



Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Mr Max Kwiatkowski

Dear Mr Kwiatkowski

I refer to your representations of 8 October 2012 through Ms Angie Drake regarding planning and transport issues in Weston Creek. I apologise that I could not provide a response to you prior to the election.

I have responded to the issues that you have raised in the order you presented them in your email.

1. Planning and development at Molonglo Valley

To accommodate the traffic growth from Molonglo Valley, a number of upgrades of the existing road network are being programmed. The first stage of an upgrade of Cotter Road from the Tuggeranong Parkway to Adelaide Avenue is currently under construction, and the design of the second stage was funded as part of the current budget. Parkes Way from Glenloch Interchange to Edinburgh Avenue is also being upgraded to three lanes to accommodate growth in traffic from Molonglo.

The recent master plan for the Weston Creek group centre has identified a number of public transport improvements as well as locations where additional carparking can be constructed. These improvements will be considered for inclusion in future capital works programs.

2. Weston Creek bus routes

Peak hour demand between Weston Creek and the City is acknowledged by the Government and additional services are planned to provide more choice for local commuters and, as Molonglo Valley develops, services will be reviewed and expanded.

In the short term, the all-day services between Weston Creek and Woden bus station provide commuters with the closest connection to the rapid network which has frequent services to the City, Belconnen and Tuggeranong. The Government has plans to increase the number of Xpresso buses between Weston Creek and the City to four in the morning and four in the afternoon. These plans include a direct Xpresso from Cooleman Court to the City.

3. Project delivery - North Weston Ponds and Cotter Road

The construction of the North Weston Ponds project was delayed due to the discovery of significant amounts of asbestos contaminated material on the site. The contaminated material had to be removed and the site remediated before works could continue under a revised design for the ponds. Work on the North Weston Ponds has recommenced and is scheduled for completion in April 2013.

Work at the intersection on Cotter road and Kirkpatrick Street is expected to be completed in early December 2012.

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In relation to your observation regarding the absence of workers on the site for a four day period, the contractor has advised that he took the opportunity of a short week due to a public holiday and a rostered day off to consolidate a number of future rostered days to ensure that work on the project could continue without any further interruptions.

4. Road resurfacing methods

The use of chip seal as a resurfacing treatment has been in use in the ACT and in other jurisdictions across Australia for many years. Chip sealing is a cost effective treatment, assists in keeping the roads water proof with good skid resistance and meets the required Australian Standards.

Several locations where road resurfacing had been undertaken were identified as defective resulting from poor weather conditions or the work methods used by the contractor. In the latter circumstances the contractor will rectify the defective areas at no cost to the Territory.

5. Landscaping and maintenance of Cotter Road buffer zone

The landscaping works associated with the Cotter Road realignment have been rescheduled for autumn 2013 as this will be the best time for works of this nature to be successfully implemented.

Mowing along Dixon Drive is undertaken on a monthly timetable during spring and autumn and approximately every two to three months for the remainder of the year, weather permitting. Additional mowing is undertaken in the area for bushfire fuel management purposes when the grass curing (seasonal drying) approaches 70%.

More than thirty thousand trees were planted in this area after the 2003 bushfires. Unfortunately a number of the trees were subsequently lost due to a grass fire, the construction of Stromlo Village, the realignment of the Cotter Road and the construction of the new cycle path.

Weeds that pose an environmental threat to high conservation areas receive top priority for treatment. This buffer zone has low conservation value, contains few weeds that are considered an environmental threat and is identified as a relatively low priority for environmental weed control.

6. Synchronisation of traffic lights

The ACT uses the same system to control traffic lights as most other cities in Australia. During the morning and afternoon peak traffic periods, Roads ACT aims to coordinate the lights along arterial routes to favour the direction of the heavier traffic flow. It can be quite difficult to coordinate lights outside of peak traffic periods as there is often no one heavy directional flow of traffic. Further difficulties include the timing of lights around the use of cycle lanes and pedestrian access.

Roads ACT aims to improve the flow of traffic for all road users and is constantly looking at ways to improve the operation of the lights.

Thank you for raising these matters with me. I trust that the information I have provided is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Katy Gallagher MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

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