

To: TAMS Community Engagement: communityengagement@act.gov.au

Revised submission on nature strip guidelines

Enforcement of nature strip rules would support public mobility and contribute to Government's [Transport for Canberra](#) walking targets and its [commitment to increasing the public transport share of all work trips to 10.5 per cent by 2016 and 16% by 2026](#).

Without enforcement, the proposed nature strip guidelines will not only further undermine public mobility, but will also further undermine the Government's ability to achieve its walking targets and public transport commitments.

The current rules are widely flouted. They can be changed at the whim of a Government official. The Government enforces them only reactively, when a member of the public lodges a complaint that correctly identifies a breach of the rules. Members of the public are unlikely to be able to correctly recognise breaches of the current rules, because the rules are very difficult to find even by searching the ACT Government website.

Last year Living Streets found 150 nature strips, in a single suburb, that were obstructed in breach of the current rules. Two thirds of those nature strips were obstructed by gardens or landscaping. Photos of many of those obstructions can be viewed by [clicking here](#). These obstructions forced pedestrians and cyclists (including the two in five regular Canberra cyclists who are aged under fifteen) to walk or ride on roads, and prevented pedestrians from stepping off the road to avoid oncoming vehicles.

Such obstructions discourage people from walking to work, and from walking to bus stops. They thus directly undermine the Government's ability to achieve its [Transport for Canberra](#) walking targets and its [commitment to increasing the public transport share of all work trips to 10.5 per cent by 2016 and 16% by 2026](#).

In this context we note that:

- The Government's 2004 Sustainable Transport Plan set journey to work mode share targets of increasing walking from 4.1% in 2001 to 6% in 2011, but achieved only 4.9%. [Transport for Canberra](#) set targets of 6.5% for 2016 and 7% in 2026.
- The Government's 2004 Sustainable Transport Plan set journey to work mode share targets of increasing public transport from 6.7% in 2001 to 9% in 2011, but achieved only 7.8%.
- Labor made a [2012 election commitment to increasing the public transport share of all work trips to 10.5 per cent by 2016 and 16% by 2026](#). The 2015 [ACTION Expenditure Review](#) reported that the public transport mode share fell to 7.1 per cent in 2014, and estimated that it would fall to 6.91% in 2015 and 4.92% in 2031.

Yours Faithfully



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