



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Dr Janet Salisbury
janet.salisbury@biotext.com.au

Dear Dr Salisbury

Thank you for your email of 23 November 2009 about the Chorus of Women's Canberra Conversation on transport.

As your notes suggest, Ms Joy Burch MLA attended the Conversation on my behalf and a number of Government officers also participated. I understand that the Conversation was well attended and that the series to date has been a great success. I congratulate the Chorus of Women on its unique approach to community engagement.

Transport accounts for a significant proportion of the ACT's greenhouse gas emissions and the Government is committed to providing excellent sustainable transport options for the people of Canberra. As part of this long term transport planning, the ACT Government is currently developing a Sustainable Transport Action Plan 2010-16 (the STAP). The STAP will set out the next suite of actions required to achieve the Sustainable Transport Plan goal that 30% of journeys to work be made by sustainable transport modes by 2026.

A major component of the STAP is the development of a Public Transport Strategy, which I understand was discussed briefly at the Conversation. A strong, frequent public transport service between major centres to which you refer in your email will be an important part of the strategy and will help guide the development of the city around these transport corridors. In the future, as patronage improves and more people live along these routes, rapid transit modes such as light rail or bus rapid transit could be a more viable transport option for Canberra.

Regarding the cost of a light rail system for Canberra, you may wish to refer to the Light Rail cost-benefit analysis report that was prepared for the ACT Government by PricewaterhouseCoopers late last year seeking funding for the project from Infrastructure Australia (IA). The report found that a light rail system would cost around \$2 billion, with a

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benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.62. A copy of this report, which was prepared according to the methodology established by IA for transport projects of this type, is available on the Territory and Municipal Services website at: http://www.tams.act.gov.au/move/light_rail.

Thank you for taking the time to raise this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Stanhope', written in a cursive style.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Transport

10 DEC 2009