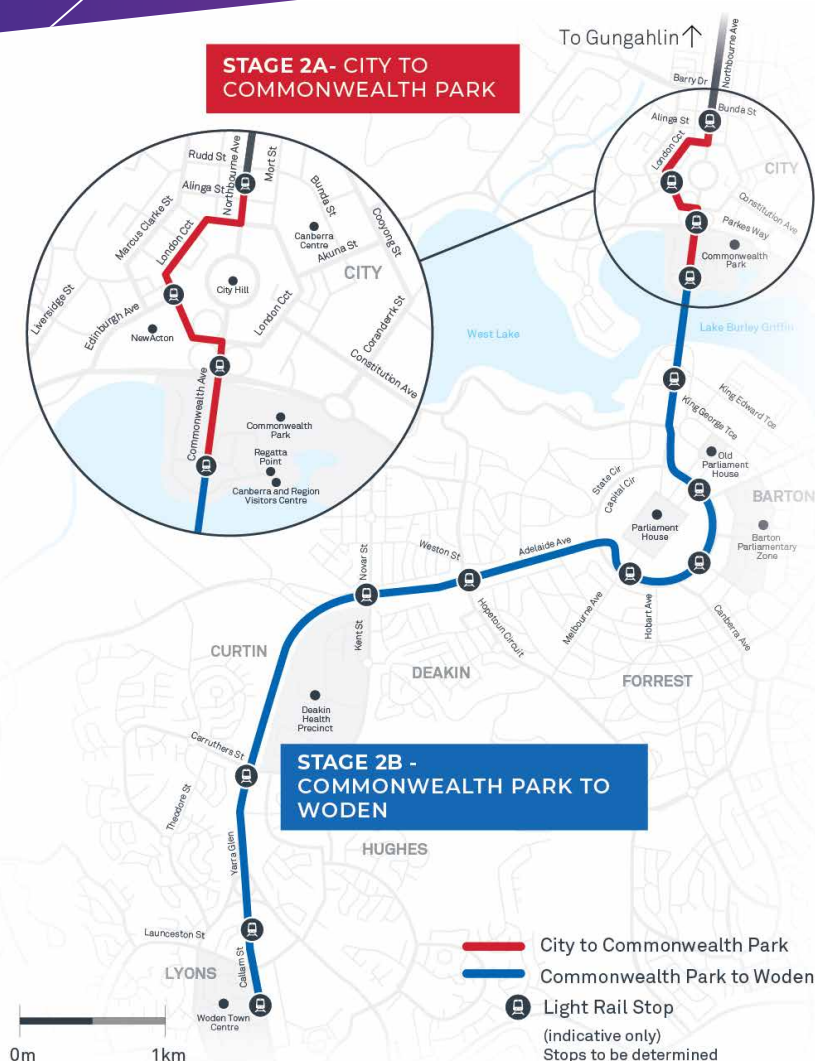


BUILDING LIGHT RAIL

SEP 2020



The ACT Government is progressing planning and approvals to expand the light rail network, ensuring we can keep Canberra moving and contributing to a better connected future for our growing city.

Having successfully delivered light rail from Gungahlin to the City, environmental approvals are now being progressed to bring light rail another step closer to Woden.

Light Rail Stage 2A, from the City to Commonwealth Park, is currently progressing through the environmental approvals process with the community encouraged to have their say. Early activities on this leg of the project are already underway, and with the planning approvals set in motion work will continue to refine the project's planning and design development.

Meanwhile, we continue to progress design development and approvals for Light Rail Stage 2B to extend the network from Commonwealth Park to Woden. This process is expected to take up to 18 months and will require detailed analysis of the project's route, environmental and heritage assessments, and consultation with a range of local and Federal stakeholders.

Demonstrating further enhancement to the network, a new light rail stop at Mitchell Stop was also recently approved. Construction is expected to commence on this stop in 2021 and once complete will offer a 15-minute journey to the City.

Light rail forms a key component of Canberra's public transport network, delivering more travel options, more capacity, higher frequency and greater reliability. These projects, along with the broader plan for the expansion of the network, are making it easier for people to get where they need to go - providing better connections between home, work and play.

STAGE 2A ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS – HAVE YOUR SAY!

Light rail to Woden is a complex project requiring a number of Territory and Commonwealth approvals. Over the next six months we will be prioritising the environmental approvals process for Light Rail Stage 2A.

