

Gungahlin Community Council

JM
PUBLISHING

GUNSMOKE

Newsletter - Edition 136 March 2015

Light Rail the right step
forward for Canberra

Government Out of Touch
With Business Needs

Download the
latest Gunsmoke





Light Rail the right step forward for Canberra

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of watching Meegan Fitzharris make her inaugural speech to the ACT Legislative Assembly. Her presence in the Labor Government is a huge win for the citizens of Gungahlin. As a passionate advocate for the North of Canberra, Meegan knows the issues facing Gungahlin residents better than most. She is the first member who identifies as a 'Gungahlin member', and I look forward to working with Meegan on addressing the issues facing Northside residents.

One of the policy areas both Meegan and I know is important to the Gungahlin community is the Light Rail project - an ACT Labor 2012 election commitment, which we are on track to deliver. Building a sustainable public transport link between the town centre of Gungahlin and Canberra city is an ambitious project, but our failure to act now will have devastating consequences for Gungahlin residents in the future. Already, Northside Canberrans working in the city face one of the slowest commutes to work along Northbourne Avenue, compounded by congestion issues on Gungahlin Drive and Flemington Road. If we don't act now, it will take commuters from Gungahlin to the city an hour to get to work in the morning by 2031.

Rather than waiting for the problem to occur, the ACT Labor Government is tackling the issue right now. Light rail is a sustainable system of public transportation that will seamlessly join up with bus, bike and car transport. It will allow, in the first instance, the residents of Gungahlin and the surrounding suburbs to access the city in approximately 25 minutes. As the project grows, residents in areas across the nation's capital will also be able to enjoy the benefits of light rail travel - not having to worry about parking costs and fuel costs for their vehicle, reaching the city without waiting in traffic.

Smooth, modern transport is just the start of the benefits of light rail project to the ACT. Light rail is proven to attract investment in a way other transport options, like buses and cars can't. The entire light rail corridor

will undergo a significant renewal - with medium to high density development along Northbourne Avenue already revitalising the Capital's main entrance. As the corridor moves along Flemington Road, developments in Harrison have already driven significant growth in Gungahlin, which will continue as the project begins to take shape.

Most importantly, the Capital Metro project will create jobs in the ACT. At a time when Commonwealth Government cuts continue to hurt our community, the ACT Government is doing everything we can to ensure that our economy is stimulated through low unemployment. The project will deliver thousands of jobs in the development and design phase, construction and ongoing operation of the system. Outside of these jobs, the development of infrastructure and creation of new businesses along the light rail corridor will also help bolster our economy.

I know many people ask the prudent question - can we afford it? Let me assure you that the ACT Government is well placed to meet the ongoing costs of the project. By entering into a Public Private Partnership, business bears the upfront cost and most of the risk. We can spread the cost over a generation: the generation that uses Capital Metro. We don't pay until Canberrans are riding light rail along Northbourne Avenue. An expert, private consortium builds light rail and operates it and the city pays them to run and maintain it, with payments becoming more affordable over the life of the deal, just like your mortgage. The annual cost will be a relatively small part of the ACT's overall budget - to put things into context we expect to spend \$2.5 billion on infrastructure over the next four years out of a total budgeted expenditure of \$20 billion.

So our necessary and affordable investment in light rail is about much more than transport. It will revitalise Northbourne Avenue - the main entrance to our city. It will link up with the renewal we're already seeing in Braddon and Dickson with Gungahlin's lively and growing town centre. It will create jobs and opportunities. It will also sit as a natural, pragmatic component of a wider whole - road and rail transport, innovation, thriving business, a diverse economy - all of which helps us continue to be a liveable, mature city.



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.

President: Ewan Brown - president@gcc.asn.au

Vice President: Peter Elford - 0401 890 387
vicepresident@gcc.asn.au

Public Officer: James Milligan - james@jmpublishing.com.au

Secretary: Tony Ozanne - secretary@gcc.asn.au

Web Admin: Jeremy Watson - Jeremy@alexanderwatson.com.au

GCC Committee: Michael Norfor, Stuart Todd, Kevin Cox, Chris Barry, Prasad Tipirneni, Henley Samuel, Jayson Hinder, Jacob Vadakkedathu



From the Vice President

Peter Elford

The mission of the Gungahlin Community Council (GCC) is to engage the Gungahlin community with the ACT government. This includes distributing information from the ACT government to Gungahlin residents, but more importantly it involves advocacy on behalf of Gungahlin residents to shape the plans and activities of the ACT government to meet the requirements and needs of Gungahlin.

