



Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Disability
Minister for Children, Youth and Families
Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety
Minister for Government Services and Procurement
Minister for Urban Renewal
Member for Kurrajong

Zyl Hovenga-Wauchope
President
ANU Postgraduate and Research Student's Association
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31 OCT 2018

Dear Mr Hovenga-Wauchope

Thank you for your email and media release of 24 October regarding the recently announced changes to Canberra's bus network, particularly the changes to the Route 3 bus and the consultation process. I have sought advice from the Minister for Transport Canberra and City Services, Meegan Fitzharris MLA, in responding to the concerns you have raised.

The ACT Government wants more people to use public transport, as well as wanting to improve public transport options for all Canberrans. At the moment, 4% of trips around our city are on public transport, compared to 78% by private vehicles. Transport Canberra is undertaking a major overhaul of the bus network to provide more buses, more often. Additionally, the new network will operate the same routes seven days a week.

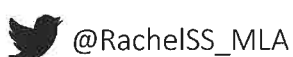
The Government recognises that the bus network redesign is a substantial activity that affects the entire city and impacts how existing users access public transport. This is why Transport Canberra undertook significant consultations, starting in 2016, to inform the network throughout its multi-stage development process. Transport Canberra received more than 13,000 individual pieces of feedback on the network, making it the most engaged-with ACT Government consultation ever.

I appreciate that, despite the comprehensive consultation process, some people may still have reservations about the changes to their daily commute as a result of the new network. The outcomes of Transport Canberra's consultations indicate that Canberrans want faster trip times, more direct routes, more frequent services, more reliable services and increased services across on and off-peak times. To provide more frequent and reliable services, the ACT Government has made decisions about which services to prioritise based on how customers use the existing bus network.

I understand that stops within the ANU campus currently served by the route 3 will no longer be serviced from the commencement of the new public transport network in 2019. However, I am advised that few customers use this service under the current network, and that around 90% of trips to and from ANU use the bus stations on Rimmer Street, Barry Drive and City West.

ACT Legislative assembly

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The new public transport network includes significant improvements for students and staff travelling to ANU, including frequent Rapid bus and light rail services for students travelling from the Inner North, Gungahlin, Belconnen, Weston Creek, Molonglo Valley, Woden, the Inner South and Tuggeranong.

In your media release, you raised concerns about the distance between parts of the ANU campus and the City Bus Interchange. However, the R2, R3, and R4 rapid routes will all stop at the Rimmer St and Barry Drive bus stops, which are on the ANU campus. Students who catch other buses to the interchange will be able to transfer to these rapid services to reduce the distance they will need to walk. Additionally, students can transfer to the route 53 bus to more easily access the southern half of ANU campus, including the Medical, Physics, and Asia-Pacific departments you noted as examples in your media release. The ANU also provides a free shuttle bus for staff and students within the campus, which is funded by the ANU and is unaffected by any network changes.

I am confident that students will benefit from the simpler, faster, and more direct network connecting them to the ANU campus from across Canberra.

As you may be aware, I hold regular Mobile Offices around the Inner North and South. If you would ever like to discuss the new bus network or any other issues with me in person, please stop by for a chat. Further information about the timing and location of Mobile Offices is available on my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rachelssmla.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me. I hope that this information has eased your concerns.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA