

GUNSMOKE

Newsletter - Edition 138 July 2015

Liberals commit to a Barton
Hwy flyover, Gundaroo Dr
and more

**FROM THE
POLLIES**

Introducing the
Gungahlin Community Council

GCC Issues List

NEW RESIDENTS IN GUNGAHLIN'S WETLANDS

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latest Gunsmoke



Photograph by Geoffrey Dabb



Photo Courtesy - Sujay Photography

Home away from Home

Lian Kiley (IAIC Admin)

Rosemarie John (Communications Coordinator and IAIC member)

As migrants, a vast majority of us sometimes feel lost trying to settle down in a new country with a different culture. We understand that the whole process of acclimatising can take time. However, it can be an overwhelming experience, making a new migrant feel confused and isolated.

This is where Indian Australians in Canberra (IAIC) comes in. Filling that void, our Facebook Group gives new migrants (members) a sense of belonging by including them in society where everyone understands the trials and tribulations of moving to a new country. The group aids with the nitty gritty of how to go about basic things like choosing insurance, looking for jobs, schools, accommodation etc.

IAIC was started in 2007 on Orkut by Founder, Henley Samuel. Now on Facebook, it has since become a fast growing group with over a thousand members looking for help and advice.

"When I was seeking help, I couldn't get the help I needed. I realised it wasn't just me but also found that many others were in a similar situation," said Henley when asked how did the group come about? "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you is our motto," he added.

IAIC sets itself apart from other Facebook Groups of similar concepts. We are not just keyboard acquaintances. We have had about 6 group gatherings (not including our very popular ladies lunch and dinners). These group gatherings are informal with plenty of good food and banter. We have seen friendships blossom out of these gatherings and that contributes to the success of IAIC.

Are you new to our vibrant city? Seeking guidance or friends? Find the best samosas in town? You've come to the right place! This dedicated Facebook Group endeavours to offer as many tips and suggestions to your queries

"Although I have been in Canberra for the last 3 years, I joined this group only 6 months back," said new member, Kanchan Sharma "I feel this group supports you in several ways. In my case, I had a chance to meet lovely ladies with whom I can relate to and be myself with. This group has supported me not only to gain information but also to expand my social circle," she added.

Another reason for our popularity amongst members is that only businesses who are willing to help our members directly with jobs, additional discounts on services or help sponsor our gatherings are allowed to post their ads on our group leaving the group spam free and open to important issues and everyday queries that members often seek help for. Our group continues to grow and we will keep providing help and assistance as long as there is need.

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groupsindianaustraliansincanberra/



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

Over recent years the GCC has kept up a theme for more amenities and services to meet the needs of the growing population and we have scored some prominent wins. But the rate of population growth has vastly outstripped the provision of services. The paucity of local employment opportunities means that most workers have to leave the district thus putting enormous pressure on the road networks connecting Gungahlin with key employment areas.

For many years developers were reluctant to commit to commercial projects in Gungahlin, instead the main focus was on residential development resulting in even more people needing to leave the district to seek employment, entertainment and other services.

At last Gungahlin is about to enter a period of expanded commercial growth but there is no evidence of a Master Plan for the Town Centre to guide future growth. Perhaps the new local electorate (Yerrabi) will provide the necessary focus on the specific needs of such an important growing community so that longer term planning intentions/concepts can be communicated in advance to the community. Other areas in Canberra are undergoing renewal phases but most were provided with a strong employment base to underpin balanced development. Why should Gungahlin remain largely a dormitory region? And be so heavily dependent on private transport?

The prospects/threat of a Light Rail connection to Civic provide a catalyst for future development opportunities and will have a significant impact on the services and amenities yet to be provided to Gungahlin. Such an important project cannot be downplayed to the extent that it focuses significantly on the Civic and Northbourne Avenue sections without

exploring the impact on the Gungahlin district in all its facets. It has the potential to affect the lifestyles of residents through changes to traffic flows, the design and amenity of the main street, parking facilities, commercial development, loss of bus services and the very nature of the Town Centre.

Many outer Gungahlin suburban residents consider that such a public transport network will provide little benefit unless it integrates well with other modes of transport.

In the meantime the population growth is placing huge pressures on schools and road networks. Thankfully we have most of the district provided with NBN fibre to the home – a national decision! But the growth pains across the region will persist. See ‘Broadband in Gungahlin’ on page 15.

Is it too much to ask any ACT Government to consider a ‘whole of Gungahlin’ plan so that the current piecemeal or remedial approach does not continue to marginalise those residents not in direct benefit of scattered specific projects? Too often we see a road upgrade in one area causing problems in another because of development delays, changed travel patterns and ‘rat run’ opportunities.

Entertainment and youth facilities are in high demand. There are good prospects for additional commercial developments to meet the wishes of most residents but the situation remains a ‘wait and see’. Parking and traffic control measures in and around the Town Centre will become more prominent issues in coming years. But we need a Master Plan for the Town Centre to ensure that community views are recognised



FROM THE POLLIES

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Earlier this month, I delivered the 2015/16 ACT Budget for Canberra. This Budget will ensure Canberra remains the world's most liveable city and remains a place all Canberrans can be proud of, with an economy in which we can all feel confidence.

The budget aims to ensure we maintain our core values – by continuing to invest in health and education. In 2015/16, we are investing a record \$1.5 billion into our health system and a record \$1.1 billion into our nation-leading education system. We are also leading the way by continuing our taxation reform, cutting stamp duty and abolishing insurance tax. We are seeking to address the impact that domestic violence has in our community.

This is budget for Canberra, and for all our suburb and town centres including Gungahlin. Gungahlin is growing fast and the ACT Government is making sure we provide the services and infrastructure Gungahlin residents need.

Following on from our investments in the town centre to date, such as the local sport ground, a new college and library and the aquatic centre, this budget funds further upgrades to the roads and schools in the Gungahlin area. I am pleased to announce a \$62.3 million investment in Gungahlin roads, including the duplication of Gundaroo Drive from Gungahlin Drive to Mirrabai Drive/Anthony Rolfe Avenue. Local ACT Labor member Meegan Fitzharris has done a fantastic job campaigning on this issue since she took office earlier this year, highlighting the need to address congestion along this road. The budget also funds stage one of the duplication of Horse Park Drive between Anthony Rolfe Avenue and Well Station Drive and further work on intersections in the area. We are acutely aware of the congestion issues along Horse Park Drive during peak hours, and further work will be done on the road in future budgets.