But what are Gungahlin's needs ? What do residents want ? One of the most challenging aspect of the GCC's activities is how to answer these questions. Traditionally, the GCC's monthly meetings have provided a forum for updates to be provided and opinions and views to be shared, and the Gunsmoke newsletter allows news, opinions and "hot topics" to be shared. For many years electronic communication such as the GCC website and electronic mail have enabled residents to ask questions and provide feedback. In more recent years social media platforms like FaceBook have expanded the reach and convenience of electronic communication. And of course, the individuals who have volunteered their time to be members of the GCC bring their own views, and the views of their family, friends and colleagues, to these discussions. Our president, Ewan Brown, regularly distils all of this input down into an Issues List, which appears on the website and in Gunsmoke.

But we do ask ourselves, does this really represent the views of Gungahlin residents ? The only way to find out is to ask, and the recently completed 2014 "Have Your Say" community survey was

intended to answer exactly that question. With over 1,300 responses this is an excellent sampling of the Gungahlin community and the key findings from the survey can be found in this issue. The full details will be available online shortly. Thank you to everyone who responded, and to the members of the GCC that have worked on the analysis and report.

Although the survey questions regarding roads and transport generated the most comments, indicating a daily source of frustration and hence a priority focus area for the GCC, the survey validated much of the GCC's Issue List, and has generated strong evidence to support the GCC's ongoing advocacy efforts.

The strong response to the survey, the passion with which some of the comments were made and the answers to the "where can things be improved" questions suggest (to me at least!) that the residents of Gungahlin do relate to each other and this area as a *community*. Even better, they are passionate advocates for how great a place this is to live in, and how it can be made better. I am reminded of this every time I manage to get out for a morning walk or (even better) a ride on my mountain bike through Mulligans, Goorooyarroo or on the Centennial Trail. It's absolutely fantastic and you really get to appreciate the open spaces, paths, trails and views as you pass others doing the same. You can see they think so too as they say G'day in passing.



FROM THE POLLIES

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

2015 promises to be another year of significant growth for Gungahlin and the surrounding suburbs. Following on from 2014, where a new enclosed oval, the Gungahlin Leisure Centre and the sod turning of the Casey Market Place were delivered to Gungahlin residents, this year will see our development agenda for the area continue.

It was great to tour the new ACT Government office block in the Gungahlin town centre, which is due for completion in early to mid 2015. Once government employees enter the building, this will bring hundreds of people to the town centre every day of the working week- driving foot traffic to local shops and cafes. Just like Belconnen, Woden, Tuggeranong and the city, Gungahlin will reap the economic benefits of this new development, further contributing to the growth of the town centre.

In my new role as the Minister for Urban Renewal, I also want to encourage the active use of space outside of the major town centres. Bringing services and development to our suburbs is a vital part of this Government's agenda, helping to build a strong sense of identity in our communities. That's why the ACT government has invested in projects such as the Franklin Community Recreation Irrigated Park, with multipurpose sports courts, playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment and barbeque facilities. Developments like this are crucial to our city's renewal and I hope to see more of these developments as suburbs like Gungahlin continue to grow and attract more residents.

I am delighted that the newest member of the ACT Legislative Assembly and the first to identify as a 'Gungahlin member' is Labor's Meegan Fitzharris. She will be a strong and vocal advocate for her community in the Labor caucus and will give Gungahlin's 50,000 residents a strong voice in ACT politics. Meegan will help ensure projects such as the Gungahlin cinema get underway in 2015.

As we push further with our plans to address congestion issues along Northbourne Avenue with an integrated transport plan, including, of course, the light rail project, I would invite residents of Gungahlin to engage with the consultations Capital Metro are conducting. We want to hear from residents about light rail, and how the project can be beneficial to areas like Gungahlin. I look forward to hearing these thoughts throughout 2015.



FROM THE POLLIES

Shane Rattenbury MLA
ACT Minister Assisting on
Transport Reform

In January, in cooperation with the Chief Minister, I took on the newly-created portfolio focused on Transport Reform, in recognition that transport is integral to how Canberra grows.

