

Subject: Submission to Enquiry on Action Buses  
Planning and Environment Committee  
enquiry into Action buses

Connecting South and North: Avoid Civic.

Barton is usually overlooked as a source of bus users. Why is this Barton not regarded as a sort of hub which needs to be considered in the same way as Belconnen etc? Places like the Bruce stadium and Calvary hospital, Univ Canberra etc were included in the proposed route/s for the expensive busway as they were regarded as places of work. I bet that there are more people working in the parliamentary triangle than any of these places yet this does not seem to be taken into account in any route changes. Moreover, what will happen when pay parking is introduced in the Barton precinct? Why do all these people need to have express services from Belconnen to Civic when their final destination is in fact Barton? I hope you will not be surveying existing bus users on what sort of routes they want - you are not surveying those who have given up on buses.

Bus services to and from Belconnen suburbs to the Barton precinct are just pathetic. Why: because Action planners think that a service actually exists because they expect people to take the scenic route though Civic and Russell. Perhaps the bus planners assume that we enjoy spending at least one hour, one way, (when the connections are actually made) on the buses when 15-20 minutes (!!!) by car will do. Or a 25-30 minute cycle.

The connections from Civic to Aranda /Cook Macquarie South Belconnen, in particular, are hopeless. The 40 and 41 services assume that everyone leaves work shortly after 5 pm in Civic, and do not factor in those trying to make connections from other services. If the 5.38 service is missed from Civic the next service is at 6.30. It is hard to make the 5.38 service when coming in from Barton. People do not just stop work at 5 pm these days and the bus services should reflect this. People work flex time and most people in my department work till 530-600 on a good day. The services should provide for these people.

Guy Thurston and other senior managers bus planners: what time do you leave the office? How can you expect the rest of Canberra to use your services when they do not suit the needs of office workers. Then try all the above accompanying children of child care age.

So Guy and your planners: test drive your own routes for your community, with similar time constraints. Do not assume that you are sitting on a tourist /scenic service but a service in a working city for workers. Assume that you have something important on and the service needs to have you in a particular place at a particular time.

here is a second challenge: Do your usual early morning preparations for your family, then take children (try two) of childcare age to Barton from the suburbs around South Belconnen to Barton. Try to get there for a 9am start. Then try to get home before 6.00 on 2 buses, with same very tired kids. Do not expect to get out of the office before 5.30. then you have to pick the kids up from childcare, and then try to get them to the bus stop across the road. Kids weigh about 12-16 kg . each .and refuse to have all their bears, trucks, rabbits placed in their bags. you can't walk very far. i.e. from Sydney ave to Brisbane Ave/national circuit intersection.

I include the reference to kids as being relevant . Children pick up most of habits from their parents -

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including their aversion (or otherwise) to public transport. If Europeans can live without cars and get to work with young children then we can too.

#### SUGGESTED ROUTE

A good route would be Belconnen : down Coulter drive (picks up weetangera Macquarie and hawker people) then down redfern Ave or Lyttledon to Bindubi to pick up more macquarie people, Cook and Aranda people. ) before heading down Bindubi St to the ghastly Glenloch interchange around the lake and over Commonwealth Bridge to State Circle and then down e.g Sydney Ave. terminate e.g. Kingston or Manuka. or even Woden.

The day time service, 42, to Belconnen is also hopeless. It is actually quicker to walk the kids in a pram from Belconnen to Aranda than catch the 42. why bother having a 42 at all if it can only serve the needs of the extremely desperate. While I am here how about a bus stop at Hume ?our very talented mechanic is there - although I might add, if direct routes to barton were introduced i might not need to go to Hume at all.

Lastly, we live in a culdesac which has 4 families working or going to school in Barton. All drive.

#### QUESTION on CONFIDENTIALITY OF SUBMISSION

Is it possible to have just our text made public and not our names/address/phone numbers? We are just private citizens . Happy to discuss some sort of compromise, e.g. as initials and just a suburb (i.e. no street address) and no phone number.

Name withheld  
ARANDA ACT