

## **Light Rail and Public Transport Statement**

The Conservation Council supports an integrated transport plan for the ACT. A central feature should be a mass transit public transport system. Light rail can be part of such a system. Other elements of an integrated transport system should include:

- an integrated ticketing system
- co-location of stops for buses and trams and linking various transport options
- reduce vehicle speeds through speed limits and traffic calming, include private vehicle-free zones in suburbs and town centres
- appropriate urban planning along transport routes to enhance usage
- planning that supports walking, cycling and public transport by locating more homes within walking and cycling distances of workplaces, shops, schools, services and public transport.
- community engagement and ownership of our transport plan

The ACT is too dependent on the private motor car for transport. The Conservation Council supports policies that reduce this dependence and diversify the range of transport options.

The Conservation Council acknowledges the existing trees on Northbourne Avenue create a wonderful aesthetic. However, these street trees may need to be replaced regardless of the light rail project. They are not remnant trees but are planted, are not the best trees for naturally occurring soils and weather conditions, are deteriorating and will mostly need to be removed over future years for public safety or because they fall over by themselves.

Therefore we support the current trees being replaced by Australian trees and grasses, preferably endemic to the region and suited to the soils and expected climatic conditions for Canberra, that can be easily maintained and which for Northbourne Avenue contribute to a sense of a grand boulevard and entrance to Canberra.

There is no guarantee that if the light rail project did not proceed that the same amount of funding would be allocated to other public transport or active transport options. If a rapid transit public transport system is to be successful in the ACT it needs to be complemented by a range of other measures.

*Endorsed by the Board December 2015*

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