As residents of Canberra's fastest-growing area, the people of Gungahlin will want travel options that allow them to move easily and efficiently to, from and around the Gungahlin region. The challenge is how to achieve this against a backdrop of growing population and increased traffic congestion as well as increasing petrol prices over the longer term with corresponding greenhouse emissions.

Transport reform has great potential to improve Canberrans' everyday lives, and the long-term prosperity of the whole city. For Canberra to remain a healthy, prosperous and liveable city, we need to prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, both in planning and in the way we roll out infrastructure.

Canberra's pioneering light rail project, now well underway, is the first significant shift in transport policy in this town for many decades and sets us on the path to being a great sustainable city. Not only will light rail provide a fast and reliable transport alternative – initially in the increasingly congested Gungahlin-City corridor, but in the next decades linking all of Canberra – it will also encourage the development of more compact, walkable neighbourhoods and embed a transport system that can run on renewable energy. Integrating light rail with other transport modes, in particular existing buses, is critical to achieving quality, flexible services that build public transport use.

Transport reform must also include improving the efficiency of ACTION buses if we are to guarantee the best public transport system for Canberra into the future. We must explore and embrace new technologies – things like "NXTBus", which provides real time public transport information, solar panel noise barriers and phosphorescent walking and cycling paths that save on lighting, and smart traffic technologies to improve the efficiency of our road network.

Changing the way our transport system operates must be done thoughtfully and equitably, but it is sensible to start now. With smart planning and early investment, Canberra will stay as the prosperous, green and healthy city that we love.



FROM THE POLLIES

Alistair Coe MLA
Deputy Leader of the Opposition

The Canberra Liberals believe that the bus network in Canberra has great potential. Rather than simply giving up on buses, the ACT Government should be looking at genuine reforms to ACTION rather than putting it in the 'too hard basket'. Proof of the potential of ACTION buses is the Route 202 express bus from Gungahlin to the City. The service takes as little as 19 minutes and a maximum of 24 minutes – faster than the projected travel time of light rail. Of course, with buses there is flexibility regarding the route, stops and service type; by contrast, with light rail there can be no express trams as trams cannot overtake and are therefore restricted by the speed of the tram ahead.

Generally, I believe there is satisfaction with the quality of the inter-town bus services. The Gungahlin to City Red Rapid Route 200 and other inter-town services (300 series) are well patronised. Rather than simply focusing on these commuter services, the challenge for public transport planning is how do we improve the suburban link services? Unfortunately, the Government's light rail service does not tackle this core issue.

The Government has said that the cost of light rail is \$783 million and it will be financed through industry (at a commercial rate of about 10%). Therefore, the taxpayers of Canberra can expect to pay at least \$80 million per year in interest alone. In fact, the annual financial and operational cost of operating a dozen trams is the same as keeping about 400 buses on the road. Therefore, for the same cost as light rail, we could have double the buses and bus services for the whole of Canberra.

We need to have an informed discussion about the best way to solve our transport needs, rather than have just one option foisted upon Canberrans by the Government. If you have thoughts about how to improve ACTION buses, please contact me via coe@parliament.act.gov.au or 6205 0101.



Universal Trusses

Specialising in quality

6260 1436

- ✓ Roof Trusses
- ✓ Wall Frames
- ✓ Floor Trusses
- ✓ HyBeam
- ✓ HySpan
- ✓ Flooring
- ✓ Attic Ladders

52 Sheppard St Hume ACT, 2620. office@universaltrusses.com.au



Gungahlin Community Council Activities

By Ewan Brown

The activities of the GCC are governed by an elected Executive Committee. In past years the GCC has not been able to attract sufficient members to form a committee of the size needed to represent the diverse interests of such a rapidly growing area. But we achieved double figure memberships in both the current and previous terms and this revealed a need to review the Constitution in relation to committee size, eligibility and appointment as an office bearer.

Community councils do attract likely candidates for local political office. They can also be attractive to people representing specific interest groups. Some community councils prefer committee members to gain local knowledge and experience before being appointed to an important office bearer role. The GCC Executive Committee decided to refresh the Constitution and will recommend the following changes to a Special General meeting in March.

