

GUNSMOKE

Newsletter - Edition 134 October 2014



"Have your say"
GCC COMMUNITY SURVEY 2014

ISSUES LIST

GETTING PUBLISHED

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Cover photo by Ewan Brown



GETTING PUBLISHED

James Milligan

JM Publishing

The best place to start when writing a book is to choose a subject or topic that is close to your heart, and for which you have an interest. You will need to get to know your manuscript thoroughly, and ensure that it authentically portrays what it is you want to say about the subject or topic you have chosen.

Knowing your market?

Knowing this is essential, and it is recommended to research the market to whom your book will be targeted, because understanding your market will help you to write your book in the style that will appeal to the reader. The more you research your market, the more likely you can find the right outlet for your book.

What has already been published in this field?

It is advisable to visit book stores and libraries to check out what has already been written on the topic, and to assess whether your chosen subject is going to be viable.

Who is the best publisher for your book?

Make a list of publishing companies that you would like to approach, look at what they are currently publishing, and make sure they can cater for the market you are targeting. The Australian National Library has an extensive list of Australian publishers with access to their websites, and the ability to research the best publishers who can cater for your needs. In addition, check your local book stores in the relevant sections and make a list of the publishers producing the books and approach them with your proposal or manuscript.

Where can you go to get advice on your writing style?

You can find a list of agents and agencies who are available to assess your manuscript in the Yellow

Pages under the section Writers, Consultants and/or Services. These organisations can assess your work and suggest improvements, and even recommend publishing companies most suited to your manuscript. Your local Writer's Centre can also provide you with advice on agents and agencies that are willing to assess your manuscript or proposal.

One way for you to gain and build credibility as a writer, is to submit your manuscript into competitions for unpublished novels. Manuscripts are read and a critique is given, and you can then follow their suggestions to improve your manuscript ready for the publishers. If the feedback is positive, publishers may even use the review as a marketing tool to promote your book.

Where would you like to see your book available for purchase from?

Now that you have researched your market, most favourable Publisher's and your writing style, have you considered where you would like your book to be available for purchase from. It's a good idea to make a list of retail outlets you would like your book to be sold through.

The publishing industry has seen many changes over the past 5-10 years, moving from the traditional forms of publishing printed books and selling through retail stores, to the introduction of e-books and selling through websites such as iTunes and booktopia.com.au, which in fact has increased readership. This in turn enabled publisher's to make great use of this new resource and increase annual publications, providing greater opportunities for new writers to get published. So, if you're working on a manuscript or about to start on one, now is a good time, study your topic and start writing, and hopefully one day you will see your manuscript published and sitting on a bookshelf in a retail store or available online for download.



GunSmoke is available online, and printed copies are available through key shopping centres. To subscribe to the online edition visit www.gcc.asn.au and click on the "Sign Up For Our Newsletter" button at the bottom of the page. To advertise your business or organisation in GunSmoke, please visit our website.

Disclaimer:

GunSmoke is published to allow residents to keep in touch with their local community. The views expressed in GunSmoke do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editor, or members of the Gungahlin Community Council Inc.

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From the President

Ewan Brown

In contrast to last year the recent AGM of the GCC was quick and smooth with a very strong response of nominations for committee positions. In total 13 nominations were received and all were appointed to the committee. This was a reflection on the successes achieved by the previous committee in promoting the interests of Gungahlin residents.

However we have no female representation this year and also have a vacancy for Treasurer.

All committee members were allocated specific areas of responsibility, based on their nominated preferences. The aim is to build up a body of knowledge and list of contacts to ensure that issues within those areas can be effectively covered in the future.

Our objective in this new term is to raise awareness of GCC, its activities, publications and issues identified amongst the rapidly growing Gungahlin population. This can be achieved through:

Expanding Community Reach through more effective utilisation of:

- The website
- Social media
- Local advertising opportunities
- Community alliances
- Promotion of meetings
- Expansion of Gunsmoke readership (in soft copy format).