The budget also delivers more for Gungahlin schools. I am pleased to see funding in the Budget from 2016-17 for a new, P - 6 school in the North Gungahlin area. Further funding will be used for a feasibility study on a 7 – 10 school in the area. There are 7,297 students across 8 public schools in the Gungahlin region, providing the national leading education that Canberrans expect.

The ACT Government, through the 2015/16 Budget, is also beginning the process of financing the Capital Metro project, with stage one providing a light rail link between the Gungahlin town centre to the city. The Government will allocate \$375 million for a capital contribution towards the transformative project, which will be set aside until construction of stage 1 is complete and trams are running. This is an affordable project that will change our city – providing citizens with a viable and sustainable public transport option now, and in the future as the city continues to grow.

The budget has been described as a 'suburban' budget – with a focus on Canberra town centres including Gungahlin. I am as just as much the Mayor of Canberra as I am the Chief Minister and it's with great pride that I deliver a budget with a focus on where Canberrans live. I look forward to speaking with many residents across the city on the implementation of the infrastructure and service upgrades this budget delivers.



FROM THE POLLIES

Shane Rattenbury MLA
Greens Member for Molonglo
Minister for TAMS and
Minister Assisting the Chief
Minister on Transport Reform

If you keep an eye on local politics, you would have seen the ACT Budget was delivered this month, delivering a focus on maintaining our urban spaces, investing in public transport for our city, and expanding services for the people of Canberra.

As a Greens Minister in the Government, I was personally heartened to see that after many years of advocating for a stronger focus on public transport, public housing and mental health, we saw these areas prioritised in this Budget.

With the light rail project starting in Gungahlin soon, this Budget recommitted to public transport for everyone in our city, with the allocation of a substantial down payment on the light rail payable when the service starts in 2019, as well as over \$23m towards active and public transport infrastructure across the ACT. While we all rely on our cars now, it's important to plan ahead for a busier and more populated city.

The Budget also started the long-term commitment to investing in better public housing as we update our ageing stock. Canberrans from all backgrounds access public housing services and reside right across our Territory. It is good news that there will be roof for roof replacement as public housing is redeveloped, as the demand for housing continues to be high.

Looking after people is important. I think we've all been shocked and saddened to see the evidence on ongoing violence against women in our community. I was pleased to see additional funding for domestic violence support services and for school education programs for children about respectful relationships.

Finally, our Budget invests substantially in municipal services to keep our city looking great. For Gungahlin, this will mean more mowing, tree pruning and weeding of public spaces, more graffiti cleanup and prevention, and more cleaning around our lakes and ponds.

For people who visit Yerrabi Pond - a great place to get out and about - you will be pleased to hear that this budget also includes new outdoor fitness equipment as part of the Government's Healthy Weight Initiative.



FROM THE POLLIES

Jeremy Hanson MLA
Leader of the Opposition

At next year's ACT Election, Canberrans have a clear choice about the direction they want a local government to take their city. It is my firm belief that the ACT Labor government led by Andrew Barr, Simon Corbell and Green Shane Rattenbury, is taking Canberra in the wrong direction.

The Canberra Liberals want get the ACT government back in touch with local people. After 15 years in office, ACT Labor has taken Canberrans for granted while focusing on ideological projects like light rail. They have also degraded many local services and have driven people's costs through the roof.

By contrast, the Canberra Liberals want to focus on better local services for people living all across Canberra's suburbs, people living right across Canberra from the top of Gungahlin, right down to the far reaches of Tuggeranong.

The ACT Labor/Greens coalition's priorities are out of line with what Canberrans expect from their local government.

In this year's ACT Budget, Chief Minister Andrew Barr gave the green light for everyday fees and charges to increase. Rates are on their way to tripling and I'm sure many Canberrans are angry when they open their rates notices. You are paying more and getting less.

It's not just rates, but car registration and things like drivers' licences and parking fees, as well as the hours of paid parking which are all increasing. For example, average rates in Ngunnawal are going up \$134 in the coming year, in Franklin \$140 and in Amaroo they're going up on average \$120.

Because ACT Labor is wedded to building light rail, it's raising costs to fund it. Hundreds of millions of dollars will be sunk into light rail if the government continues its relentless ideological pursuit.

The Canberra Liberals have called for a light rail to be taken to the people at the October 2016 Election. If the Canberra Liberals win, it will not proceed.

It's important for Gungahlin residents to remember, if you live in places like Palmerston, Nicholls or Bonner, you will still have to get transport to the middle of Gungahlin before catching a tram which will still be slower than current express buses.

By contrast the Canberra Liberals will prioritise health and local services if we win government. We will put health back on top of the agenda; we will deliver on a comprehensive transport plan which will improve public transport for Gungahlin residents. We will offer the fresh approach that a growing Canberra needs.

We have announced a number of commitments for Gungahlin and you will continue to hear more until election day next year. I truly want to make Canberra the best place to live, raise a family and get ahead.



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A New Electorate 'Yerrabi' for all of Gungahlin

James Milligan

Gungahlin Community Council

At last Gungahlin residents will have an ACT Legislative Assembly electorate for their district. This will mean that we are more likely to get local candidates with the knowledge of what happens in, and affect, Gungahlin and have the experience of actually living in Gungahlin. For the next 2016 election residents from 5 Belconnen suburbs will be voting in the new electorate of Yerrabi to make up a quota for 5 members (in an expanded 25 member Assembly).

The new proposals recommend Ginninderra Drive as a natural boundary with the Belconnen suburbs of Lawson, McKellar, Kaleen, Giralang and Evatt to be included in the new electorate. Belconnen is simply too large, and Gungahlin too small, to make up electorates in their own right. A similar situation will occur in Tuggeranong.

But with the expected continued growth of Gungahlin it will not be long before the district moves closer towards its own quota.

In late 2016 voters in Gungahlin will have the chance to elect 5 members of the new ACT Legislative Assembly. Gungahlin will no longer have to share its elected representatives with Central Canberra and Weston Creek. It is expected that the majority of new members will come from (reside in) the Gungahlin district (and perhaps the 5 Belconnen suburbs making up the new electorate of Yerrabi). This should provide true local representation.