PART III - THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

12. Membership of the Executive Committee

(1) The Executive Committee (committee) shall be elected pursuant to Rule 13 or appointed in accordance with 12(5) and shall consist of:

(a) Office-Bearers of the Council as set out in 12(2)

(b) Executives of the Council, if any, as provided for in 12(3).

(1) The committee shall consist of

(a) the office bearers of the GCC; and

(b) **no more than 6 ordinary committee members; each of whom shall be elected pursuant to rule 13 or appointed in accordance with sub rule (5).**

(2) The Office-Bearers of the Council shall be:

(a) the President

(b) the Vice President

(c) the Treasurer

(d) the Secretary.

(3) The Executives of the Council and their particular roles, if any, shall be as determined by the Council at an Annual General or Special Meeting.

(4) Each member of the Executive Committee shall, subject to these rules, hold office until the close of the Annual General meeting following the date of the member's election.

(5) In the event of a vacancy in the membership of the Executive Committee, the committee may appoint a member of the Council to fill the vacancy. The member so appointed shall hold office, subject to these rules, for such period as the Executive Committee may determine, not being longer than the close of the Annual General meeting following the date of the appointment.

(6) A Public Officer must be appointed as

required by the Act. The Public Officer may be a member of the committee and, if not already a member of the committee, is an ex officio member of the committee. The appointment of the Public Officer is only terminated by retirement, a Resolution passed at a General Meeting or dismissal pursuant to the Act. The Public Officer must fulfil all responsibilities as prescribed in the Act.

13. Election of Executive Committee members

(1) Nominations of candidates for election as Office-Bearers or Executive members of the Council shall be made in writing and delivered to the Secretary before the commencement of the Annual General meeting at which the election is to take place.

(2) By resolution of the meeting, further nominations may be received during the Annual General meeting.

(3) A ballot for the election of each Office-Bearer and Ordinary Executive Committee member shall be conducted at the Annual General meeting in such manner as the Executive Committee may direct, unless the majority of the members present at the meeting decide otherwise.

(4) Any vacant positions remaining on the Executive Committee shall be deemed to be vacancies.

(5) A person is only eligible to nominate to be a member of the Executive Committee if the person is a member of the Council and the person has not resigned in accordance with Rule 8.

(6) A person is eligible to nominate for an Ordinary Executive Committee member position only if the person is an active member of Council who has attended at least 3 General (Public) Meetings of Council during the 12 months preceding nomination and have their name so recorded in the records of attendance.

(7) To ensure potential candidates for election to the Executive are aware of Council operations, aims & aspirations,

nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary can only be made in respect of active members who have attended at least 4 General (Public) Meetings of Council in the 12 months preceding the AGM and have their name recorded in the records of attendance.

8) A person is not eligible to nominate to be an Office-Bearer of the Council a position on the Committee if the person is, at the time of nomination;

- (a) an Executive Officer of a registered political party,
- (b) a person employed by a registered political party,
- (c) a registered candidate for a forthcoming election,

(d) an elected member of the ACT Legislative Assembly or any Parliament or a person who has been pre-selected or has nominated for a forthcoming election to any of the aforementioned bodies; or
(e) an office bearer in a commercial or industrial lobby group registered with the Federal or ACT Government.

In summary, it is proposed to:

- limit the total number of committee members to 10,
- insert specific reference to the appointment of a Public Officer,
- place experience requirements on committee members seeking appointment to office bearer roles, and
- provide clarification of the circumstances under which certain people are ineligible to nominate for the committee.

Succession planning: In November the Committee also discussed limiting key office bearers to 4 year terms in order to refresh ideas. The next AGM signals the expiration of the 4 year term for the current President. Accordingly a replacement is required. There will also be an impact on the editorship/production of Gunsmoke. Given the progress towards a new 5 member electorate at the 2016 ACT elections it is likely that some committee members may declare an interest in candidature thus becoming ineligible to remain on the committee after early 2016.

Work needs to start now to identify replacement committee members in order to have time for an induction process. Ideally we need a President and several committee members who are preferably retired or working part-time so as to be able to attend a significant number of events, meetings and activities during week-day business hours.

Representation on GCC committees has generally been dominated by males. Attempts to attract females to join the committee have been partially successful with small numbers participating over recent years. Most other Community Councils have significant female membership.