In addition to holding monthly public meetings and producing Gunsmoke six times per year we have specified a range of projects to be explored:

- Survey (completed by December/January) – with a formal launch.
- Issues List updates
- Communications Blueprint. The Key task is to progress our communications strategy.
- Gungahlin Festival (11 April 2015) participation in the Gungahlin Festival Committee.
- Business Breakfasts (3 per year)
- Business Development series

- Sponsored events
- Collaboration with ACT Business Chamber
- IT programs with CIT
- GCC/In Love 40% convened a 1 day event on 8 September 2014 to assess the impact of Light Rail on Gungahlin.
- NBN Developments: Continue ad-hoc involvement to monitor progress unless a definitive project is presented to the committee for approval.

Alliances will be continued with:

- My Gungahlin to promote activities in Gungahlin.
- Communities@Work to improve awareness of the impressive range of services they offer.
- Bush on the Boundary (Gungahlin) and Friends of Mulligan's Flat.

The latter may present an opportunity to promote and identify a policy stance on seeking funding for extension of vermin-proof fence and provision of a Resource Centre in conjunction with Throsby developments.

The most important project will be the Community Survey, due for release in early October. This is designed to give local residents the opportunity to have their say on what changes and developments they want to see or would like in both the Town Centre and surrounding suburbs. A strong response will enable us to significantly influence outcomes rather than be told what is to happen. The decision on Light Rail makes extensive community input even more imperative – once planning decisions are put in place it will be too late to change the design of Gungahlin Town Centre.

We think we have a window of opportunity in the next 6 to 12 months to influence design issues, the range of services and amenities and the securing of a Gungahlin-specific electorate (with 5 members) in time for the 2016 ACT Legislative Assembly elections.



FROM THE POLLIES

Simon Corbell MLA
Minister for Capital Metro

I have been greatly encouraged by the strong support for the Capital Metro light rail project from the Gungahlin community.

The Capital Metro team has had a busy period from the end of July to early August, gaining feedback on the project's early designs at shopping centres in Dickson, Tuggeranong and Erindale. The extensive consultation hopefully demonstrates the Government's open approach to engaging with the community. The strong interest in the project was reflected by more than 16,000 interactions during the consultation period, across all communication channels, with 432 online surveys completed. Most members of the community commented on how much they appreciated being consulted on the design phase of the project.

In September, I was pleased to attend an Enquiry by Design Event run by the Gungahlin Community Council and sponsored by the Capital Metro Agency. The event sought to engage business owners, residents, community groups and other professionals in-depth to draw out ideas and opportunities for integrating light rail into the community. The day also explored the benefits of 'Transit Orientated Development', an approach that encourages higher density living around transport routes to ensure good accessibility to services and a more sustainable approach to planning. It is great to see the community really engaging with, and taking ownership of, this important project.

September was a busy month all round, with the Capital Metro Agency hosting an Industry Briefing that attracted national and international interest in the project. The briefing was an important milestone for the project, setting out the scope of the project and encouraging Industry to get involved. The Capital Metro Agency emphasised the aspirations for the project that have been guided very much by community feedback, these include an excellent customer service, high quality urban design, engagement of the community – including local industry – and ensuring affordability. I also announced at the Briefing that the Government has agreed to the project going ahead as an Availability Private Public Partnership. The Expressions of Interest will be released on Friday 31 October. This will coincide with the release of the Business Case.

For more information, please visit the capitalmetro.act.gov.au website. When you're there, remember to sign up for regular project information updates.



FROM THE POLLIES

Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

In September, ACTION launched the new bus network - Network 14.

The new network delivers some great improvements for Gungahlin, including

- More frequent buses;
- A new nonstop service (route 202) between Gungahlin and the City during the morning peak hour;
- A new direct route (250) between Gungahlin and Belconnen;
- New bus routes in suburbs including Harrison, Crace and Casey.