Therefore residents of Gungahlin should begin to take a greater interest in what is happening (and NOT happening) in the district as local issues may be important factors in deciding the outcome of the election. GCC expects that local issues will become more prominent and that the major political parties should be required to develop policies and programs that specifically reflect the needs and interests of the local population.

Changes are underway in and around Gungahlin but many immediate and long term interests are still not being met or included in planning statements.

Introducing the Gungahlin Community Council

Ewan Brown - Gungahlin Community Council

The objective of the Gungahlin Community Council is to preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of Gungahlin and the Gungahlin Community.

To achieve this objective the Council undertakes to:

- provide a local forum in a non-political environment for Gungahlin residents and businesses to express their concerns and suggestions;
- provide a strong local voice;
- address matters of local concern;
- ensure that legislators and officials are informed of community needs and expectations;
- foster a community identity;
- communicate issues locally and regionally;
- initiate, support or undertake any appropriate action advantageous for the community;
- continue to represent for all facilities and services expected by the community;
- seek to maintain and improve the quality of life in Gungahlin; and

We monitor Planning and Development decisions and proposals, developments in Roads and Transport and advocate for changes where necessary. We are pushing for

more diverse development in the Town Centre to meet the needs of the growing population.

We Communicate via:

- Gunsmoke magazine produced bi-monthly
- Facebook posts on topical issues
- Emails
- Media

Our monthly public meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (excluding July and January) at Gungahlin Library from 6.30pm to 8.00pm.

The community council is elected annually by community vote to represent 'the Gungahlin district. We act as a conduit between government and public servants on one side and the broader local community on the other side.

We rely heavily on community input, involvement and participation to frame the right messages and want to see more people attending our meetings, using social media, email communications and survey responses to a greater degree.

A new Committee will be elected in September and it is recommended that residents with an interest in nominating attend the public meetings, log on to the website and contact current committee members for advice.

It's about you. Always!
Communities@Work

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Providing a holistic continuum of care to the most disadvantaged & vulnerable people in our community

Something small can make a **big** difference to someone in need



This is Jessica's Story

Jessica, aged nine, decided to sell her clothes and toys she no longer needed. Wanting to support her local community, she donated one third of the proceeds of her sales to **Communities@Work**. Her donation included over 100 items of food, snacks for school lunches and basic household items.

Jessica's generosity teaches us all an important lesson in giving. It shows us that no matter what age you are, doing something small can make a really big difference to someone in need.

Communities@Work's Social Programs serve the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the Canberra Community.

If you would like to find out more please phone **6293 6500** or visit **commsatwork.org**

Do Good
Donate, Volunteer, Participate

The community pantries are open
Monday to Friday 9am - 3pm
Phone 6293 6500

Gungahlin Community Centre
47 Ernest Cavanagh St
Gungahlin ACT 2912

Tuggeranong Community Centre
245 Cowlshaw St
Greenway ACT 2900

Gungahlin Community Council Issues List

By Ewan Brown

The GCC Executive has identified the following issues by the as being the key areas of concern for Gungahlin residents. The GCC will seek responses to these issues and will report regularly on progress.

(Members of the local community can submit their views via the website.)

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

GCC wants a regular information service to advise residents of the type and status of ongoing developments in the area. This covers roadworks, new constructions (both new and existing sites), the 'promised' cinema, and any other projects of interest to community members

1. CRITICAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

With the anticipated substantial growth of Gungahlin over coming years (settlement of Casey, Bonner, Moncrieff, Throsby, Jacka and Kenny) 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 egress and ingress issues will be of critical importance and the current approach for 'catch-up' or remedial developments will not offer satisfactory solutions in the short-to-medium term.

ACCORDINGLY THE GCC WANTS TO SEE THE 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. Significant population growth and the 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 Focus needs to be placed on significant diverse commercial development to provide employment, entertainment and shopping opportunities for Gungahlin residents. (Key stakeholders need to be convinced of the value of locating to or living in Gungahlin in order to engage in development and to attract new staff!)

1.3 GCC retains a preference for a full service hospital to be located in Gungahlin (in the longer term) recognising the needs of Gungahlin, nearby and regional residents.

1.4 With the development of new suburbs towards the northern extremities of the ACT air traffic noise is likely to be an issue of increasing importance and needs to be monitored.

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. No sooner is an upgrade of a key route achieved then residents have to endure remedial action and additional disruptions to feeder roads to be able to cope with 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 The ACT Government has announced plans to duplicate Gundaroo Drive between the Barton Highway and Mirrabai Drive and has conducted community consultation and scoping studies but project funding has not been provided in two successive budgets. GCC TOP Priority issue. Requires funding in the 2015-16 ACT Budget to bring it to completion.

2.1.1 Allocate priority to the section between Gungahlin Drive and Mirrabai Drive (before the Valley Way extension is completed) – Bus stopping areas contribute to regular vehicle accidents due to single lane traffic. Increased 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 large vehicle build-ups with South-bound traffic. Problems occur closer to Service Station section due to lack of pull-off areas (on both sides) for Action buses. (Make noise reduction barriers the 1st item of construction near residential areas of Crace and Nicholls.) (Provide updates on the proposed Nurdurr Drive extension to Gungahlin 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 proposed routes - Valley Way and Anthony Rolfe Avenue.

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

3.3 Fix the problem intersections in the Town Centre. **GCC TOP PRIORITY** issue.

4. HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES

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

4.2 Urgent need for facilities to cater for the region's youth, particularly after business hours.

4.3 Need for secure storage facilities for service organisations (Rotary, Lions) and community groups (Scouts, Guides) to store equipment in a safe local environment.

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 near lakeshore/waterbody access throughout district needs to be increased.

5.3 Paucity of parking at Phyllis Ashton Circuit and Strayleaf Crescent Gungahlin for patrons of commercial facilities. (GCC notes that a solution has been developed and has rated this issue a **TOP PRIORITY** for funding.)

5.4 Provide tennis courts in district.

6. 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 operations. Part of Casey remains affected. GCC wants all of Gungahlin to be serviced by Fibre to the Home (FTTH).

The GCC wants to see more advantage being taken of the NBN roll-out in Gungahlin to encourage the establishment of a number of support services and businesses. A Telework Centre would provide a base for new services for the region and the rest of Canberra.

7. Majura Parkway

Once fully open to traffic the Majura Parkway will be an important north-south transport link, providing a direct connection between the Federal and Monaro Highways and enabling Gungahlin residents to by-pass Civic. Additional traffic pressure will be placed on Horse Park Drive.

8. Park'n'Ride.

Provide a user-friendly, Park'n'Ride facility near Mitchell, supported by an upgraded public transport service, to encourage Gungahlin residents plus commuters using the Federal and Barton Highways to terminate their private vehicle journeys at Mitchell thus reducing Northbourne Ave congestion and avoiding expensive parking fees in Civic. A major Park'n'Ride facility at the Flemington Road/Wells Station Drive intersection would eliminate the need for commuters to traverse most of the single lane section of Flemington Road between Mitchell and EPIC.

9. Gungahlin Health Centre

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

10. Substantial Employment Opportunities in Gungahlin

GCC emphasises the urgent need to create many 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 which in turn benefit workers and residents travelling out of Gungahlin as it balances out 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.

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.



Liberals commit to a Barton Hwy flyover, Gundaroo Dr and more

Alistair Coe MLA
Shadow Minister for Transport

In early June, the Canberra Liberals announced the first instalment in our comprehensive transport policy for Canberra. The first of our initiatives have direct benefits for residents of Gungahlin and Belconnen.

Barton Highway Flyover

Firstly, we announced that a Canberra Liberals Government would build a flyover at the Barton Highway. Over the past five years, this roundabout has recorded the highest number of crashes of all ACT intersections. Last year, 68 accidents took place at the roundabout during peak hours. On top of this, the roundabout is frequently the site of long delays going to and from Gungahlin.

Upgrades to this roundabout will be necessary in the coming years in order to speed up travel times and reduce the number of accidents. Unfortunately, the Labor Government's plans to add traffic lights to the roundabout is yet another short-term measure. It is inevitable that a flyover will be required. The ACT Labor Government would be better off planning for the future rather than always playing catch-up when it comes to road infrastructure.

Gundaroo Drive Duplication

The Canberra Liberals announced plans for the duplication of Gundaroo Drive from Mirrabai Drive all the way to the Barton Highway. Whilst I am pleased to see that the ACT Government has also announced plans for Gundaroo Drive, unfortunately they have only committed to duplicating Gundaroo Drive between Mirrabai Drive and Gungahlin Drive.

The ACT Government's planned duplication does not help Crace or Palmerston residents who enter Gundaroo Drive from Abena Avenue, Nurdurr Drive and Burrowa Street or for Nicholls residents who enter Gundaroo drive from Ibis Street or Candlebark Close. Unfortunately, traffic congestion will continue during peak hours, particularly at the Abena Avenue roundabout.

The Canberra Liberals firmly believe that the entire stretch between Mirrabai Drive and the Barton Highway needs duplication and that is why we would prioritise construction in the first year of a Liberal

Government. Our plans also include appropriate noise barriers for residents backing on to Gundaroo Drive.

More Buses

Another commitment announced in June by the Canberra Liberals was the addition of 50 new buses to make peak hour services even faster. These buses would deliver Super Express non-stop services and operate throughout Canberra, improving public transport options and decreasing travel times for all Canberrans, including those living in Gungahlin.

One of the key reasons why the Canberra Liberals are opposing the construction of the Capital Metro light rail project is because it makes catching public transport harder for most Gungahlin residents. With light rail, most Gungahlin residents will need to catch a bus to the Gungahlin Town Centre before catching a tram into the City – buses will no longer operate between Gungahlin suburbs and the City.

At present, 74 buses leave the Gungahlin Town Centre for the City, Russell, Barton and Kingston between 6:00am and 9:00am each weekday morning. Of these 74 buses, 62 buses begin their routes in Gungahlin suburbs, providing direct links between Gungahlin suburbs (except Crace) and the City. These routes include the 56, 57, 58, 251, 252, 255 and 259. Whilst these routes are not perfect, I think they provide a good platform to be expanded upon with faster and more direct services.

Cyclists

Our commitment to build a flyover at the Barton Highway and duplicate Gundaroo Drive will include cycle paths in both directions. These cycle paths will improve travel amenity, decrease traffic times, and most importantly, improve cyclist safety on these key roads in Gungahlin.

More to come

The Canberra Liberals were proud to reveal the first instalment of our transport policy for Canberra. However, there is much more to come. If you would like to provide feedback on these announcements or give other ideas about how transport can be improved in Canberra, please contact me on 6205 0101 or coe@parliament.act.gov.au.



welcome aboard

Reducing the risk of employing people

Kevin Cox
Welcome Aboard

The Australian Payroll Association conducts an annual survey on the cost to produce a payslip. <http://www.austpayroll.com.au/literatureretrieve.aspx?id=164985>.

With outsourced services the cost of each payslip for businesses with less than 50 employees is an average of \$157 with the top performers averaging \$35. If payslips are produced in-house the cost per payslip averages \$3,268 with the best performers costing \$1030.

Clearly it is better for businesses to outsource their payroll processing through such services as Xero payroll. Even with outsourcing the costs are still high and there are further efficiencies to be made.

WelcomeAboard.me is one way to reduce the cost of producing payslips by reducing the cost of collecting information about employees and communicating with employees. It is estimated that using WelcomeAboard will save employers \$50 per year in direct costs per employee.

While the cost saving is useful the reduction in compliance risk is of much greater value.

Employers are responsible for keeping records about employment and of making sure employees have access to their employment records. If there is a dispute with an employee, and there are no records or the employee did not have access to the records, the employee is likely to be given the benefit of the doubt. Worse the employer can be fined for not keeping good records. For example fines of \$3000 per employee can be imposed on a employer if they have not provided the employee with a copy of the Fair Work Information sheet <http://www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/724/Fair-Work-Information-Statement.pdf.aspx>

WelcomeAboard.me simplifies keeping basic records about employees. Forms are used to collect Contact Information, Bank Account Details, and Super Choice. Employees fill out a Tax File Declaration and sign they have received and read the Fair Work Information Sheet. The employees all receive a permanent electronic copy of their information that they can access at anytime including after leaving the Company.