GCC committees have generally comprised members who either work or run businesses full-time. The scope of our activities extends way beyond the Gungahlin borders as we become involved in many whole-of-Canberra issues. Attendance at a wide range of government and non-government forums and committees is also required.

GCC Priorities

The Survey results, the website upgrade and the Gungahlin Festival rate top priority in the 1st quarter of 2015.

The February meeting will feature the survey outcomes, with a formal launch scheduled separately. The Constitution amendments will be put to a General Meeting in March.

Aims for 2015: 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 :
- GCC website
- Social media
- Local advertising/promotion opportunities
- Community alliances
- Promotion of meetings
- Expansion of Gunsmoke readership (in soft copy format).

Community Reach/Communications

- Website upgrade– about 800 hits each peak. (Aim to increase to 5000). Upgrade to significantly improve website to increase readership. Include regular newsletter-type updates i.e. weekly to cover topics of interest.
- Facebook – regular posts– about 1300 followers. (Aim to increase to 5000).
- Gunsmoke (6 per year) Editions in February (136), April (137), June (138) & August (139). Emphasis to be placed on varying content.
- Business Breakfasts
- Chronicle articles. At least monthly.
- Public Meetings – 10 per year no January & no July replace with December.
- Gungahlin Festival (11 April 2015)
- NBN Developments: Ad-hoc involvement unless a definitive project is approved.

ACT SENIORS WEEK 14 – 22 March 2015

Your essential 'to-do list' for March!

With over 200 events and a fantastic variety of exhibitors in a bigger and better venue, this year's expo will be an essential event on your calendar.



As Australia's leading national publication for over-60s, TheSenior is proud to support ACT Seniors Week 2015 and TheSenior 2015 ACT Seniors Week Expo.

The Expo is to be held at Thoroughbred Park on March 17 from 9.30am to 3pm and is a wonderful opportunity for the ACT's older residents to discover what's new to support, improve and enhance their lifestyle. Visitors will have the opportunity to talk face-to-face with representatives of organisations and businesses relevant to seniors and to try out some of their latest products.

From retirement and lifestyle choices, travel and finance to government and community services, the Expo brings to life many of the information, advice, entertainment and feature stories that The Senior covers every month.

See www.thesenior.com.au for information.

Make sure you also visit the Holidays of Australia stand for your chance to win 8 Nights on the Dawn Princess Northern Explorer cruise. This fantastic holiday is valued at \$5,500 including accommodation and return flights for two!

The ACT Chief Minister's concerts will take place on the big Fernwood Fitness stage, performed by the RMC Band in the main arena. Since launching in 1989, Fernwood

Fitness has become synonymous with Australian women's health and fitness. There are five clubs in Canberra at Belconnen, Canberra City, Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and Woden.

Visit the Lend Lease Healthy Eating Stage and enjoy demonstrations by Nutrition Australia. Lend Lease is Australia and New Zealand's largest retirement lifestyles provider, with 70 villages across Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, the ACT, New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand. Offering independent living options for over 55s, Lend Lease villages encourage the development of thriving communities.

Our inaugural COTA ACT Seniors Week Ambassador Awards will mark the beginning of Seniors Week. Capital Chemist is the key sponsor for these. The awards recognise outstanding service and commitment in improving the lives of older Canberrans and an opportunity to recognize those who make a positive difference to older people in our community. Capital Chemist is wholly owned by a partnership of local and likeminded pharmacists dedicated to providing quality health care and ancillary medical services to their customers.

With a fantastic variety of exhibitors in a bigger and better venue, this year's expo will be an essential visit on your to do list.

ACT Seniors Week is a COTA ACT initiative supported by the ACT Government.



"Have your say"

GCC COMMUNITY SURVEY 2014

By Peter Elford

The GCC conducted a community survey in late 2014 to determine the attitude of residents in the Gungahlin across wide range of topics.