As a Green, I am passionate about the importance of building a modern, reliable public transport network for all Canberrans. I hope that one day we will see a city-wide public transport system with a permanent spine of fast, convenient light rail, integrated with a flexible bus service.

To help us achieve that vision, the new Network 14 delivers a range of things:

- **An efficient foundation network** that prioritises frequent direct inter-town routes, peak hour services for commuters, and weekend services for those who rely on buses as their primary transport mode.
- **Greater frequency, more direct routes and better connections** – these are the things that we know make more people want to take the bus
- **More services:** ACTION now runs 3400 daily trips, and the network has also seen an 18% increase in daily trips through the Parliamentary Triangle, an 18% increase in Saturday trips, and a 31% increase in Sunday trips.
- **Flexible community services** to help people who find it especially difficult to get around, such as the elderly and people with a disability.

The new network was generated using data from the MyWay system, as well as input from the community and from drivers. Some of the changes may affect how people plan their trips, but they have been put in place to strengthen the network as a whole.

With recent investments in the bus system, such as new low emission "Euro VI" buses, new quality stops and bus lanes, and the introduction of the NXTBUS "real time information" system, ACTION really is becoming a modern and responsive service.

If you have any questions about the network, please contact ACTION on 131710.



FROM THE POLLIES

Alistair Coe MLA
Shadow Minister for Transport

There is no doubt that Gungahlin residents have had a raw deal when it comes to transport infrastructure. For years, Gungahlin residents waited for the GDE to be constructed, only for the road to be at capacity from day one due its single lane construction. Now, the government's efforts are entirely focused on the light rail project. Whilst most people like the idea of catching a tram, does the project stack-up?

To date, Infrastructure Australia, the Productivity Commission, the Centre for International Economics and many other experts have come out as being very critical of the government's decision.

In fact, according to the government's own figures, the tram will carry 3,500 commuters compared to 3,100 people who are currently riding ACTION buses down the same corridor. So, the government is spending \$700 million to construct and \$75 million per year to operate light rail, for just 400 more commuters.

Further to this, the government has said that the journey from Gungahlin to the City on the tram will take 25 minutes. However, the new bus route 202 does the same journey in less time, even in the middle of peak hour.

Transport planners use the distance of 400 meters as the length people will walk to catch public transport. Based on this distance, only 16% of Gungahlin residents will be within 400m of a proposed tram stop. (Of course, these people currently have access to the very frequent red rapid bus service.) For the other 86% of Gungahlin residents, you will still need to use a car or catch a bus to get in to the city.

Whilst the idea of a tram may be exciting and appealing, is this the best way to spend taxpayers' money? Would the government be better spending the money on duplicating roads, such as Gundaroo Drive or Horse Park Drive, or improving bus infrastructure throughout Gungahlin and other parts of Canberra? There are many alternative ways that the government could spend \$700 million and not take on the huge operational cost liability that comes with light rail.

I believe that at some point in our future, Canberra's density may well warrant the construction of a light rail network. However, at this stage, the construction and operational costs will be too much for a city of our current population.



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ISSUES LIST

Prepared by Gungahlin Community Council

The GCC Executive has identified the following issues by the as being the key areas of concern for Gungahlin residents. The GCC will represent the community in seeking responses to these issues and will report regularly on progress. This list is on the GCC website to invite community comment.

Our Key Priority: to keep Gungahlin residents aware of developments in their region.

GCC seeks regularly updated information, complete with maps, from the ACT Government to advise residents of the type and status of ongoing developments in the area. This covers roads, new constructions (both new and existing sites) and any other projects of interest to community members.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

In view of the anticipated substantial growth of Gungahlin over coming years with the settlement of new suburbs there is a need for significant planning consultation on the provision and timely development of facilities for the area to accommodate the requirements of a population likely to exceed 90,000 residents. Transport issues will be of critical importance and the current approach for 'catch-up' developments will not offer satisfactory solutions in the short-to-medium term.

