

Dear Chief Planner,

The Fyshwick Business Association commends the government on embarking on this new District Strategy process of planning for our city.

As the voice of more than 1500 businesses and 16,000 workers we welcome the opportunity to participate in the ongoing conversation around best practice planning for a sustainable and prosperous future.

You would be aware that we have invested heavily in investigating opportunities for urban renewal in and around the Fyshwick precinct and that we recently launched the Eastwick Greenline vision.

We note the inclusion of Fyshwick in the Inner South District Strategy. We believe this acknowledges Fyshwick's immediate spatial interface with local planning features including current and future residential development and the Jerrabomberra wetlands. We further note Fyshwick's proximity to East Canberra in the district strategy context.

Below we have made some summary comments and more detailed comments and questions can be found in the attached table. Please note, our response is not intended to be an exhaustive interrogation of the draft district strategy, but rather an initial review highlighting key touch points for further consideration/discussion. It is broadly ordered according to the order in which matters are raised in the draft strategy and not according to any priority we wish to convey. To avoid repetition, we have attempted to limit responses to one reference to any particular issue, even though that issue may be mentioned more than once throughout the draft strategy.

Executive Summary

1. We believe the drawback in confining Fyshwick to one district for planning purposes is that this approach fails to acknowledge Fyshwick's importance to the whole of Canberra as an employment hub (Fyshwick is the third largest employment precinct in the ACT) and as a service provider to businesses, organisations and individuals across the region.
2. Much is made in the district strategies of the importance of maintaining critical freight corridors, yet the poor access to those corridors into and out of Fyshwick is largely unresolved in the current approach. Likewise, the current lack of usable public transport is not sufficiently dealt with in a future planning context, yet.
3. Infrastructure planning is fundamental to future planning yet Fyshwick remains without a promising future direction for the key transport infrastructure which will be vital to its continued effective operation as the services heart of the city, let alone future growth (particularly given the government's emphasis on freight transport). Fyshwick already suffers massive traffic congestion at peak times which negatively impacts business, and the precinct is sensitive to any change that will make this worse. We are keen to engage on how these issues can be better addressed by a wholistic approach between transport, planning and infrastructure development.
4. A focus of the district strategies is jobs, and where the population will work particularly in relation to where they live and how they will travel there, yet there is little recognition of the role of the private sector in job creation and almost nothing addressing how the strategies will deliver a planning regime conducive to business growth and provision of the oft-mentioned jobs.
5. Some concerning comments have crept into the strategy which indicate an intention to possibly restrict certain types of activities in Fyshwick. While we applaud the restriction of inappropriate activities such as the large scale waste facilities banned

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by the Assembly in 2021, we strongly oppose any move to prohibit activities which enhance the precinct and/or are an essential service provision to the businesses and workers, such as childcare centres. Indeed, provision should be made for allowing more such services and new offerings like supermarkets and other facilities as the working population grows and the adjacent residential population in East Lake increases.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our initial feedback and we look forward to continued discussions as new ideas grow and take shape. We are always available to contribute to consultations, working groups, and feedback sessions.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you require any clarification or wish to discuss any of our submission.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the President.

President
Fyshwick Business Association