



Canberra Pedestrian Forum media release

Last chance to ask for a footpath

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"This month may be your last chance for seven years to ask the ACT Government for a footpath on your street," says Leon Arundell, the convenor of the Canberra Pedestrian Forum.

"Residents in suburbs like Campbell have waited up to 40 years for footpaths. Many Campbell residents can't walk along nature strips, because the Government allows them to be obstructed by cars and gardens. With no footpaths, they often have to face oncoming cars."

"But Campbell is just the tip of the iceberg," says Mr Arundell. "Many Canberra streets are footpath-free for at least part of their length. Many of Canberra's 64,000 school children¹ and 10,000 bus commuters² can't even get to a bus stop without walking on the road."

The Government is reviewing Canberra's cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Planning Minister Andrew Barr says a priority of the review is an equal emphasis on Canberra's 4,000³ commuter cyclists, 75,000⁴ recreational cyclists and 350,000⁵ pedestrians.⁶ He says the review will result in "a seven year program from 2010-11 to 2016-17 ... that will form the basis for capital works programs."

The draft plans show new trunk cycling routes outside Town Centres, a cycling link along Majura Rd, and shared cycle paths that in many cases will be converted from existing footpaths. They show no new footpaths in the suburbs where they are most needed.

Some people have simply described them as a "cycle plan."

The draft plans will be on display from Monday 9 November to Sunday 15 November 2009 on the TAMS website, and at the Gungahlin Marketplace, the Tuggeranong Hyperdome, the Woden and Belconnen Westfields, and the Canberra Centre in Civic. The public comment period runs from Monday 9 November to Friday 4 December 2009.

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¹ http://www.det.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/54278/ACT_School_Census_Publication_February_2009.pdf

² ABS Cat. No. 2068.0 - 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Canberra (Statistical Division) "Method of Travel to Work by Occupation."

³ ABS Cat. No. 2068.0 - 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Canberra (Statistical Division) "Method of Travel to Work by Occupation."

⁴ ABS Cat. No. 4901.0: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, October 2009 plus Australian Sports Commission, "Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport," Annual Report, 2008.

⁵ ABS Cat. No. 3101.0 - Australian Demographic Statistics, Mar 2009

⁶ <http://www.andrewbarr.com.au/review-cycling-and-pedestrian-infrastructure>