ACCORDINGLY THE GCC WANTS TO SEE THE COMPLETION OF DUPLICATION OF ALL MAJOR ROADS AFFECTING GUNGAHLIN WITHIN THE NEXT 5 YEARS (BY THE END OF 2018).

1.1 GCC wants a review/development of a new Master Plan for the Town Centre to reflect the needs of the rapidly growing population in the area. A previous Plan sought to retain a 'quiet urban village' type atmosphere for the Town Centre. Significant population growth and the strong likelihood of Light Rail terminating in Gungahlin require a review. (Residents/shoppers in the Town Centre have indicated that the overwhelming Top Priority is to "fix" Hibberson Street!)

1.2 The Gungahlin Community wants improved communication in respect of road development and upgrades and traffic impact measures in the area.

1.3 Focus needs to be placed on significant diverse commercial development to provide employment,

entertainment and shopping opportunities for Gungahlin residents.

1.4 Electoral boundaries need to be reconfigured to reflect needs of Gungahlin residents and the continuing rapid growth. The current Molonglo Electorate footprint does not reflect the interests of Gungahlin residents as a bloc. (A preference is for an electorate which specifically represents the Gungahlin region).

1.5 Air traffic noise is likely to be an issue of increasing importance with the development of new suburbs towards the northern extremities of the ACT.

2. ROADS and TRANSPORT

Transport continues to be a major issue of concern for the Gungahlin community, in particular relating to 'catch-up' measures applied to problem areas. Upgrades of a key routes result in disruptions to feeder roads because of a rapidly expanding population. GCC contends that these facilities should be provided in advance of or in concert with 'known' development procedures.

Gungahlin residents rely heavily on road access in and out of the region because there are too few employment opportunities, services, entertainment and leisure facilities in the area.

2.1 Gungahlin Drive (Southbound) users are faced with regular delays due to traffic light scheduling at Sandford Street and Wells Station Road in Mitchell.

2.2 The duplication of Gundaroo Drive between the Barton Highway and Mirrabei Drive has not been funded in two successive budgets. GCC identified this project as a TOP Priority issue for the 2014-15 ACT Budget and will continue representations to secure funding in the 2015-16 ACT Budget.

2.2.1 Allocate priority to the section between Gungahlin Drive and Mirrabei Drive (before the Valley Way extension is completed) – Bus stopping areas contribute to regular vehicle accidents due to single lane traffic. Increased Town Centre by-pass traffic will exacerbate existing problems.

2.2.2 Correct bend in alignment of southbound RH lane at junction with Gungahlin Drive to cater for volume of traffic turning right into Gungahlin Drive and to reduce current bottleneck. Increased usage of Gungahlin shopping precinct results in heavy traffic build-ups. Problems occur closer to Service Station section due to lack of pull-off areas (on both sides) for Action buses.

(It is likely that noise reduction barriers will be the 1st item of construction along residential areas between Crace and Gundaroo Drive.)

3. Other Specific transport/road issues

3.1 Construct traffic by-pass routes around the Gungahlin Town Centre to divert the increasing traffic flow from Flemington Road (East – West) and from Bonner and Casey (West – East). This means significant focus on Valley Way and Anthony Rolfe Avenue as effective thoroughfares.

3.2 Stagger scheduling of road works so that traffic disruptions are minimised.

3.3 Fix the problem intersections in the Town Centre. (A GCC TOP PRIORITY issue.)

4. HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES

4.1 Urgent need for entertainment facilities, including a cinema complex, to service Gungahlin residents.

4.2 Urgent need for facilities to cater for the region's youth, particularly after day time facilities are closed.

4.3 Need for secure storage facilities for service organisations (Rotary, Lions) and community groups (Scouts, Guides) to safely store equipment.

4.4 Need for more meeting room or classroom type facilities in the region to cater for after-hours teaching/instruction programs.

