



Park 'n' Ride

Better Access to Public Transport



Canberra**liberals**

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A Canberra Liberal Government will fund upgrades at four additional locations for Park 'n' Ride facilities, to help commuters to reduce their reliance on car travel and to reduce parking pressures in town centres. This policy is a win for commuters and the environment.

The Canberra Liberals are not about forcing people out of their cars, rather we will entice commuters with access to safe, reliable and comfortable public transport.

Park 'n' Ride refers to a journey, usually to a work or education centre, that is completed partly by car and partly by public transport. The traveller drives their car to a convenient car parking location and completes the journey by transferring to the public transport service.

Park 'n' Ride has been practiced around the world for many decades, but in the ACT there has been limited support from government for this transport solution. It works at its best where there is a combination of high frequency bus services, adequate car parking and the convenience of a local shopping centre.

The growing cost of parking fees in Canberra's town centre locations has enhanced the attractiveness of Park 'n' Ride behaviour, because parking in small suburban centres is usually free and the cost of bus fares is less than the all day parking cost in town centres. Parking pressures in the City area have reached the point where car travellers find it difficult to find a park even if they are prepared to pay, so Park 'n' Ride is becoming attractive for more and more commuters.

The Stanhope Government Legacy

After Labor inflicted the double-whammy of closing schools and cutting bus services, Education Minister Andrew Barr famously declared on 8 June 2006 that Canberra's school children should start driving themselves to work!

It has been said that this was a Marie Antoinette moment for Andrew Barr – a telling sign of a Minister profoundly out of touch with the day-to-day realities for thousands of school children and their families.

Canberra's transport problems are not unique and many of the solutions to those problems are well known. Cities around the world face challenges in managing congestion on roads and dealing with shortages of car parking in their central business districts.

The Stanhope Government has refused to deal with these challenges and instead compounded the problems in our transport system in 2006 by making extensive cuts to

the ACTION bus network. The Stanhope Government budget cuts forced the introduction of unpopular route and timetable changes which involved substantial reductions in services. The impact on ACTION's patronage was so great that the government was forced to reinstate some funding in 2008, but the damage has already been done.

The Transport Workers Union, which represents the majority of ACTION staff, recently rated the ACTION bus network "the worst in 30 years". [SOURCE?]

According to a recent AAMI study (October 2007), Canberra has one of the lowest capital city public transport patronage levels in the country.

- Only 7% of Canberrans use the bus service for their regular travel to schools and work.
- This compares with usage rates of 20% and 19% in Sydney and Melbourne respectively.
- Adelaide has a long and thin geography like Canberra, but it achieves 13% patronage on its public transport system. This is almost double the rate of patronage in the ACT.

Blocking Plans for a Parking Debacle at Mawson

The Stanhope Government's announcement in the 2008 budget of plans to change Park 'n' Ride arrangements at Mawson reflects a lack of understanding of the factors that motivate travellers to adopt Park 'n' Ride.

The car parks at Mawson are currently free, so they are already well suited to use as a Park 'n' Ride facility during the day. However the Stanhope Government has an agenda to introduce paid parking at Mawson, in association with a Park 'n' Ride scheme. The 2008 budget includes plans to levy parking fees on Mawson shoppers in order to reap \$193,000 in revenue per year. The new parking fees will be a serious blow to the Mawson shops, as well as to surrounding clubs and community facilities.

The Stanhope Government's desire to exploit commuters financially sets a precedent and threatens the success of Park 'n' Ride facilities across Canberra.

- The Stanhope Government proposes to close off a space for 70 car parks as Park 'n' Ride and charge parking fees at all other spots.
- If the Mawson parks are segregated into a fee-paying zone and a non-paying zone, then the total area for potential Park 'n' Ride patronage will be artificially limited. This will constrict the growth of Park 'n' Ride at Mawson, not encourage it.

The Stanhope Government is cynically using Park 'n' Ride as a pretext for introducing a wave of pay parking meters across residential shopping centres. Mawson is the start of a wider revenue-raising push. The rollout of parking meters across suburban shopping centres will perversely have the effect of capping and limiting the potential for growth in Park 'n' Ride activity.

Mawson will not work as a Park 'n' Ride location unless the bus stops are moved closer to the shopping centre. Commuters will only be attracted to a Park 'n' Ride location if it offers proximity to high frequency bus services, as well as ample free parking and the convenience of a shopping centre. Bus services along Athllon Drive meet the high frequency requirements but they are currently located slightly too far away from the shops to be convenient in mid winter and after dark.

