

ACTION BUS SERVICE – A SUBMISSION TO THE ACT LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Our group has monitored the following characteristics of the revised Canberra bus system since its installation in December 2006:

- A serious decline in quality, including
 - fewer buses on most routes;
 - badly maintained and calibrated timetables;
 - overused and inadequately maintained buses and the roads over which they travel;
 - inadequately trained new bus drivers;
 - an increase in the workloads of and hostility to drivers; and
 - a decrease in face-to-face and phone customer inquiry services.
- Contradictory ACT environmental policies on less use of motor vehicles on the one hand and the cutting of bus services on the other.
- No apparent long term plan for Canberra's buses, leading to a widely perceived opinion that the ACTION service will be run down and auctioned off to private enterprise, in line with 'Globalised' policies in many free enterprise Western cities.
- No logical, equitable and technically efficient fare collection system.

Our group therefore proposes:

- ***The resumption of a formal Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) on public transport to be democratically set up (rather than selected by ministerial fiat) to meet regularly and engage in meaningful discussions and debate with the Minister and ACTION managers and workers on long and short term bus matters.***
- ***To give all local environmental, educational, community, political and commuter groups the opportunity to join CAG.***

In the meantime ACTION could collate and publish precise 'before and after December 2006' statistics on the issues raised in this submission to either validate or contradict them.

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