Employee Dashboard

You've arrived here because your employer has sent you an email asking you to provide some details regarding your employment.

Please complete the following forms

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Account Details
<input type="checkbox"/> Superannuation Choice
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax File Declaration
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Work Agreement

Go to <http://www.welcomeaboard.me> and sign up your business for no cost and no obligation. The first employee is free. If you like the service you pay \$5 for each subsequent employee and potentially save \$50 in form filling time. There are no monthly charges and no fixed charges. You only pay for what you use.

If you are an employer and want to keep good employee records while saving money sign up to use WelcomeAboard at <http://www.welcomeaboard.me>. If you are an employee encourage your employer to use WelcomeAboard, to save your time in filling out forms and so you can have a permanent electronic history of your employment.



Bringing better public transport to Gungahlin

Capital Metro stage one – from Gungahlin to the City - is the start of a light rail network that will play a vital role in ensuring Canberra's future as a vibrant, sustainable and liveable city. It will deliver almost \$1 billion worth of benefits to the Canberra community. For Gungahlin specifically, Capital Metro will provide a frequent, efficient and convenient public transport option that will help ease congestion, improve travel times, encourage active travel (i.e. walking and cycling to a light rail stop) and further revitalise the town centre.

Project update

Capital Metro is currently in an exciting phase of the project in which our two world-class shortlisted consortia – Canberra Metro and ACTivate – are preparing their final bids to finance, design, build and operate the first stage of a light rail service in Canberra. The indicative timeline shows that final project proposals are due in September 2015 with a successful consortium being announced early in 2016 and construction to start later that year. Operation is scheduled to start in late 2019/early 2020.

Engaging the community

Throughout this period, we will also continue to be active in the community. We are committed to keeping the community involved and up to date on how the project is progressing every step of the way. In recent weeks we consulted on the project's Environmental Impact Statement

(EIS) – a planning document that identifies potential impacts that may arise during construction and operations of light rail and how these impacts will be minimised. Thank you to everyone who came along to our drop-in information sessions and provided feedback on the EIS document. The team are currently working through these comments.

We are also delighted to announce two new and exciting initiatives. The first is the introduction of our **Place Manager Program**. This month dedicated place managers will be located along the light rail corridor providing easy access for the community to drop by and discuss the project or raise any concerns they might have. The Place Manager for Gungahlin will be located on the ground floor of Winyu House (corner of Gungahlin Place and Efkarpidis Street) every Wednesday and Thursday at set times during business hours.

The Place Manager will also be door knocking residents, businesses and community groups to provide project updates and answer any questions you might have. For more information on this program visit www.capitalmetro.act.gov.au or email us at CMAFeedback@act.gov.au.

The second initiative is the establishment of **Business and Community Reference Groups**. The reference groups will be a valuable face to face, two-way communication channel between Capital Metro and the community. They will be a forum where members can learn about, discuss and provide feedback or ideas they have about the project. If you are interested in being involved, we encourage you to nominate yourself by downloading the nomination form at www.capitalmetro.act.gov.au. Please note places are limited.



CapitalMetro

✉ email us at CMAFeedback@act.gov.au

🌐 visit our website – www.capitalmetro.act.gov.au

🐦 send us a message on Twitter - [@CapitalMetroACT](https://twitter.com/CapitalMetroACT)

👍 Like us on Facebook and join the conversation – facebook.com/CapitalMetroACT

ACT Budget 2015-16

Ewan Brown

President - Gungahlin Community Council

Better roads

- \$31.2 million for the Gundaroo Drive duplication (stage 1) between Gungahlin Drive and Mirrabai Drive/Anthony Rolfe Avenue.
- \$17.1 million for Horse Park Drive upgrades and duplication (stage 1).
 - duplication of Horse Park Drive between Anthony Rolfe Avenue and Well Station Drive;
 - upgrades to the intersection of Horse Park Drive and Mapleton Avenue; and
 - upgrades to the intersection of Horse Park Drive and Well Station Drive.
- \$14.1 million to enhance the Gungahlin Town Centre's traffic network including extensions of The Valley Avenue and Manning Clark Crescent.

This funding for roads is in addition to the extra works announced in April to relieve road congestion in Gungahlin. These projects cover Gungahlin drive near Mitchell, the Barton Highway/William Slim drive/Gundaroo Drive roundabout and the Horse Park Drive/Anthony Rolfe Drive intersection.

Education

In Gungahlin the ACT Government is delivering an extra \$1.1 billion this year for education will fund: 7,279 students and 650 teachers in 8 public schools. Education initiatives in the Budget for Gungahlin include:

- \$31 million for the construction of a new P-6 school in North Gungahlin. The school is scheduled to open in January 2019 and will accommodate around 540 students.
- Funding to design a year 7-10 school in North Gungahlin

Urban Renewal

Extra funding will be provided to spruce up our suburbs with more mowing right across Gungahlin, cleaning, weeding and other maintenance.

- Cleaning of Yerrabi Pond and Gungahlin Pond
 - More tree pruning and weeding
 - More graffiti removal and prevention
- Urban renewal projects include:
- Yerrabi Park outdoor exercise equipment
 - Upgrades to Gungahlin Library

ADVERTISEMENT

MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA

Your Gungahlin voice

"As the newest Member of the Legislative Assembly, I am proud to represent the electorate of Molonglo, and Gungahlin in particular." *Meegan F.*

Meegan Fitzharris lives in Gungahlin with her family and is working hard to ensure our community is vibrant, friendly, and continues to thrive.

Meegan listens to our community and delivers for Gungahlin by:

- Calling for the duplication of Gundaroo Drive; with the Mirrabai Dr. to Gungahlin Dr. stage funded in the 2015-16 Budget.
- Calling for the duplication of Horse Park Drive; with stage one, and further design work, also funded in the Budget.
- Representing the interests of Gungahlin in the Legislative Assembly as the only MLA who lives in the area.