A Canberra Liberal Government will remove Labor's proposal for parking fees at Mawson and we will provide the additional parking facilities that have been budgeted for. We will consult the community on options to use some of the available capital funds to add bus pullover areas on Athllon Drive closer to the Mawson shops, with provision for safe crossing points across Athllon Drive.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
Cancel Labor's Plan for Parking Meters and Parking Fees at Mawson	0	100	193	193

A re-elected Stanhope Government will establish a precedent for pay-parking at Mawson. Once that precedent is established, the Stanhope Government is likely to impose pay parking at the following eight locations.

- In Belconnen at the Jamison Center, Charnwood Shopping Center and Kippax Center.
- At the Curtin Shops in Woden.
- In Tuggeranong at the Kambah Village Shops, the Kambah Center, the Chisholm Shops, and the Calwell Shops.

The Liberal Park 'n' Ride Expansion

A Canberra Liberal Government will expand Park 'n' Ride facilities across the ACT, by adding extra parking capacity at four new locations in Tuggeranong, Weston Creek, North Canberra and Gungahlin.

The Canberra Liberal Park 'n' Ride initiatives will build on practices that have developed informally as travellers have found particular locations to offer all the elements they find attractive. Locations that are already utilised by Park 'n' Riders will be identified and made even more attractive. Additional free parking, with all day access, will be provided at these locations. Park 'n' Ride spaces will be signposted and positioned near lighting to ensure the security of the locations for both the travellers and their vehicles.

The Canberra Liberal expansion of Park 'n' Ride hubs will focus on busy, well serviced shopping centres. Investment in Park 'n' Ride hubs will be targeted at locations close to main bus service routes and particularly where several routes converge to add to the effective frequency of services. Parking at these locations will be free to Park 'n' Riders. Where parking is limited or at a premium in these locations, additional parking spaces will be constructed to ensure that local shoppers are not disadvantaged.

Several locations that don't have official Park 'n' Ride status have been proven to be attractive to Park 'n' Riders include the Erindale Centre in Wanniassa, Cooleman Court in Weston, Page in Belconnen and Parkes. The Parkes location differs in not proving an adjoining retail facility but is apparently attractive to travellers who want to use their cars for the majority of the journey and to park on the periphery of the City.

Work on the Canberra Liberals Park 'n' Ride system will commence in the outer suburbs and will provide opportunities and ease competing pressures in previously neglected areas.

- Tuggeranong and Weston Creek locations will also be developed in the early stages close to high volume bus corridors and local shops.
- A location in North Canberra will be identified based on additional requirements to reduce rat-running and reduce the impact of traffic flows from Gungahlin through North Canberra.
- The search for a suitable Gungahlin site will be based on a requirement to find a site adjoining a future mass public transit corridor.

The growing popularity of Park 'n' Ride will allow ACTION to develop express bus routes to service these locations to make them even more attractive.

A Canberra Liberal Government will allocate \$2.5 million in capital funds, to be invested over three years to expand the Park 'n' Ride system. This will support four new official Park 'n' Ride locations, providing hundreds of new parks at convenient locations along with secure bike lockers for cyclists.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
Expansion of Park 'n' Ride to four new locations	0	900	800	300

Bike Lockers at existing Park-and-Ride Locations

A Canberra Liberal Government will invest in secure bike lockers at Park 'n' Ride facilities across Canberra. We recognise that many of the cycle journeys within town centres are relatively flat, but often the journey between town centres can involve a steep journey down lengthy hillsides. For instance a resident in Belconnen will face a downhill cycle to get to work in Civic, but they may be deterred by the uphill ride home.

We aim to increase cycling by making it easier for cyclists to access the bus network for difficult legs of their cross-city journey.

A Canberra Liberal Government will install secure bike lockers at park and ride facilities, to provide enhanced access to bus services for cyclists.

We have announced, as part of our *Cycle Friendly Canberra* policy, that will provide \$120,000 for purchase of additional bike lockers in 2008-09.

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000
Bike lockers for Park 'n' Ride	120			

Secure lockers help to protect bicycles from vandalism and theft. They can also provide storage for bicycle accessories such as helmets, pumps and clothing. These lockers will be built in modular sections, so that capacity can be increased as levels of cycling increases.

The Canberra Liberals are committed to making serious investments in sustainable transport. We have taken the time to consult with the community and have proposed some imaginative solutions to encourage more cycling, with an aim of doubling the take-up of cycling in peak hours when our roads are most congested. We believe this target is achievable, but it is only achievable under a government with concrete plans, real new funding and smart solutions to make it happen.