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From: Shirley Pipitone [pipitone@ta.netspeed.com.au]  
Sent: Thursday, 10 May 2007 4:01 AM  
To: Committees  
Subject: Submission to Inquiry into ACTION buses

The Secretary

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]-->Standing/Select Committee on Planning and Environment  
<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--><!--[if !supportEmptyParas]-->ACT Legislative Assembly<!--[endif]-->

Inquiry into ACTION buses

My submission is very brief, covering two issues:

1. ACTION's role as a mass transport provider in the context of transport policy generally
2. the level of comfort provided in ACTION buses.

1. Transport policy should aim to minimise single occupant vehicle transport and maximise use of mass transport. Given Canberrans' resistance to use of public transport, it is therefore essential for mass transport policy to be supported by other aspects of transport policy, specifically car parking.

Small incremental increases in car parking fees have yet to affect Canberrans' preferences for single occupant vehicle transport. I consider that the only way to encourage Canberrans to use ACTION buses is to increase parking fees in major employment centres at least threefold in one hit, and simultaneously implement significant improvements in ACTION bus services.

2. ACTION buses are not comfortable for tall people of any girth, nor are they comfortable for people over average weight for their height (except perhaps for very short overweight people). As taller people are becoming more common, bus seat sizes need to be reviewed so that at least 80% of passengers can be comfortably accommodated. Seat comfort is particularly important for people with disabilities which involve pain, such as arthritis and overuse injuries.

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<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--><!--[if !supportEmptyParas]-->Yours sincerely

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