A summary report is available from the GCC website, but the key results in each area include:

Town Centre

- A large majority of residents (more than 80%) want the maximum height of buildings to be 10 stories or less, and over 40% want 4 stories or less
- Entertainment services are by a large margin (about 20%) the most desired amenity/outlet, ahead of department stores and electrical and household goods outlets
- More than 70% of residents would like Hibberson Street closed to traffic and turned into a mall
- The preferred parking solutions are underground or multistory car parks
- Over 90% of residents would like the health care centre upgraded to a nurse walk-in centre

Roads and Traffic

- Overwhelmingly, residents are frustrated by roads that are designed for duplication but are not built as duplicated roads when first constructed
- Over 50% of responses mentioned Gundaroo Drive in this context, and there were also a large number of comments about Horse Park Drive
- The corner of Hibberson Street and Hinder Street drew many comments requesting improved safety measures (usually traffic lights)
- There were many comments on problems with bus routes and timetables

Commuting

- More than 40% of commuters travel to the Northside or Civic; around 15% of residents

work from home. Nearly 90% of commuters travel to work in their own car

- Over 75% of residents wanted to see the Light Rail project go ahead; 67% said they would use it. Those that opposed Light Rail indicated they wanted a separate bus route because it would be less expensive

Local Area Amenities

- Picnic areas, BBQ areas, Playgrounds and Public Toilets were the most commonly requested amenities for the Gungahlin region, followed closely by an indoor sporting centre
- Car hoons was identified by over 60% of residents as the biggest security concern
- Demand for a green waste collection service was high (nearly 70% of responses)
- Nearly 400 comments were received regarding youth services, with a cinema and youth centres having the most support.
- Just over 200 comments were received regarding services for senior citizens, with meeting facilities and lawn bowls the most often mentioned. There was also some indication that respondents were not aware of existing services.

Electoral System

- Over 85% of residents were in favour of Gungahlin having its own 5 seat electorate

The survey has been a huge amount of work for the GCC, but has provided a great deal of tremendously useful data to set our priorities for the year ahead. Comments and suggestions are, as always, welcome.

GCC appreciates the contributions and assistance provided by My Gungahlin and Communities@Work in helping to ensure that this survey gained a critical level of response to make the politicians and planners take notice about the future needs of Gungahlin.





Government Out of Touch With Business Needs

Brendan Smyth MLA

Shadow Minister for Business and Economic Development

The recent release of the Sensis Business Index shows how badly the ACT Government is out of touch with local small and medium businesses (SMEs). Support for the government's policies plummeted by 42 points from August to October last year, and includes expectations from November 2014 to January 2015. This was further highlighted by the ACT ranking last in the country for business confidence.

Looking at the details of the report, it is quite clear that our local businesses are unhappy with ACT Labor's policies.

SMEs are the engine of our city's economy, and the importance of the role they play in Gungahlin's economic well-being should not be understated. Although the ACT Government has made much mileage in highlighting our economic slowdown on forces beyond their control—they have consistently failed to listen to local businesses, and as such, create an environment where local businesses can grow, prosper, and thrive. After all, we as a community are the ultimate beneficiaries of a thriving local business sector.

And the benefits are many. First, ACT businesses provide valuable revenue to our Territory, which in turn fund our schools, hospitals and police services, to name a few. Second, successful and confident businesses create job opportunities. And third, there is the social amenity that ACT businesses bring to local communities, be it advice from your pharmacist, a chat with your local newsagent, or a nearby venue for a meal with the family.

Much of the recent Report's findings are the result of Government indifference. Over the last 13 years, they have overseen the establishment of the largest borrowing program in our city's history—and with this, the largest deficits and debts our city has ever seen.

Unfortunately, to pay for this, the result has led to escalating compliance costs, increasing charges, opportunistic taxes, and complex red tape. The notion that this Government will triple the general rates is a worrying thought for both ACT homeowners and businesses alike.

Quite clearly, the respondents felt that the ACT Government does not understand and is indifferent to what ACT businesses need. Rather, around this time last year, the ACT Treasurer showed his hand when he intimated in a radio interview that:

The private sector are not exactly stepping up to the plate at the moment, making large investments, although we are seeking that, we are going overseas for that, because we don't think we're going to get that locally.

Of course, just this month alone, we learnt that the ACT Government awarded our city's mowing contract to a Victorian company that is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Melbourne City Council. Why the Government felt that a local business could not provide value for money for this contract is beyond comprehension.

The Chief Minister's announcement this month to establish a Small Business Advocate underlines his Government's failure to listen to local businesses over the past 13 years. Adding an additional layer of bureaucracy will not fix the problem of a deaf Government with a 'we know it all' mindset.

