



MEDIA RELEASE

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Councils Welcome Light Rail Announcement

The Conservation Council together with the Canberra Business Council welcomed the announcement today that the ACT Government will be pursuing funding for Light Rail from the Commonwealth Building Australia Fund.

\$20 billion has been allocated to modernise Australia's infrastructure, including public transport, and to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. The Canberra Business Council has partnered with The Conservation Council to develop the case for a light rail network around Canberra.

Conservation Council Acting Executive Director, Genevieve Wauchope, and Canberra Business Council CEO, Chris Faulks, agree that Canberra is the ideal location for light rail.

"Spiraling petrol prices, congestion and greenhouse gas emissions have led the Canberra community to look for a new and re-invigorated public transport system and light rail is the solution to this city's transport problems," Wauchope said. "Light Rail will reinvigorate this city, and give Canberrans something to be proud of.

Canberra Business Council CEO, Chris Faulks, believes providing light rail to Canberra would be considerably cheaper than in any other Australian city as the Griffin Plan provides the planning infrastructure to support its installation.

"Infrastructure Australia has been tasked to 'unclog' roads and reduce transport emissions. There is a new opportunity here for the ACT Government to partner with private industry, with the backing of Infrastructure Australia, to bring light rail to Canberra," said Faulks.

Light rail provides a reliable, clean, climate-friendly way of commuting that breaks people's dependence on cars. Light rail brings life to a city, as community and businesses spring up along its lines.

Investment could very well protect Canberrans from further petrol price hikes, ease congestion, and save further spending on roads and parking.

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