

MEDIA RELEASE

15/07/2024

PUT THE LAST MILE FIRST: PTCBR CALLS FOR QUALITY ACCESS TO LIGHT RAIL STAGE 2B STOPS

The first major public consultation round for Light Rail Stage 2B has concluded, and in their [submission](#) to the [consultation process](#) conducted by Major Projects Canberra, the [Public Transport Association of Canberra \(PTCBR\)](#) has given its strong support for the project and suggested improvements regarding station design, surrounding land use, and safe passenger access to stations to make light rail more accessible and address the “last mile” problem.

PTCBR Chair Ryan Hemsley said the plans, renders, and design principles presented for public comment showed a bold, positive vision for the future of Canberra, with an attractive and high-quality light rail system improving transport access and transforming harsh car-dominated areas on the southside.

“It’s no secret that PTCBR have been very eager to see progress on this project, and while the delays are frustrating, we are extremely heartened by what’s been presented in this consultation round,” said Mr Hemsley.

“With these illustrations, Light Rail Stage 2B has become more than just a line on a map. This project will change our city for the better, and this step in the approvals process has given us an important first look at key details of the project.”

Mr Hemsley said that PTCBR urged a holistic approach to planning and design for Light Rail Stage 2B that accounted for future development slated along the alignment, the need for safe and convenient pedestrian access to stations, and the passenger experience at light rail stations.

“We want passengers to feel comfortable at stations, which will require excellent lighting, protection from the weather, and measures to reduce noise from surrounding roads.

“We also know from [Canberra's first stage of light rail](#) that the median passenger walks 600 metres to a stop, and some regularly walk up to twice that distance. So we want people to access the stations safely and conveniently, and that means co-locating bus stops and improving active travel infrastructure on the approach roads.

“It’s great to be able to help shape the coming Environmental Impact Statement in this consultation round, and we look forward to further engagement on the Stage 2B plans as work on the project progresses.”

KEY POINTS:

- PTCBR calls for careful planning and (re)design of areas around light rail stations to ensure safe and convenient access for passengers who walk or transfer from buses.
- PTCBR suggests that it may be appropriate to move the station currently slated for Kent/Novar Streets to better serve the future population of North Curtin and connect with existing bus routes.
- PTCBR encourages an ongoing process of improving land use around stations by rationalising nearby intersections and consolidating surface car parks into multi-level structures

Ryan Hemsley is the chair of the Public Transport Association of Canberra, a public transport users group committed to improving public transport in the ACT and surrounding region.