

**SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO THE JOINT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL
CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES**

PUBLIC TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA



The Public Transport Association of Canberra (PTCBBR) appreciates the opportunity to provide this supplementary submission to the Committee's *Inquiry into fostering and promoting the significance of Australia's National Capital*.

At PTCBBR's appearance on 31 July 2023, members of the Committee asked several questions about the idea of a tourist loop bus connecting Canberra's National Institutions. In response to this line of questioning, PTCBBR wishes to draw the following additional points to the Committee's attention:

- ➔ The dispersed layout of the National Institutions makes it difficult for them all to be served by a single bus loop in a reasonably direct manner.
- ➔ Previous loop buses paid for by the National Institutions have only served those that saw the need for the service and were willing to fund it.
- ➔ These tourist-oriented services were infrequent and did not have the main start location near existing Transport Canberra bus stations.¹
- ➔ Existing bus stops near the National Institutions have little signage aimed at tourists to help them find their way around.
- ➔ Prior to self-government, Transport Canberra's predecessor organisation (ACTION) operated buses to almost all National Institutions using the regular bus fleet and ticketing system.
- ➔ Transport Canberra is introducing a new ticketing system from March 2024 that can be paid for using a credit/debit card and will not require use of a specific stored value card.²
- ➔ Light Rail Stage 2B will place many National Institutions within walking distance of a station served by fast, frequent and reliable public transport.

PTCBBR's firm view is that Transport Canberra's public transport operations are best placed to deliver frequent public transport services to the National Institutions, not only for tourists, but also ACT residents and employees of these institutions. The expansion of light rail through the Parliamentary Zone will also deliver improved public transport access to these important destinations, and should be supported by the Commonwealth.

¹ <https://moad-web.s3.amazonaws.com/heracles-production/f02/1c1/8d6/f021c18d666a17a20c2f2696634f4a4c2add70cc463332f2a97357110c8d/Culture-Loop-Map-and-Timetable.pdf>

² <https://www.actbus.net/myway-plus-what-you-need-to-know/>