5. IMPROVED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

5.1 Improved access to lake shores (Yerrabi Pond, Gungahlin Pond etc.) for recreational purposes.

5.2 Parking associated with lakeshore/waterbody access throughout district needs to be substantially increased.

PROGRESS REPORT

NBN Roll-out.

Homes in most Gungahlin suburbs are passed by NBN fibre or are connected. Roll-out plans to connect more homes are 'in train' in Nicholls. Part of Casey remains affected without the promise of a FTTH service..

Transition of TransACT services to NBN is still experiencing some issues. NBN has not yet fully provided a solution for connection of multi-unit developments to NBN services. This heavily impacts local businesses and apartment dwellers.

Gungahlin Health Centre

GCC advocates that this facility needs to be upgraded to "enhanced" status and boosted by a Nurse Walk-in Clinic to better serve the needs of the Gungahlin community.

Substantial Employment Opportunities in Gungahlin

GCC emphasises the urgent need to create far more employment opportunities in the Gungahlin Town Centre – preferably by locating more than one Government Department in or close to the Town Centre. This will provide opportunities for Gungahlin residents for local employment reduce outwards traffic flows and increase inwards traffic flows . This in turn benefits workers and residents travelling out of Gungahlin as it balances waiting times at roundabouts and traffic lights where the situation currently favours inwards traffic on the Barton and Federal Highways.

Local businesses will also benefit from an increased clientele and more small businesses are likely to be drawn to the area.

The construction of a building to accommodate over 650 staff from the ACT Government Shared Services area of the Chief Minister's Department is progressing towards completion in mid-2015. Lobbying activities will continue to encourage the relocation of Commonwealth Government staff to Gungahlin to provide more local employment opportunities and workers in the Town Centre.





What's Important?

by Stuart Todd

The Gungahlin Community Council is passionate about putting forward the ideas and concerns of the local Gungahlin Community. The reason for this is: as a Council we would like to ensure Gungahlin and its residents have the appropriate infrastructure and local Government support to ensure the long term prosperity and growth as one of the ACT's major town centres.

Gungahlin is the real growth area in the ACT with more housing development than any other region within Canberra. The question that begs to be asked is whether the infrastructure and the needs of the community are being adequately addressed in light of this growth and development?

The Gungahlin Community Council has as one of its mandate's to ensure the residents of Gungahlin are heard and the messages that are important to us are addressed in such a manner that the ACT Government and other relevant stakeholders hear about "what's important".

Presently there are gaps in what Gungahlin has in terms of the above and what we need to ensure our needs as individuals and a community are met. Which brings me to the point of what's important? What is important to our community? What are the issues that the Gungahlin Community Council can assist the broader community in addressing? What are the topics, events, developments in infrastructure and environmental issues that are important enough to our community that we can seek discussion points or answers at our monthly public meeting of the Gungahlin Community Council? What are the topics or issues that we can address in our periodical Gunsmoke that will be relevant and important to our Gungahlin community.

Gunsmoke is a publication put together by the Gungahlin Community Council that seeks to keep our community informed on local topics and points of interest. What we would like is to gain some insight from our readers and prospective readers as to what we aren't covering that is important and what do we cover that is relevant and important to our readers.

As mentioned earlier we conduct monthly general meetings and have a variety of guest speakers who present at these meetings about matters that are important to our local community. We feel it is important that we seek feedback from our community on this level as well, as to topics that might interest the community that have not been previously addressed or we haven't addressed recently.

The scope for topics is enormous and I'm sure there are plenty of issues, concerns and informative topics that we haven't even considered. As representatives of the local community we are seeking from you "what's important"!



"Have your say"

GCC COMMUNITY SURVEY 2014

We like living in Gungahlin because of the ambience, what it offers now and its potential to offer much more. The GCC is committed to influencing developments and improvements to make living in Gungahlin even better.

