

Light Rail Stage 2A City to Commonwealth Park

REPORT ON COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Canberrans were invited by the National Capital Authority (NCA) and Territory's planning and land authority to provide feedback from 28 March to 11 May 2023 on the Light Rail Stage 2A City to Commonwealth Park project. The project will deliver three new stops – Edinburgh Avenue, City South and Commonwealth Park, extending the light rail network by 1.7 kilometres, passing over both Territory and Commonwealth land.

This project will deliver Canberrans a convenient and environmentally friendly transport option from Alinga Street to Commonwealth Park. It will provide a greater connection between the city and lake and enhance the local amenity.

The community was invited to review and provide feedback on the documentation submitted as part of the Works Approval application with the NCA and the Development Application with the planning and land authority which included plans, designs and an Environmental Assessment.

Community feedback helped the NCA and the planning and land authority understand the views of the community and informed their assessment of the project.

The NCA has prepared a Consultation Report available on their [website](#) detailing their public consultation process and how they have considered the public submissions when assessing the proposed works in the context of the National Capital Plan. The planning and land authority has also considered the representations made and included this consideration in Part C of the Notice of Decision available on their [website](#).

This report shares the community feedback on the Light Rail Stage 2A project and input has been received from both the NCA and the planning and land authority as to how the light rail project is addressing community concerns.

THE CONVERSATION

The Works Approval and Development Application were on public exhibition and open for community submissions and feedback for a period of six weeks from 28 March until 11 May 2023.

How Major Projects Canberra (MPC) supported the NCA and the planning and land authority public consultation period:

Public information sessions

MPC held three 'Ask an Expert' public information sessions during the consultation period. These sessions were attended by 13 members of the public in total. These drop-in information sessions offered the community an opportunity to ask more detailed questions face-to-face with the project team in an informal setting. Existing tools and collateral were used to promote and support the sessions and encourage submissions. An NCA representative attended these sessions to answer questions about the submission process.

MPC also supported two NCA information sessions attended by 19 members of the public. While these two sessions were to discuss the submission and approval process, the Light Rail Stage 2A project team were present to answer questions about the project in general, and for the Light Rail Stage 2A submission.

Community presentations

MPC supported the public consultation process at community presentations and meetings.

- The Light Rail Stage 2A project team presented information about the project, alongside the NCA, at a Public Transport Canberra (PTCBR) meeting attended by 22 people in person and many more online.
- Tourism Leaders Forum attended by 22 tourism industry representatives from across the ACT.
- The Light Rail to Woden Community Reference Group.

Online engagement

MPC supported the consultation through these online methods:

- Light Rail to Woden Works Approval and Development Application Consultation YourSay page – providing information and linking to the NCA and planning and land authority consultations sites.
- Light Rail to Woden website, including a virtual engagement room with [fact sheets](#) and summaries, project flythrough animation and renders.
- Social media posts.

- Electronic newsletters – Transport Canberra Electronic Direct Mail (EDM), Our Canberra EDM and CBR Business Update, Light Rail to Woden Project Update EDM and monthly construction look ahead.

Print information

- Light Rail Project Update was distributed to 15,000 properties along the light rail alignment between Mitchell and Torrens.
- Provided a hard copy of the Light Rail Stage 2A Environmental Assessment to every library in the ACT and promoted the information with print posters.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Formal feedback from the community was received via submissions to the NCA and representations to the planning and land authority.

The NCA received 68 submissions during the public consultation and the planning and land authority received 14 representations. Noting that many submissions raised multiple elements, in total over 160 individual topics were raised by the public formally to the approval agencies. Sentiment of the submissions were mostly positive, followed by a neutral sentiment, where submissions did not clearly express either positive or negative sentiment. The minority of submissions were negative. All submissions and representations were forwarded to the Light Rail Stage 2A project team, including submissions that were not elected to be published on the NCA's website. The project team also provided technical information to the NCA and the planning and authority in response to the items that were raised to assist in their decisions.

The topics most frequently raised by the community were:

- 25% Active transport
- 19% Stop design and interface
- 8% Urban realm
- 8% Traffic impacts
- 7% Public transport interface

Other topics identified were:

- Future stages of the light rail project
- Comments on the delivery of the project
- Environmental impacts
- Consideration of adjacent projects
- Light rail vehicles
- Alternatives to the project
- General support
- General opposition

WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback from this engagement helped the NCA and the planning and land authority understand the views of the community and it was used to inform their assessment of the Light Rail Stage 2A project.

Updates will continue to be provided via the Light rail: City to Woden [YourSay page](#). If you have any questions about the Light Rail Stage 2A project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email: lightrailtowoden@act.gov.au.

To find out more about Light Rail Stage 2A and other initiatives, policies and projects in Canberra visit www.yoursay.act.gov.au or www.builtforcbr.act.gov.au.

Key Timings

28 March 2023: NCA commenced community consultation

29 March 2023: Planning and land authority commenced community consultation

11 May 2023: NCA and planning and land authority concluded community consultation

July 2023: Works Approval Consultation Report released

July 2023: Works Approval received and Development Application approved

INFORMING THE COMMUNITY

607

We reached 607 people via YourSay

3

Information sessions for the community

88

City businesses invited to information sessions and to provide feedback

15,000

Project updates delivered to properties along the light rail alignment

4,000

4,000 visitors to the Stage 2A consultation webpage (Light Rail to Woden website)

60,000

We reached an audience of almost 60,000 Canberrans on social media

68

NCA received 68 formal submissions

14

Formal representations were made to the planning and land authority