

Di Iulio, Tiana (REPS)

From: Anna.Wieczorek@affa.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 12 May 2003 12:55 PM
To: Committee, NCET (REPS)
Subject: Parking in Barton/Parkes

Importance: High



Dear Senator Ross Lightfoot:

My response to your questions is:

* Point 1.

Canberra public transport is badly organised. Routes have not been redesigned to respond to needs of the growing city for decades. The same applies to other Australian capital cities too with Melbourne and Sydney being exceptions.

Action Bus Service is not responsive to the passengers needs, convenience and safety. I live in Palmerston, and work in Barton. There is only 2 opportunities (bus 256) to catch a direct bus services for me in the morning (6.28 am and 7.08 am only) and two opportunities in the afternoon during the week (Monday to Friday). In other cases I would have to change buses in Civic other time (30 minutes and 1 hour intervals between buses). I am the employer who is in the operational area and have a 2-hour access to the AFFA premises. There is no buses to Palmerston between 7.00 pm and 8.40 pm, 8.40 pm and 10.12 pm, 10.12 pm and 11.35 pm. It is very unsafe to be stuck in Civic alone that time of the day (it happened to me on few occasions). And you can appreciate that most places in Civic are closed at that time. I send 2 emails to Action Buses in 2002 requesting to redirect other buses going to Gungahlin during this 1.5 hours intervals between buses number 56 to Palmerston, but never received and answer.

* Point 2.

It is expensive, even with Faresavers. I think no comments are required.

* Point 3.

There is not enough parking space already in Barton/Parkes area.

In our building (Edmund Barton Building - EBB) alone we have a number of agencies, like Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA), Greenhouse Effect of Environment Australia (EA), Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), NRMA, APS Commission, Minter Ellison, United KFPW HRServices, etc. Only AFFA has over 2000 of employees in EBB. Many commuters use car pooling already, because it is difficult to find a parking spot. I personally car pool because I cannot find a parking spot arriving at 8.40 am. I do not like to park around National Gallery or National Archives and move my car every 2 hours. Those parking spaces are for tourists, aren't they. But when we are caught being unable to park in our parking, we have to do it. Someone, who tries to estimate the demand for parking, need to take into account also all the clients arriving to those agencies (often from interstate and for the whole day or a number of days), contractors, outsourced service agencies (like training, IT and HR), interstate staff on rotations and secondments, graduates of their training program placements, servicemen providing services to those agencies (like plumbers, electricians, greenkeepers), etc. Figures presented in the article on the issue in "Canberra Times" (10/05/03 issue) are a misrepresentation of facts of the demand for parking spaces and their availability in Barton/Parkes.

* Point 4.

There is not enough of vital services in the Barton/Parkes area. Their accessibility in neighbouring areas is very poor by any means.

Public servants are afraid to drive to Kingston/Manuka or Civic, because they will loose their parking spot. But they need to use postal services, flexi tellers, banks, Medicare office, pharmacies, etc, which are not available in Barton. Medicare and bank services are not available on weekends as we all know too well. Then the prolonged lunch breaks are used to access and use those services (accessed either via a car or feet, not buses, which are too expensive and unreliable in those area). Maybe a free shuttles should be run for these purposes too.

* Point 5

Public transport in Canberra was never designed to cope with a high public demand.

If tomorrow thousands of public servants and all other categories of employees listed above (a number was not of interest to any politicians so far, so cannot be

established even by the local media) will rush to take buses to get to Barton, will Action cope with such a demand? I doubt so. Presently, when I take bus number 256, it is absolutely full, and I have to stand for an hour. Not a good start for the day. Many bus stops do not have shelters (as in Palmerston on Kosciuszko avenue), and the lighting is poor.

I wonder if the you, senator Ross Lightfoot (Liberal Party - WA) ever took a bus in ACT during rush hours? Take you time and try to take a longer route from the city edges then, to have a clear picture of the situation. There is a lot which could be done to develop public transport further before it could be considered as a options by working Canberrans (including poorly served in Barton/Parkes and Palmerston).

At the moment is the last resort to commuting, being:

Expensive, unreliable, unsafe, uncomfortable, not ever tailored for working people.

Kind regards,

Anna Wieczorek