In 2008 the ACT Government sought community views on the future development of the Gungahlin Town Centre. Unfortunately the recommendations (released in November 2011) were largely based on a very limited level of community response – less than 170 participants. The outcome was a well-meaning set of plans to “assist the long-term vision of a lively centre for retail, commercial and entertainment uses, while maintaining the ‘urban village’ character.”

The GCC survey seeks to find out whether residents are satisfied with the rate of progress and if they still want a sleepy urban village character. Recent infrastructure developments (Library, College, Enclosed Oval and Leisure Centre) have helped to foster a significantly increased sense of community in the Gungahlin district. These, plus the planned Light Rail, will impact heavily on the ‘urban village’ character. Our needs have grown considerably.

The survey will not only cover what residents want to see happening in the Town Centre but will seek input on roads, missing amenities, suburban issues and other factors contributing to our continued enjoyment of being in Gungahlin.

This is a rare chance for Gungahlin

residents to express their views and have a role in influencing the future development of the Town Centre in particular. GCC will represent the outcomes to Government and keep the community advised of any progress.

The recent ACT Budget featured very few new projects for Gungahlin – perhaps the Government considers that Gungahlin has been well catered for in recent years. Now is the time for a strong community reaction – to have some real community input into future planning. Gungahlin residents can show that they really care about the future development of their region by completing this survey.

Reasons for Survey

- Challenge the quiet urban village concept.
- Explore impact of Light Rail.
- Perceived poor planning for roads (entry to Town Centre and by-pass routes).
- Determine need for densification.
- Lack of available development space matched with expected population.
- Lack of local employment.
- Lack of commercial development and diversity of commercial outlets.
- Poor day-time patronage of existing commercial facilities.
- Need for a Gungahlin electorate in the ACT Legislative Assembly by 2016.



Go to link

Please complete GCC survey by 19 November 2014.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8QDXW69>





The Issue of Homelessness in Gungahlin

We are lucky to live in one of the most affluent cities in Australia. It is therefore surprising to note that Canberra has the 2nd highest rate of homelessness in Australia (ABS). We may ask ourselves why this is. Homelessness is not a choice and can be caused by domestic violence, family breakdown, high rental costs, lack of affordable housing, mental illness, unemployment, drug, alcohol abuse and addiction issues.

Many people perceive that homelessness is sleeping rough on the street; in most cases however, people sleep in improvised dwellings like cars or tents, stay in temporary accommodation like garages and overcrowded dwellings or stay with friends (couch surfing).

Statistics indicate that two-thirds of homeless people are under the age of 25, 55% of homeless woman are escaping domestic violence and more than half of Canberrans who seek emergency housing each night are turned away because services are at full capacity (ACT Shelter).

This impacts on our community in Gungahlin. Communities@Work through their Social Programs including Care&Share and The Yellow Van, distributed over 68,000 food hampers and essential items to people in need and distributed 100 tonnes of food to other agencies in 2013-14. With over 2000 client visits and distribution to 50 agencies each month, Communities@Work is making a difference.

The St Vincent de Paul Society Conference in Gungahlin assisted 2000 people during the 2013-2014 financial year. The assistance ranged from supporting households struggling to get food, to providing budgeting skills, and a listening ear and referral to professional services as required. Our Conference members volunteer their time to offer a hand up to those in need to assist in them gaining the help they need and encourage them to take control of their own destiny.

What can you do? The Canberra Community Sleepout is a joint partnership between Communities@Work and St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn with all money raised supporting the work of these two organisations. It will be held on Friday 14 November at the AIS to not only raise funds but also to raise awareness of the issues around homelessness in our community. You can join us by registering or help by donating via www.sleepout.org.au

You are welcome to join our Team Gungahlin @ the Community Sleepout

Team Gungahlin has been set up for the Canberra Community Sleepout as a way to bring the Gungahlin Community together to support this cause. We would love to see Gungahlin people work together to raise funds and awareness of homelessness in Canberra. By working together as Team Gungahlin and coming together on the night to recognise why we are there and celebrating the achievements I hope this strengthens the community feel in Gungahlin. Go Team Gungahlin!