That said, the main question ACT businesses should be asking is whether the Government will actually listen to its own Small Business Advocate. After all, it was this same Government that brought in a Small Business Commissioner to represent ACT businesses, and not too much later abolished that position.

We can only hope that history does not rewrite itself, and that issues important to ACT businesses are not relegated to the 'too hard' basket.

As a town centre that does not have the public service base that other town centres enjoy, the need for a strong commercial base in Gungahlin is all the more important. In this regard, what Gungahlin needs is a Government that is interested in the long-term future of your community and local businesses.

For this to happen, Gungahlin needs a Government that is focussed not just on blaming others for their economic woes, but a Government that is committed to economic growth and community well-being.



For more information Visit www.nbnco.com.au/switch Phone the NBN Co Contact Centre on 1800 687 626.
If you need an Interpreter, please call Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask for the NBN Co Contact Centre. To find information in other languages: www.nbnco.com.au/translation

Landline Disconnections in Ngunnawal and Palmerston

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!

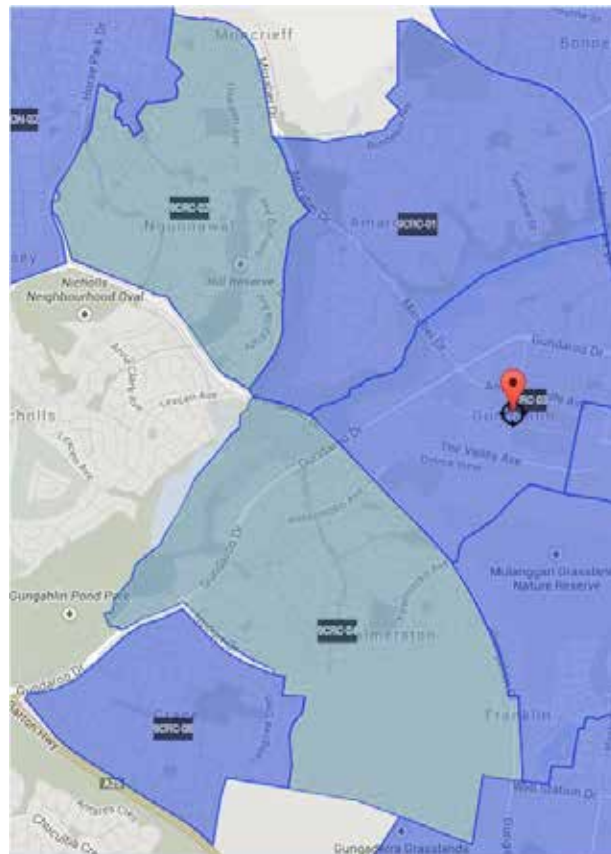
As part of the arrangements between NBN Co and Telstra, the next round of home phone and internet services based on landline copper connections are scheduled to be disconnected and replaced by the NBN fibre network in parts of Gungahlin, starting from 20 February 2015 in Ngunnawal and 20 March in Palmerston. 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?

If your address is in the green shaded area of the map, the NBN service is now available and your existing landline home phone and ADSL internet are scheduled to be disconnected starting from 20 February 2015 in Ngunnawal, and 20 March 2015 in Palmerston. You should contact whoever you get your phone service from now, or an alternative phone service provider, to arrange the transfer to the NBN.

NBN Co strongly recommend 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 green on the map make sure your neighbours also know about the 20 February and 20 March 2015 deadlines. We don't want anyone in Gungahlin left without a home phone or internet access.



More Information

Visit <http://www.nbnco.com.au/switch> or phone the NBN Co Contact Centre on 1800 687 626.
The ACT Digital Hub at the Gungahlin library provides free broadband training to all members of the community. Visit <http://www.library.act.gov.au/ACTDigitalHub>, email digitalhub@act.gov.au or call 6140 4990.

It's about you. Always!
Communities@Work

CELEBRATE GUNGAHLIN

An exciting, vibrant and entertaining festival

SAT, 11 APRIL

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

cnr of Gozzard & Hibberson Str (Library precinct)

**GUNGAHLIN
TOWN PARK**

For further information phone 6293 6500 or visit www.celebrategungahlin.org.au



Festival Organisers

It's about you. Always!
Communities@Work



mygungahlin



Proudly supported by Gungahlin Champion sponsors



and our Gungahlin Supporter sponsor

