



MEDIA RELEASE

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Councils Welcome Light Rail Announcement

Canberra Business Council and the Conservation Council welcomed the announcement today that the ACT Government will commission an independent business case for Light Rail for Canberra.

The two Councils were instrumental, earlier this year, in putting Light Rail back on the agenda for consideration.

“Canberra Business Council endorses the Government’s decisive action in commissioning a full business case and detailed implementation strategy for Light Rail,” Chris Faulks, CEO of Canberra Business Council said today. “The Council, in conjunction with the Conservation Council, has been lobbying the ACT Government to act quickly to develop the business case for Light Rail as part of an integrated transport system for the ACT and as part of the ACT’s bid to Infrastructure Australia. We are delighted with this announcement.”

“The Conservation Council is also pleased that the Government is moving to commission a business case for Light Rail,” Catherine Potter, Conservation Council Executive Director, said. “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 part of the solution to the city’s transport problems.”

Both the Conservation and Business Councils are agreed however that it is critical that broad stakeholder consultation is integrated into the development of the business case from the beginning and not as an afterthought or token add-on.

“Ideally the development of a business case for light rail would involve a consortia of expertise in financing, infrastructure and technical issues, planning, environmental and sustainability issues and community engagement. At the very least the conservation movement, the business sector and the community should all be involved, from the outset, in any consideration of Light Rail,” Faulks and Potter said.

Infrastructure Australia has been allocated \$20 billion to modernise Australia’s infrastructure, including public transport, and to reduce Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions.

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