

# LABOR'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN



## Labor's practical and proven plan for public transport

ACT Labor will deliver a practical, proven plan for public transport in Canberra. As Canberra's population nears half a million people, we are getting on with the job of building our city's future.

We've proven that Canberra benefits from an integrated public transport network. Work needs to continue on the north-south mass-transit line in light rail, supported by a growing electric bus fleet to the suburbs.

ACT Labor's progressive and practical public transport plan will see more rapid services, more frequent local services, more electric buses purchased than any other party, and we'll build light rail to Woden.

We will continue to deliver the public transport services our growing city needs, and we'll do it in a way that benefits all Canberrans.

## Building light rail to Woden

We know what it takes to build the infrastructure a future Canberra will need. Labor built light rail for Canberra, and we'll keep building it to support our growing city.

Canberrans love light rail - that's a fact - with more than 15 million passengers since it first launched in 2019.

A construction contract has been signed for light rail to Commonwealth Park. ACT Labor will start major works on this next stage of the network at the same time as finalising the raising London Circuit project, with operations expected to commence next term in 2028.

The expanded light rail depot at Mitchell is already complete in anticipation of extending the line to Commonwealth Park. A local team is starting to install batteries on all light rail vehicles, required for wire-free running through the city and through the parliamentary triangle.

ACT Labor will also continue to work in partnership with the Albanese Labor Government on the planning design for future stages of light rail to Woden. ACT Labor will continue to work through each milestone necessary to bring light rail to Woden, including environmental, works, parliamentary and planning approvals. We'll further develop the design in line with these approvals and consider a business case for stage 2B next term.

ACT Labor will also develop an integrated transport and land-use plan called the Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework to support the extension of the line.

## Labor's vision for a North - South light rail line

The extension of our mass-transit line in light rail is critical for our city's future. The only way to get over Lake Burley Griffin is by Commonwealth Bridge or Kings Avenue Bridge which will reach capacity during peak times with our city's population growth. Labor understands that building an inset bridge for rail (consistent with the original bridge design) will add much needed additional capacity to Commonwealth Avenue of up to 2500 people per hour. The 'alternative' of taking lanes of traffic out Commonwealth Avenue for a busway is not possible without causing major chaos for all traffic on the Southside. It's why even the Canberra Liberals have admitted before the election that their alternative busway plan won't work.

## 110 new zero-emission buses and electric depots

ACT Labor is making the right investments at the right time, to be a nation leader in the transition to a zero-emission public transport fleet. In Government, Labor purchased and leased 106 battery electric buses. Canberrans are already benefiting from cleaner, quieter, comfortable and reliable electric bus services.

A re-elected Labor Government will purchase an additional 110 electric buses over the next four years, more than any other party.

This purchase will see ACT Labor continue our pathway to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2040 or earlier and grow Canberra's bus network. Once delivered, one third of our fleet will be made up of zero emission buses.

ACT Labor's investment in Woden depot will make it the largest purpose-built electric bus depot in Australia and New Zealand when it opens at the end of this year. We have invested in the grid capacity for more than 100 new electric buses to be charged at the Woden facility and a further 200 at the upgraded bus depot in Tuggeranong.

ACT Labor will also plan and design a fourth bus depot on the northside to support the growth of our fully electric bus fleet and will continue to collaborate with the energy sector to upgrade the grid and support Canberra's transition to zero emissions.

## More services, more often

A re-elected Labor Government's investments in vehicles, depots, charging infrastructure and the workforce enables us to deliver more bus services more often.

By the end of the term, ACT Labor will deliver local service uplift to 20 minutes on weekdays across the whole of Canberra for all local bus routes. We will also continue to improve the frequency of weekend services, starting with increasing the frequency of local routes to hourly on Sundays during the day from next year.

ACT Labor will also expand its successful Rapid network by delivering three new Rapid bus services to better connect our growing city:

- A new Rapid service between Lanyon and the City to replace an existing peak bus service. We will consult with the community on the preferred route, which will be delivered alongside new and upgraded stops along Drakeford Drive to support better access to new and existing services.
- A new Rapid service to support growth in West Belconnen and replace the existing 'small bus' service from Ginninderry to Kippax. The route will run from Ginninderry, West-Belconnen and other Belconnen suburbs through to the City.
- A new rapid service for the Molonglo Town Centre following the completion of the new Molonglo River Bridge. We will consult with the community on the preferred route and connection to other town centres.

ACT Labor will also increase the frequency of existing Rapid services. We will increase services on the popular R2 Rapid from Belconnen to the City to better meet demand, and the R10 Rapid from Denman Prospect to the City as the population of Molonglo grows.

ACT Labor will construct immediate bus priority measures for the Belconnen to City Transitway following work on the updated feasibility study. We will also consider improvements to active travel infrastructure, upgraded bus stops and better connections to the future Bruce Health, Education and Sport precinct. ACT Labor will also look at options to improve public transport and general traffic flow on the Cotter Road from Streeton Drive to the Tuggeranong Parkway.

## A simpler way to plan and pay

ACT Labor knows that making it easy to pay for services is one of the key ways to encourage more people to catch public transport. The Government is in the final stages to deliver a nation leading public transport ticketing system, MyWay+.

The new service will put the power of our proven public transport system in the hands of Canberrans with new ways to pay and an easy to use smartphone app. Canberrans will be able to use their debit card, credit card, smart phone, smart watch, travel card or paper ticket to pay for public transport, and will be able to track their services in real time and plan their journey in a way that suits them.

## Promoting accessibility and safety on all public transport

Similar to our successful model on light rail, a re-elected Labor Government will recruit a dedicated team of transport officers for Transport Canberra's bus services. The new team will be a visible presence on buses and at transport interchanges to promote safety and accessibility for passengers and to deter occupational violence for bus drivers.

ACT Labor will review our transport laws to provide additional powers for transport officers to manage anti-social behaviour and promote safe journeys on public transport.

## More secure jobs for a growing network

More buses means more drivers, and ACT Labor's Public Transport plan includes the recruitment of over 350 new bus drivers over the term.

And ACT Labor will continue to ensure that bus operators have secure and well-paid public jobs.

Labor will also continue to invest in skilling our workforce to support the transition to zero emission bus technology and recognise the previous experience of our heavy vehicle automotive technicians. We can do this

because Labor delivered our skills commitment from the last election and set up Australia's first TAFE Centre of Excellence in electric vehicles at the Canberra Institute of Technology.

## Fare Free Fridays

We know that cost can be a barrier to using public transport. As we continue to grow and improve our public transport network, we want to incentivise Canberrans to use public transport and save on their travel costs.

We will introduce a fare-free Friday trial on public transport, saving Canberrans hundreds of dollars on their travel costs.

Canberrans will have access to free travel on all light rail services and bus services running from around 5:30am to 11:00pm, and light rail from 6:00am to 1:00am on Friday and into Saturday morning.

We anticipate that Fare Free Fridays will save a family with two adults and two children around \$1,000 a year if they catch a bus or light rail services.

Not only will the trial benefit Canberrans using public transport, it will also be a boost to local businesses by encouraging people into town centres on Fridays.