



**SUBMISSION TO THE FY 2025 ACT BUDGET**

**THE VILLAGE OF HALL AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

Village of Hall and District Progress Association  
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President: Robert Yallop AM

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The Village of Hall and District Progress Association (VHDPA) is an incorporated, not-for-profit community association which promotes the interests of Hall Village and District community members. The objects and purposes of the Association are to further the interest and welfare of the community of the Village of Hall and District, to protect and progress the amenity and heritage character of the Village of Hall and, to facilitate the recreational, educational, environmental, heritage, artistic, occupational and other interests of members and residents of Hall Village and District.

The VHDPA is the Australian Capital Territory's oldest community association and represents a community that appreciates the Ngunnawal-Ngambri, historic and natural heritage values of its surrounding environment.

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Over recent years, two significant matters have been raised by the Progress Association with the ACT Government on behalf of Hall residents and businesses. Although initial action is being undertaken on both matters, the Hall Progress Association recognises that sufficient resources must be allocated by the ACT Government to ensure full implementation.

On this basis, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that these two projects have the necessary funding allocated in the FY 2025 ACT Budget.

**Storm Water Drainage in Hall Village**

Hall Village, established in 1882, 29 years prior to the creation of the Federal Capital Territory, has evolved organically over the last 142 years with basic infrastructure lagging significantly behind development of the community. The changes in climate in recent years, including the frequency and severity of torrential rain, has seriously exacerbated a chronic issue of inadequate storm water drainage and its effects on water incursion to properties, washing gravel and debris on to roads making them unsafe, and erosion particularly of gravel laneways.

In January 2022, the Progress Association wrote to then City Services Minister Steel requesting urgent attention by the ACT government to undertake the assessment, design and completion of works on storm water infrastructure in Hall Village. During FY 2023, a consultant was contracted to identify flooding hotspots for the entire Village, and to develop flood mitigation options to alleviate the identified flooding. The consultant report apparently included flood modelling, design options and a Preliminary Sketch Plan.

The Hall community were very pleased to learn in July 2023 that the ACT Government had provisioned funding for the detailed design for stormwater improvements in Hall Village with matching contribution from the Commonwealth Government through its Disaster Ready Fund. We have further been advised that it is anticipated that the detailed design work will be tendered in the first couple of months of 2024 and that the Terms of Reference for the design consultant will include consultation with Hall community residents, businesses and stakeholders to discuss the storm water infrastructure planning.

As the contracted consultant is unlikely to complete the detailed design for stormwater improvements in Hall Village until mid-2024, in order that the storm water drainage infrastructure not be further delayed, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that the funding required for construction of comprehensive storm water drainage infrastructure is included in the FY 2025 ACT budget, pending the detailed design.

### **Cycle and Pedestrian Path from Gladstone Street Hall to Clarrie Hermes Drive**

When the Centenary Trail was opened in 2013, no walking and cycle link was created between the One Tree Hill track head in Hall and the formed cycle path on Clarrie Hermes Drive, although the original Trail plan identified such a link. In 2019, the ACT Government had scraped a very rudimentary track from the Hall rugby field alongside Victoria Street to Clarrie Hermes Drive and had constructed a bridge across Halls Creek and a couple of metal crossings at gullies. The walking and cycle link that was scraped alongside Victoria Street was to the specifications of the Centenary Trail as suitable for mountain bikes and hikers.

The lack of a formed, sealed cycle and pedestrian path connecting Hall Village to Clarrie Hermes Drive presents an ongoing, serious road safety hazard to the ACT community.

The Village of Hall and District Progress Association with support of Yerrabi MLAs Andrew Braddock, Leanne Castley, James Milligan and Michael Pettersson, has actively advocated for the establishment of safe pedestrian and cycle access from Clarrie Hermes Drive to Hall Village.

The ACT Government Active Travel Plan released on 2 February 2024 identifies safe pedestrian and cycle access from Clarrie Hermes Drive to Hall Village as “potential future priority” and preliminary investigations are being funded by the ACT Government.

Safe pedestrian and cycle access from Clarrie Hermes Drive to Hall Village is aligned to most of the six investment types identified in the ACT Government Active Travel Plan. This pedestrian and cycle path will:

- be an upgraded principal cycle route;
- improve safety for and increase the number of students walking, riding and rolling to school;
- make it easier for people with mobility needs to walk and roll, with a focus on access;
- protect of vulnerable road users.

In order to address the significant safety risk of cyclists on Victoria Street between Hall and the Clarrie Hermes Drive, contribute to the ACT Government Active Travel Plan and complete a community path on the priority listing, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that the funding required for construction of the Hall Village to Clarrie Hermes Drive fully formed and paved cycle and pedestrian path be included in the FY 2025 ACT Budget.

### **CONCLUSION**

Commitments cannot be realised without the allocation of sufficient funding to complete the projects in the ACT Budget.

The Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that preliminary work already underway will be able to fully realise the required works by the allocation of sufficient funding in the FY 2025 Budget for implementation.