

## **SUBMISSION ON THE QUEANBEYAN REGION INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PLAN**



The Public Transport Association of Canberra (PTCBR) welcomes the opportunity provided by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to make a submission to the Queanbeyan Region Integrated Transport Plan.

PTCBR is the Canberra region's peak public transport lobby group with members from all sectors of the community. We are focused on improving access to public transport and making the passenger experience better. We lobby government, business groups and stakeholders associated with public transport and planning, and play a key role in the consultation process on these matters.

PTCBR has a strong interest in improving the travel options for people living in the Queanbeyan Palerang region, particularly the many that commute to Canberra for work, study or recreation.

We are pleased that TfNSW is investigating improvements to the transport network in and around the Queanbeyan area to create a more efficient transport system that meets the needs of its customers. We would welcome the opportunity to further participate in the development of this Integrated Transport Plan.

Although the Queanbeyan Region Integrated Transport Plan has a limited geographic focus, we are providing this submission with recommendations that can aid TfNSW in future planning that would enhance public transport options in not just the Queanbeyan town area, but also Googong and Jerrabomberra.

As the most recent census demonstrates, the population of the Queanbeyan Palerang region has increased by over eleven thousand people between 2015 and 2020, with the majority of trips taken by car.<sup>1</sup> The towns of Jerrabomberra and Googong have grown significantly in this period, with the majority of trips taken using private motor vehicle.

A proven method to reverse this trend is to increase the frequency, reliability and attractiveness of public transport. The presence of a major bus operator in Queanbeyan makes this an achievable goal if appropriate planning and investment is provided.

Our recommendations are aimed at leveraging the existing bus-based public transport infrastructure in Queanbeyan, including the primary TfNSW contracted bus operator (Comfort Del Gro) and its workforce.

### **Recommendations**

1. A common method of ticketing and payment for public transport on Queanbeyan and Transport Canberra buses. Ideally the same ticketing system should be used across both transport networks.
2. Improve the quality of the Morriset Street bus interchange in the Queanbeyan CBD, or consider constructing a new interchange in a more central location.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dbr.abs.gov.au/region.html?lyr=sa4&rgn=101>

3. Improve the attractiveness of local bus routes with higher frequency services and covered bus stops.
4. Establish a seven-day a week bus network with a minimum of one-hour frequency, that connects Canberra, Queanbeyan CBD, Jerrabomberra and Googong.
5. Establish frequent rapid bus routes from Queanbeyan to Canberra City. Rapid bus routes could travel:
  - a. along Uriarra Road and Canberra Avenue in the short term, and
  - b. along Yass Rd/Pialligo Ave via the Canberra Airport and Russell in the medium term.
6. Establish frequent rapid bus routes from Googong and Jerrabomberra to Canberra that do not travel via the Queanbeyan CBD.
7. Integrate TfNSW timetables and route numbering with Transport Canberra, enabling passengers to use both Transport Canberra and TfNSW routes and stops seamlessly.
8. Commence planning for the future integration of Queanbeyan's transport network with Canberra's light rail network, as outlined in *Future Transport 2056*.<sup>2</sup>

PTCBR are available to discuss any of the matters identified in this submission further if required.

Regards,



Ryan Hemsley  
Chair, Public Transport Association of Canberra

12 March 2022

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<sup>2</sup> Future Transport 2056, page 117.