If you would like to raise any issues in Gungahlin, please get in touch. Either call Meegan's Office, catch up with her at a Gungahlin Community Council meeting, or drop in at one of her mobile offices:

- 9:00am – 11:30am Friday 17 July @ Gungahlin Town Centre
- 9:00am – 11:30am Saturday 18 July @ Gungahlin Town Centre
- 9:00am – 11:30am Friday 7 August @ Gungahlin Town Centre
- 9:00am – 11:30am Saturday 8 August @ Gungahlin Town Centre

Civic Square, London Circuit (GPO Box 1020) Canberra ACT 2601

T 02 6205 0051 F 02 6205 0368 E fitzharris@act.gov.au W www.meeganfitzharris.com FB www.facebook.com/MeeganFitzharrisMLA



The time is right to start a business but where do you start?

Tony Ozanne
Business Coaching Canberra

Opportunity is calling for local entrepreneurs to start a business in Gungahlin and surrounding areas. It's a fact that Gungahlin is one of the nation's fastest growing suburbs, and recent and planned future government expenditure in local infrastructure has never been greater. With extended retail development, light rail, cinemas, road work plans, government offices and continued housing growth, the population will continue to grow, and ultimately seek the services of an increased range of businesses. The key for budding business owners is to find the right product or service and deliver it in a manner, which prevents the need for local residents to leave the area. So if you have an idea, what should you do next?

The Idea!

One of the most critical starting points is to ensure that you have a solution to a problem that people have, rather than one you hope they may have. What does this mean? It means find the areas of public need in the marketplace, don't assume your idea is great and will solve everyone's problems if you haven't researched or tested the concept. You may have the world's best 'widget', but if no one wants or needs a widget, then you probably won't sell any! Consumer testing can be done formally via agencies, or informally via surveys, studies and focus groups devised by you or others.

Your Idea is Sound – Now what?

This is where the fun starts, and unfortunately people often fall flat! Remember, more than half of all businesses fail in the first year, so you don't want to become a statistic. Researching your idea initially will help move you out of the risk curve, and by planning and setting yourself up properly will add to the success rate.

Get help, and from several sources

- You need to decide on a business structure that suits your situation now, and in the future based on your plans. Will you be a Sole Trader, a Company, Joint Venture and Trust etc? The best thing to do is find a good proactive accountant who can give you advice, and not just do your tax returns. Setting up companies and trusts may cost you a bit more each year, but can be beneficial in the longer run if this suits your situation.

- Develop a plan for your business with financial forecasts, supply details, pricing, marketing, staffing and key milestones. This can be done yourself with some great tools online such as www.business.gov.au or with help from a Coach or consultant. If you need funding, a bank will almost definitely seek a Business Plan, but a condensed version can be done if this isn't the case.

- Get online – Australia surprisingly has a poor rate of online presence from businesses, or if they are online, they are online 'poorly'. Speak to designers or a website builder to get help if you can't do this yourself. Think about how you will add content ongoing and does it speak to your clients, or simply tell everyone how great you are? Most importantly, decide what the objective of your website actually is. Is it an information portal, a lead generator, a shop or something else? A current trend is to have a series of multiple 'landing pages' rather than a dedicated website, which can help drive traffic into a sales or lead funnel.

Know Your Target Market and talk to them

Your planning should help identify this in the research phase, but think about how you communicate your message to them in their advertising. A recent article in *Gunsmoke* talked about the Marketing Equation that very few people use- Interrupt, Engage, Educate and Offer. Verify that your messaging follows this formula rather than the boring and repetitive advertising that most businesses use!

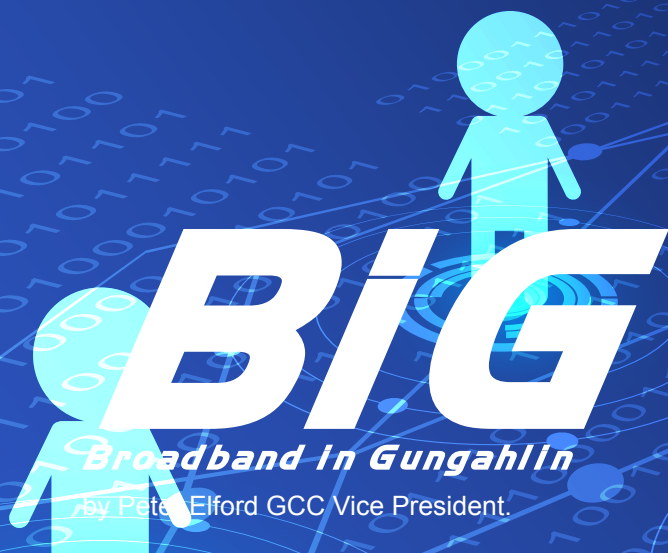
Invest in your people

In my previous life, the company I worked for had the saying " build people capability first, sales and profit will follow" and I live by this to this day and repeat to many small businesses. Sure you can develop some tactics to get a quick sales spike, or cut some costs to increase margins, but it is your team and real people who make the difference. Invest in them by having great training, great systems, and recognise and reward them, and they will return the favour by serving your client base just as you would. It is imperative to have a solid people culture.

There is ample opportunity in our region for business start-ups at the moment, and by spending some time planning and preparing for success, your chances of actual success are much higher!

Good luck...

Tony Ozanne is an experienced Business Coach and Strategic Advisor to small to medium businesses across Australia. With experience on both sides of the franchising spectrum spending 23 years with the world's largest restaurant chain Yum Restaurants International before becoming a franchisee himself when starting his coaching practice, he has seen the good, the bad and the ugly of the industry. Using his vast experience in this sector Tony now helps business owners build systems, process and planning into their model.



BIG

Broadband In Gungahlin

by Peter Elford GCC Vice President.

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

Getting the Most From Your NBN Connection

As a stage 2 rollout area, Gungahlin has been at the front of the queue to get the National Broadband Network (NBN). Ever better, every single home in Gungahlin has (or will soon receive) its NBN service through a fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) connection (but see below). This means that every Gungahlin resident has the opportunity to really change the way they work and relax.

Many video services are now available over the Internet, including Netflix, Stan, FetchTV, Quickflix and Presto (and even Foxtel, using Foxtel Play). These are great examples of services that really do benefit from a fast NBN service, particularly if you have more than one device receiving a video stream. And of course, this is the right way to get access to digital content legally, and in a timely fashion.

