

# Weston Creek Community Council: Transport Canberra and City Services Response to New Bus Network Questions from WCCC Chair

26 June 2018

Question/comment from Weston Creek Community Council	Transport Canberra response
<p><b>1. We now have two Rapid Services starting and terminating at Cooleman Court. Given that 3 other suburban services also terminate there where will the interchange be established?</b></p>	<p>The Weston Group Centre Master Plan referred to the rapid route through Parkinson Street, including an upgrade of the existing bus stops and passenger experience. This will become the main set of stops for Rapid and Local services through Cooleman Court in the new bus network.</p> <p>Our drivers are currently testing exact routing through the Group Centre, with a view to upgrading these bus stops as soon as possible. We look forward to working with the Community Council to plan and upgrade these stops.</p>
<p><b>2. I am personally pleased that there is a Rapid Service that is servicing the suburbs of Molonglo. I feel that this is a positive move and one I have been calling for for about 5 years.</b></p>	<p>Noted and thank you. As well as receiving community feedback on this point, Transport Canberra believes it is important to provide bus services to new areas as soon as is reasonably possible. We also note that route frequency will increase over time as the network grows, and when the Woden Bus Depot comes online in late 2019.</p>
<p><b>3. Given that we have Rapid Services starting at Cooleman Court where do you expect people to Park and Ride given that there are only 10 Park and Ride car parking places at Cooleman Court?</b></p>	<p>TCCS will be reviewing park and ride in the second half of 2018, including an assessment of capacity and locations for existing and future facilities. We are aware that the Kirkpatrick Street park and ride is often full.</p>
<p><b>4. The Park and ride at Kirkpatrick Street has 45 car parking places. Are there any plans to increase this number?</b></p>	<p>The planned study will allow the government to consider future park and ride expansion, and potential additional locations in Weston Creek. There are currently no plans to expand the park and ride within the Group Centre.</p>
<p><b>5. As there are less than 100 all day parking spaces at Cooleman Court what thought has been given to the businesses in and around the Weston Centre for their staff to park as they are likely to start later than the peak period of travel in the morning? Has any study been given to the potential impact on the businesses in the Weston Group Centre?</b></p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. We have provided it to the Parking Coordination Group, chaired in the Environment and Planning Directorate, and asked that they respond to you directly about parking plans for the Group Centre.</p>
<p><b>6. The loss of the Espresso Bus services will now mean that most travellers will now have to catch 2 buses to undertake the same journey. One to Cooleman Court, the next to the City. What drop in patronage do you expect given that the experience in the past is that there will be a loss once people have to change buses.</b></p>	<p>Once the new network has been implemented and people have had an opportunity to become familiar with it, we expect patronage to increase.</p> <p>Around 40% of our existing patronage is on our four rapid routes. Our 19 Xpresso routes represent less than 4% of our patronage. By using our fleet to provide more Rapids, we can provide more travelling options for our customers and carry more people. Where Xpressos only run at certain times, Rapids provide our customers with the flexibility to get to where they want to go earlier or later in the day.</p>

