide light rail network is a significant investment in our city. Any estimated costs will only be released by the ACT Government following detailed analysis of the route and associated capital works.

Will you be releasing your current estimates of how much Stage 2 will cost?

- This is a significant investment in our city and any estimated costs will only be released following detailed analysis of the route alignment and associated capital works.

Are you going to get Commonwealth funding?

- Stage 2 of the light rail network will provide extensive benefits for the Canberra community, and will add to the character of the city.
- Light rail will also benefit the Commonwealth Government as a major employer and landholder in the corridor.
- The ACT Government will continue to discuss light rail with the Commonwealth Government for all stages of the network, which may include funding discussions.

Will this affect the ACT Government's credit rating?

- This is a major infrastructure project for the Territory and a significant investment for the city. There is no expectation that this would have any negative impact on our credit rating.

Is there a Stage 2 cost above which you won't proceed with the project?

- The Government has not set any cap for the project.
- When developed, the Government will consider the Stage 2 business case on its merits.

Links with Stage 1

Like Stage 1, will Stage 2 light rail be delivered through a Public Private Partnership (PPP)?

- It is too early to confirm what model the Government would use to build further stages of the network, however, a PPP would be one option that may be explored.

Will Canberra Metro build Stage 2 as an extension to the Stage 1 contract?

- Stage 2 to Woden will be physically connected to Stage 1. The contract methodology will be developed during preparation of the business case.



Will light rail vehicles travel from Gungahlin all the way to Woden? Or, will Stage 1 vehicles only travel to the City from Gungahlin and Stage 2 vehicles only travel from the City to Woden?

- There would be logical benefit in continuing to run Gungahlin trams through the city to Woden, providing a public transport 'spine' for our city and bridge the north to the south.
- The exact operation scenarios will be subject to further investigation and development.

Other Transport

Will we lose car lanes?

- Specific traffic arrangements will be investigated in the business case with further information to be provided to the community when available.

What will happen to buses along the corridor?

- Buses will continue to provide a vital feeder service for commuters from the suburbs to major transport hubs, such as town centres and key transport corridors.
- Precise adjustments to the bus network will depend upon the final design of the light rail corridor, which is still under development.

Will people be forced to change travel modes?

- We are providing more transport choices for Canberrans.
- Stage 2 will be designed and built to provide a seamless experience for passengers.
- Our new transport network will use a one ticket; one fare; one network approach for commuters.

Other projects

How will light rail stage 2 tie into the City to the Lake and Parkes Way project?

- Both Light Rail Stage 2 and the Parkes Way project will help shape urban development and traffic patterns in the City. The ACT Government is analysing both projects to take advantage of planning and design synergies which may exist between them.