One of the greatest opportunities for Gungahlin residents is to work more from home, sometimes called “teleworking”. Of course not every job is an office job, not all employers are comfortable (yet) with having employees working from home, and this is not to suggest that 9-5, five days a week workers will work from home five days a week. Instead, consider whether you can arrange with your boss to work from home for an hour or so each morning, one or two days a week and then travel into the office, avoiding the mad crush of the early morning commute. In many jobs there is an amount of answering emails or other online or digital activity that could be done in this time, and for more advanced organisations it’s possible to attend

conference calls via phone and/or video. The GCC is planning to be involved with a telework promotion shortly – if you are already doing some teleworking please do drop me a line vicepresident@gcc.asn.au

I mentioned above that all of Gungahlin has FTTH NBN, but for Nicholls the rollout is still in progress, and for the residents of Casey stage 1, their NBN future remains a little uncertain. NBNco have confirmed that Casey stage 1 *will* receive NBN services, but exactly when and whether this will be FTTH or something else (probably fibre-to-the-node, which reuses the existing copper wire), is yet to be announced. The GCC continues to campaign to get FTTH for Casey stage 1, to avoid it being perceived as having missed out.

Tip

Frustrated or confused by your Internet performance ? Regularly use the SpeedTest application at <http://speedtest.net> or the app for iPhone, Android, and Windows Phone on all your devices at home, and in different locations in the house, to determine what normal Internet performance is. You’ll notice that if you have a very fast Internet service (100Mbps perhaps), you will almost *never* see that speed over a WiFi connection, and you’ll notice that different devices will experience different speeds. Knowing what normal is, helps identify situations when something else is going on and you need to contact your ISP.

NEW RESIDENTS IN GUNGAHLIN'S WETLANDS

By Merops

Gungahlin is well known for its spectacular and colourful birds. Superb Parrots and Galahs immediately come to mind. However, for those in the know, Gungahlin is now also a hot spot for a group of secretive wetland birds. They are the crakes and rails. These tiny swamp birds are smaller than a bantam hen. They hunt for a variety of food including insects in the wet grasses and reed beds. More often heard than seen, they occasionally reveal themselves on patches of exposed mud. While not common, the species now being regularly seen include the Buff-banded Rail, Baillon's Crake and Spotless Crake.

The reason for the influx of these fascinating birds, is the maturing of Gungahlin's rich wetlands. The best known of these are Yerrabi Pond, Bonner Ponds, and the Forde and Crace Wetlands. Unlike other parts of older Canberra, where, in the past, the natural creeks and streams were often concreted over in huge storm drains, in Gungahlin there is a network of natural vegetated stream lines. Ponds and dams are scattered across the suburbs in a network of wetland havens. These vegetated streams still provide an outlet for storm water but also provide rich patchwork of waterways and reed beds for marsh wildlife. These wetland jewels are homes not only the conspicuous pelicans, ducks and swans but now to tiny crakes and rails.

While most crakes and rails are sombre coloured, one of the more colourful species has been prominent in Gungahlin in 2014 and 2015. The Buff-banded Rail, with its bright buff or rufous patches and delicately black and white lined breast, is now a regular visitor to all of

Gungahlin's ponds. Throughout the year single birds have been seen at Mulligan's Flat dams, Forde Wetlands and Bonner Ponds. Whilst usually secretive, at dawn and dusk it will often emerge from the thickets to feed on exposed mudflats. The Buff-banded Rail was not recorded breeding in Gungahlin last year but as the wetlands are now reaching maturity this species, and other crakes and rails, will gradually become fulltime Gungahlin residents.



Buff banded Rail an increasingly common resident of Gungahlin's wetlands.



Photographer Geoffrey Dabb

“You want to publish your manuscript and you have told a good story, and you want advice on how to get started... or you have an idea you want to float to promote your business, feel free to run by us any idea you have in mind, there is no limit to what we can design”.



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Director Gillian Yeend is an Accredited Specialist in Family Law and has worked exclusively in Family Law in Canberra, Sydney and Newcastle.

Located in the Gungahlin town precinct with offices on Anthony Rolfe Avenue, Yeend & Associates has been providing specialised Family Law services in the Gungahlin area since 2013.

Yeend & Associates Family Lawyers offers an initial no obligation consultation in all Family Law matters including:

- Property Settlements and Financial Agreements
- Parenting and Child Protection
- Child Support and Maintenance
- Domestic Violence and Protection Orders

Yeend & Associates also offer fixed fees in the following matters:

- Wills and Powers of Attorney
- Divorce Applications

Yeend & Associates was the winner of the Canberra Women in Business 'Best New Business' award in 2014. Our lawyers support and participate in the ACT Law Society, Women Lawyers ACT, ACT Women's Legal Centre, Canberra Women in Business, Gungahlin Community Council, and Law Council of Australia (Family Law Section).

We welcome you to contact a member of our friendly team to make an appointment or request copies of our Family Law and Estate Planning brochures.

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Developments in the Region

James Milligan

Gungahlin Community Council

The GCC conducted a major survey late 2014 to sample the views of local residents about what is needed to make Gungahlin a better place to live.

The most significant result was the high proportion of respondents who wish to see more entertainment services in the Town Centre, specifically a Cinemas followed by pubs, pet stores, bookshops and a greater variety of quality cafes and restaurants.

There was also strong demand for department stores or large retailers, craft stores and greengrocers. Respondents wanted more variety in eating outlets to counter the predominance of Asian take away outlets. A common theme was the desire for more variety to counter the need for residents to travel out of the district to meet their shopping and entertainment needs.

This will happen as the new K-Mart development on the Woolworths carpark site will include up to 25 speciality shops. The Bunnings development will include about 15 commercial outlets in the 2-storey frontages along two streets. If the adjoining club development goes ahead there will be even more commercial outlets included. Winyu House has an ACT Government Shopfront and a child care centre. There will be more childcare facilities next to the Health Centre and another private medical service building on Valley Way.

While there is an overwhelming response to closing Hibberson Street the comments indicate that there should have been an alternative for a shared zone with some restricted traffic. The main issue was safety. There was an impressive range of suggestions on how to improve Hibberson Street. A popular grand vision was a fully enclosed shared or pedestrian-only mall with a wider variety of covered outdoor eating/dining facilities.

There was strong support for diverting mainstream traffic around the Town Centre. Hibberson Street was seen to have significant potential as a pedestrian friendly (preferably covered/enclosed) area replete with food and entertainment outlets to create a dynamic atmosphere. Undoubtedly this will depend on the tram.