teamgungahlin



MY GUNGAHLIN TEAM IS LOCATED AT

<http://sleepout2014.gofundraise.com.au/page/TeamGungahlin>

www.mygungahlin.com.au

www.facebook.com/mygungahlin

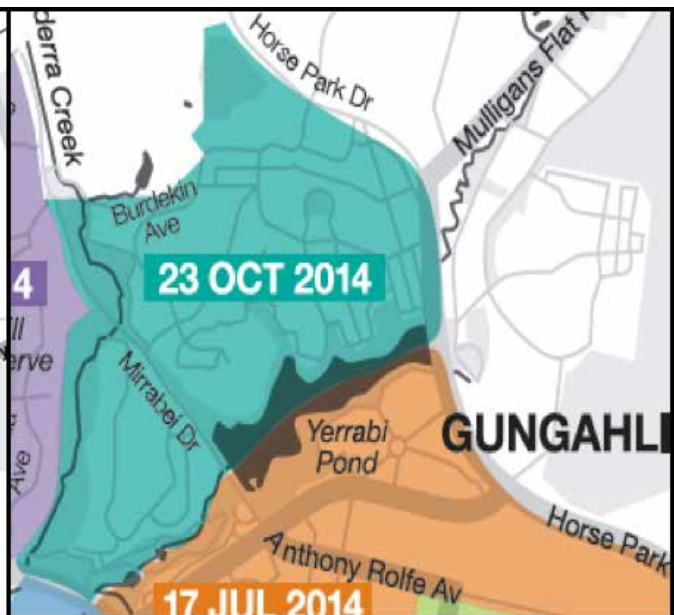
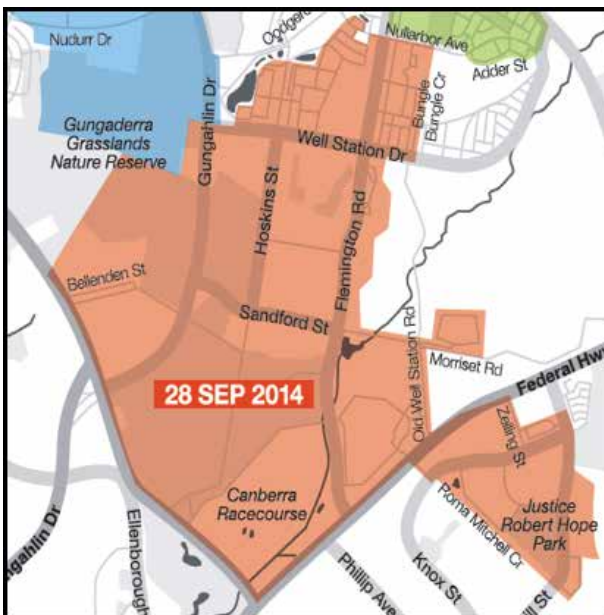


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Landline disconnections coming up

ACTION REQUIRED!! Almost every Gungahlin resident has work to do in the next few months regarding the National Broadband Network (NBN), regardless of where they live. For some residents, action is required NOW!

As part of the arrangements between NBN Co and Telstra, the next round of home phone and internet services based on landline copper connections are scheduled to be disconnected and replaced by the NBN fibre network in parts of Gungahlin, starting from **28 September 2014**. To avoid disconnection of your landline home phone and/or internet they need to be moved to the NBN.



What do you need to do?

NBN Co strongly recommends you order your service 8 weeks before disconnection date to allow enough time to install and connect the equipment before disconnection. Don't leave it to the last minute. Make sure you avoid disconnection.

Don't let any of your neighbours get left behind without a home phone or internet access. If you live in

an area in Gungahlin shaded orange or green on the map make sure your neighbours also know about the 28 September and 23 October 2014 deadline. We don't want anyone in Gungahlin left without a home phone or internet access.



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The Canberra Community Sleepout is a partnership between
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