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<p><b>7. The through buses from Tuggeranong to Belconnen - Route 705 - has been lost and there is now no direct service to Belconnen nor really Tuggeranong. Most travellers will need to catch at least two buses to get to either location. Is there any plan to reinstate this route? Council does note that Routes 70 and 71 travel to and from Woden and Tuggeranong via Hindmarsh and Namatjira Drives but the service only stops on Namitjira Drive and these stops are unclear from the plans.</b></p>	<p>Routes 70 and 71 (which connect through to Tuggeranong and Woden via Kambah) are proposed to come into the Parkinson Street stops at Cooleman Court.</p> <p>Xpressos have been replaced by more rapid services in the proposed new network. Our 4 existing rapid routes will carry around 7.4 million customers in 2017/18, or about 40% of our total boardings. Today's 19 Xpresso routes carry less than 4% of our customers. By converting Xpresso routes to rapid services, we can carry more passengers and provide greater travel flexibility.</p> <p>The current Xpressos have drawbacks – if you happen to miss your Xpresso the choices to get to or from where you're going may be quite constrained. There are also only a limited number of Xpressos – they aren't a 'turn-up and go' service.</p> <p>More rapids means you can travel at different times of the day knowing that if you miss one, another will be right behind. Rapids operate for longer hours, are more frequent, and will operate on the same route seven days a week.</p> <p>Transport Canberra is not proposing to reinstate the 705. That route moves a comparatively small number of people between Tuggeranong and Belconnen compared to the number of people that could be moved on our Rapid services. The Rapid network will provide more options for people moving between those town centres.</p>
<p><b>8. Bus route 83 that used to run up Heysen Street has been discontinued. Route 66/67 is proposed to run up/down Hilder Street in Weston. Could this be reconsidered to run up/down Heysen Street to service the Islamic School, the DHA development at Fetherston Heights and then back via Hilder and McGuinness Streets as proposed. Also, when the route travels along Hindmarsh Drive is there any reason it can't maintain the old 25 Bus Route into Duffy to return to Hindmarsh Drive via Wyangla street.</b></p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. Transport Canberra will consider the feedback in the final network design. Feedback is open until 12 August 2018 at <a href="http://yoursay.act.gov.au">yoursay.act.gov.au</a>.</p>
<p><b>9. There seem to be insufficient bus stops proposed in Coombs on Routes 66 and 67 with no stops on Annabella View. Is there room for additional stops to be suggested on some of these routes?</b></p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. Transport Canberra will consider the feedback in the final network design. Feedback is open until 12 August 2018 at <a href="http://yoursay.act.gov.au">yoursay.act.gov.au</a>. In the design of the bus network, there</p>

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<p><b>10. Likewise there appears to be no stop on Eucumbene Drive in Duffy for this route.</b></p>	<p>is a balance to be had between the distance between stops and journey time for the route.</p>
<p><b>11. School Bus Services - given my observations on the number and variety of School buses which run through Chapman what are the numbers for daily travel out of Weston Creek to these private schools?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This new network will mean about 30% more buses passing schools, and a rebalance of dedicated school buses to better meet demand.</li> <li>• Most schools will now be served by frequent Rapid and local services, giving kids more options to get to and from school. This is expected to encourage more students to use public transport.</li> <li>• Transport Canberra will continue to provide a wide range of dedicated school bus services, especially for those schools not served by Rapid and local services and schools with very large numbers of students travelling by public transport.</li> <li>• Many students already connect to travel longer distances by public transport (over 60% of students who catch the bus are already connecting each day)</li> <li>• A new school bus policy and planned school travel fact sheets for each school can be found at <a href="http://www.canberrabuses.com.au/schools">www.canberrabuses.com.au/schools</a></li> <li>• TCCS has been working with the Education Directorate, Catholic Education Office, Independent Schools Association and P&amp; C Associations (government and non-government) to ensure that schools and parents are aware of the proposed changes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. What impact will these children have on the normal service if they are to travel on these normal bus routes?</b></p>	
<p><b>13. We are not aware of how these School services have changed? I do know that there are some children in Molonglo going to Alfred Deakin High and they will now need to catch 3 buses instead of 2 but they are out of area as Mount Stromlo is their nominated High School. Although for children in Chapman, Rivett, Holder, Duffy, Weston and Molonglo they will all need to catch two buses via Cooleman Court to get to the High School.</b></p>	
<p><b>14. Is Transport Canberra aware that the Woden Town Centre is also the Town Centre for Weston Creek and Molonglo and that in one sense the proposal means that Weston Creek is being cut from almost direct contact with the Town Centre.</b></p>	<p>The planned network includes a seven day a week Rapid connection from Weston Creek to Woden, continuing on to the Canberra Hospital and Inner South. Rapid 6 is planned to run every 15 minutes between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday, and every 30 minutes on evenings, weekends and Public Holidays. The planned routes 70, 71 and 63 are planned to continue to connect to Woden. Local routes will be scheduled to ensure connections to the Rapids at the Weston Group Centre.</p>
<p><b>15. What if people can no longer walk to a bus?</b></p>	<p>The Flexible Bus service, operated by the ACT Government between 9.30 – 1.30pm on weekdays, provides access for people who are over 70, or cannot access regular bus services. The Flexible buses operate in each district of Canberra, and take people from their home to their group or town centre, helping many Canberrans do their weekly shopping or access medical or social appointments. You can book a ride by phoning 6205 3555.</p>

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	Regional Community services also operate community buses. Call Woden Community Services for further information on 6260 5400.