The overwhelming response was for more underground and multi storey car parks. People want to park near the shops and facilities and were not in favour of surface (open plan) parking as it meant longer walks to cars with shopping.

One survey question with an overwhelming response was for the upgrading of the Health Centre to become a nurse walk-in-centre. The comments indicated that this was a second best solution to a hospital (with an emergency area) being based in Gungahlin. Residents gave a clear message that they want to see a broader range of medical facilities in

the area with particular emphasis on emergency services.

There was support for an indoor sports centre but lack of interest in more ovals/sporting fields. A surprising result was the need for outdoor swimming facilities.

Due to the number of young families another common request was for playground upgrades, better provision of shade sails and appropriate fencing. Others wanted more benches and more water/drinking facilities. There was strong support for more accessible walking/play/exercise areas and for better lighting in existing areas.

Complaints of car hoons and other areas of anti-social behaviour concern people. This extends to noisy vehicles disturbing the peace in various neighbourhoods. Many people were concerned with excessive traffic speed through suburban streets. Noisy dogs rated significant mention.

Many older areas of Gungahlin have no or poor footpath facilities often associated with narrow streets so the common practice of parking on nature strips and across footpaths causes a lot of concern, particularly where trucks are involved.

Dumping of rubbish in suburban areas was another area of complaint.

The comments concerning Youth overwhelmingly support a Cinema and Youth Centres or meeting places. The other predominant main theme encompassed activities in which Youth can be involved. A significant number of responses had a sports related theme but they varied widely with a Bowling Alley, indoor sports centre games arcades and better skate parks featuring as top preferences.

All these facilities are seen to be integral to keeping youth productively involved within the district although there was a significant reliance on commercial outlets to keep them engaged. The key requirement is for suitable 'hang out' places.

Many of the suggestions revealed that there was insufficient knowledge about existing facilities and services so for better promotion may be needed. The responses also lead to the need for seniors groups and service clubs supporting seniors to be more prominent in the district, but not focused on commercial activities or outlets. There was strong support for lawn bowls as a recreational activity. Many people wanted dedicated seniors meeting facilities, nursing homes, retirement centres and motels for senior citizens to be closer to families.

Better parking and safer area including paved areas were high on the agenda.

By far the greatest response related to road and transport issues. These have been given priority by the GCC and some progress has been made. Regular updates will be provided.



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IT'S HOW
WE CONNECT





Working together gets the best outcomes for Gungahlin

Meegan Fitzharris MLA
Member for Molonglo

I've lived in Gungahlin for nearly a decade, and in that time I've watched it grow from a small collection of new suburbs to a thriving community of many different groups and interests.

The new distribution of electorates in the ACT means Gungahlin will soon have its own electorate – Yerrabi – and five new members elected by our own community to represent our interests.

As the only current MLA living in Gungahlin, I know how important this will be to ensure our community is represented and continues to see investment in essential services.

Becoming the newest Member of the Legislative Assembly in January was exciting for me, and in my first speech I made a commitment to being a good local member, and a member who contributes to the ideas and debates that will shape our city.

But I think it's important that we acknowledge that as a community, we also have a responsibility, indeed an opportunity, to make our region what we want it to be.

The recent success of the Celebrate Gungahlin Festival, attended by thousands of people, highlights what we can do as a community when we work together.

The festival was a fantastic celebration of the Gungahlin community, with 55 stalls and 15 live acts including music, dance, art, food and entertainment. Led by Communities@Work, My Gungahlin and the Gungahlin Community Council, it was the first time we've had a community festival in Gungahlin, and I'm sure it won't be the last.

Ultimately it was a great example of the community spirit in Gungahlin, and the social capital we have that we may not even realise exists.

Who knows what else we could be capable of?

I know there is another campaign right now to hold on an outdoor movie night in Gungahlin, which is a fantastic idea, and one that I believe our community can work together to achieve.

Having a cinema in Gungahlin will be wonderful, and it's frustrating that as an MLA I cannot just build it myself! But an outdoor movie night, although it won't make up for the lack of a proper cinema, still offers an opportunity for entertainment that we can do something about.

As an MLA, I want to be part of finding new ways to bring private sector investment to solving community problems, whether it's how we invest in our playgrounds, our local venues or how we deliver more affordable housing.

Government will always be here to help make things a reality, and deliver funding where it needs to

go, but we can do more than we realise when we work together.

Which brings me to the ACT Budget.

I was proud to see the ACT Government's Budget set aside \$62.3 million for roads in Gungahlin, including \$31.2 million for the duplication of Gundaroo Drive.

More than 1,000 people signed my petition for the widening of Gundaroo Drive to be funded in the Budget. And although some people were cynical and thought a member of the government shouldn't have to petition her own government for a road, I can tell you it did make a huge difference to how priorities were managed in the budget process.

By using our social capital to push for vital road funding, by signing my petition and making it clear that this was greatly needed, we showed how strong community support is for the duplication to begin.

Community campaigns like this work, and as the local member from Gungahlin I will continue to push to ensure work starts on the other stages of Gundaroo Drive, and Horse Park Drive, so we get them fixed as soon as possible.

The Budget also reflected the community's call for more education services in the Gungahlin region. I was pleased to see more than \$30 million in funding for a new primary school in North Gungahlin, with another \$1 million to be invested to progress a new high school in the area as well.

And there will be new investment in our suburbs, with \$8 million going towards more mowing, weeding and maintenance and cleaning up Yerrabi Pond and Gungahlin Pond.

These investments will go a long way to developing our region and cultivating the pride we feel already in our community.

Then there is our Town Centre. This will be an interesting one to watch when work gets underway on the new expansion of the Market Place. Hibberson Street (between Gozzard Street and Gungahlin Place West) will be closed to traffic for a short period of time later this year, as a new underground tunnel is built.

I will be very interested to hear what you think about the road changes, as many people have called for Hibberson Street to be closed to traffic permanently.

The Government will also be investing \$14 million in an extension of The Valley Avenue and Manning Clark Crescent to further enhance the Town Centre.

These improvements will go a long way to renew Gungahlin and ensure we can continue to attract private investment which, along with our social capital, can be harnessed to create a region that is even more liveable and prosperous.



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