

**From:** de Riva O'Phelan  
**To:** [Committee, NCET \(REPS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to Inquiry into and report on the development of stage two of the Australian Capital Territory light rail project  
**Date:** Friday, 11 May 2018 11:01:04 PM

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The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

Should the committee find that there are any drawbacks in terms of its terms of reference for this inquiry, not least the likelihood of an inflexible light rail sooner or later increasing congestion in the parliamentary area, I would urge the Committee to find that any implementation, including expenditure on planning and the like, should be deferred until there has been an opportunity to assess the benefits, if any, of Stage One of the project, over bus transport, so that such a review would provide input into an informed cost/benefit analysis, it being self evident that Stage Two would come at some cost to the amenity of the Parliamentary area.

It seems to make little sense to rush into incurring costs and other possible detriments associated with an inflexible mode of public transport such as Stage Two without any evidence, other than conjecture, that the first stage of the light rail will pay for itself, either soon or in the medium term, much less provide any advantage over the bus transport which already serves the parliamentary area..

The congestion already experienced in building Stage One, and eventually in its removal, should also be considered by the Inquiry into Stage Two.

Yours sincerely

(Dr) Joseph de Riva O'Phelan  