The project team previously submitted a referral to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) under the Commonwealth Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, outlining the project's proposed route along London Circuit and Commonwealth Avenue and anticipated environmental and planning impacts. Subsequently, DAWE determined that the project was to be assessed as a controlled action through preliminary documentation.

As part of the next steps in the assessment process, we are now seeking community

feedback on the preliminary documentation over an extended period of 20 business days. The documentation recognises the socio-economic impacts and benefits the project will bring to Canberra, as well as considering key aspects of environmental significance, such as the impacts to the endangered golden sun moth population. These documents are on public exhibition until **4pm, Monday 14 September**, with all community members encouraged to have their say.

In addition to the EPBC approvals, the ACT Government will seek approval through a Development Application from the ACT Planning and Land Authority, and a Works Approval from the National Capital Authority. Both of these approvals processes will seek community and stakeholder comment on project plans.



LIGHT RAIL TERMINUS BEING DELIVERED IN WODEN

To keep Canberra moving and foreshadow light rail connecting to our southern suburbs, we will be delivering a new and enhanced public transport interchange in the heart of Woden.

The interchange is set to open in 2022 and will be future-proofed with a light rail terminus to ensure the area is ready for the light rail's future extension to Woden.

Until light rail is operational in Woden, the interchange, including light rail infrastructure, will be utilised for bus operations.

Enhanced lighting, shelter and wayfinding signage will also be delivered to help improve the journey experience for passengers. The interchange will provide active travel infrastructure, including links to existing primary cycling routes and storage facilities for bicycles.

This project is designed to support the seamless transition between bus services, light rail and active travel - making it easier for people to get where they need to go.

PROGRESSING PLANNING AND APPROVALS FOR LIGHT RAIL STAGE 2B

A rigorous environmental and planning approvals process is required prior to construction on Light Rail Stage 2B commencing.

As with Stage 2A, both Territory and Commonwealth approvals will be required to bring light rail from Commonwealth Park to Woden. This leg of the project will require a more lengthy assessment via a Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a process which is expected to take up to 18 months and require detailed analysis of the project's route, environmental and heritage assessments, and consultation with a range of local and Commonwealth stakeholders.

The extension to Woden will offer an additional 12 stops and is expected to move about 10,000 people every day. This project will be transformational for Canberra's south as it has been for Gungahlin to the City. It is also a crucial enabling project, allowing light rail to be connected to other areas in the future such as Tuggeranong.

As planning and design unfold, the public will have multiple opportunities to comment. We welcome your feedback at any time but especially during these statutory consultation phases.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS UNDERWAY ALONG STAGE 2A

Stage 2A will deliver three new stops in the City West area, servicing the local area and providing a greater connection between the city and the lake.

Over the last few months a number of site investigation works have been conducted in the City West area to support project development and planning.

These works include service utility surveys and geotechnical works and will continue intermittently throughout 2020. The results of these works will inform our detailed design, alongside ongoing stakeholder input and feedback.

MITCHELL STOP GETS GREEN LIGHT

To better address the needs of existing light rail users, and consider evolving and future development along the light rail corridor, the ACT Government recently announced the construction of the network's 14th light rail stop.

The new Mitchell stop will be located at the corner of Flemington Road and Sandford Street and will serve the area's growing business district. It will be an island stop design, allowing access to both sides of the platform via a signalised road crossing. Journey time from Mitchell to the City will be about 15 minutes, and to Gungahlin will be about nine minutes.

We are working towards the new stop becoming operational in 2021 with further project detail to be confirmed as the planning and approvals are progressed.

We will be engaging early with the local traders in Mitchell to support them during the project's construction phase, with lessons learnt during Stage One and local knowledge being drawn upon to advise construction schedules and plans. Before the end of the year the Development Application for this stop will be submitted giving the local community and businesses the chance to have their say.

CONTACT US

We are committed to keeping the conversation open and encourage the community to continue sharing their views. If you would like to be part of the light rail conversation, send us an email on lightrailtowoden@act.gov.au

Or to learn more and review the EPBC preliminary documentation, please visit www.yoursay.act.gov.au/light-rail-to-woden/epbc-stage2a

EPBC SUBMISSIONS CLOSE AT 4PM, MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2020.