

budgetconsultation@act.gov.au

I refer to your invitation to contribute to the 2019-20 ACT Budget deliberations. The following suggestions represent the priorities of the Yarralumla Residents Association. We are happy for this submission to be made public.

Traffic congestion and safety

Mint Interchange

We consider specific funds should be allocated to the initial planning process for a Mint Interchange. Serious traffic congestion is already apparent at the Cotter Rd entrance to Adelaide Ave and on Dudley St. This will only get worse as the suburbs of Molonglo are developed. To avoid disruption to the operations of the light rail route between Woden and Civic such an interchange needs to be constructed before Stage 2 of light rail commences operation. Therefore planning for construction needs to start in 2019-20 at the latest.

Signalisation of Novar/Dudley St and Adelaide Ave/Kent St/Denison St

TCCS commissioned AECOM to prepare a concept diagram for this project (Novar Street/Kent Street Intersection – Concept Design Report, AECOM November 2017). This document has not been made public, but we consider that specific funds should be allocated to finalize the design (following community consultation), with funds also allocated to construct this much needed infrastructure before any upgrade to Dudley Street.

Serious traffic congestion is a problem at these intersections which will become even more serious as Deakin becomes a bigger employment hub attracting commuters from Molonglo, Weston Creek and Belconnen via this intersection.

Various road safety measures in Yarralumla

Yarralumla attracts a considerable amount of traffic from elsewhere in Canberra to visit the various attractions and facilities in Yarralumla such as Weston Park, the Royal Canberra Golf Club and the Yarralumla Primary School where some 80% of students come from outside Yarralumla. Unfamiliarity with the Yarralumla road network increases the traffic safety risk. YRA has identified a number of high traffic safety risks including speeding on Weston St, lack of pedestrian crossings on Novar St and the intersection of Hopetoun/Adelaide Ave.

Funding for all of these traffic congestion and safety measures could be met in part or in full by reallocating some or all of the money already allocated to the Dudley St/Brickworks Access project.

Yarralumla Wetlands

The Yarralumla Bay Recreation Hub Master Plan was developed by the National Capital Authority in 2009.

<https://www.nca.gov.au/sites/g/files/net791/f/Yarralumla%20Bay%20Recreation%20Hub%20Master%20Plan%20-%20Final%20Document%20-%20October%202009.PDF>

The Master Plan is intended to be used by the NCA, ACT Government agencies and leaseholders to prioritise maintenance projects and to guide future development. Part of the Plan identifies the need to restore the natural features of the existing concrete-lined drains to replicate natural stream conditions and add aesthetic and ecological value to the channel. The NCA is responsible for the water quality in Lake Burley Griffin and such a project would contribute to an improvement in the quality of water entering the Lake. YRA therefore sees an opportunity for a joint ACT/Commonwealth Government funded project which would benefit both levels of government.

YRA suggests the ACT Government allocates funding in 2019-20 to commence initial planning for the wetlands.

Canberra Brickworks

Previous ACT budgets had made specific budget allocations to help protect the heritage values of the Canberra Brickworks as well as for necessary site remediation around asbestos and other hazardous materials. We understand that these were to be built into the contract negotiations with the preferred tenderer. Given the unexpected and substantial delay in finalising the contracts, YRA simply wishes for any necessary budget allocations associated with the Canberra Brickworks to be allowed for in the upcoming budget.”

Better Suburbs

The ACT government has recently hosted a series of highly successful discussions on the future of ACT suburbs.

YRA is keen to see specific funding allocated to enable the recommendations arising out of the discussions to be implemented. This will enable suburbs and local shopping centres, such as Yarralumla, to remain vibrant and viable and contribute to community wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

Michael Lewis
President
Yarralumla Residents Association
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