



SUBMISSION TO THE FY 2027 ACT BUDGET

THE VILLAGE OF HALL AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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The Village of Hall and District Progress Association (VHDPA) is an incorporated, not-for-profit community association which promotes the interests of Hall Village and District community members. The objects and purposes of the Association are to further the interest and welfare of the community of the Village of Hall and District, to protect and progress the amenity and heritage character of the Village of Hall and, to facilitate the recreational, educational, environmental, heritage, artistic and other interests of members and residents of Hall Village and District.

The VHDPA is the Australian Capital Territory's oldest community association and represents a community that appreciates the Ngunnawal-Ngambri, historic and natural heritage values of its surrounding environment.

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Over recent years, three significant matters have been raised by the Progress Association with the ACT Government on behalf of Hall residents and businesses. Initial action has been undertaken on Storm Water Drainage and a Cycle and Pedestrian Path. Nothing has yet been done to assess safety of the intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road. The Hall Progress Association recognises that sufficient resources must be allocated by the ACT Government to ensure full implementation of any activity.

On this basis, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that these three projects have the necessary funding allocated in the FY 2027 ACT Budget.

Storm Water Drainage in Hall Village

Budget Requirement

As the ACT Government-contracted consultants have completed the detailed sketch design and received input and feedback from residents and stakeholders in Hall Village, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that the funding required for construction of the agreed design of the comprehensive storm water drainage infrastructure is included in the FY 2027 ACT budget.

Situation

Hall Village, established in 1882, has evolved organically over the last 142 years with basic infrastructure lagging significantly behind development of the community. Since January 2022, the Progress Association has been seeking urgent attention by the ACT government to establish storm water infrastructure in Hall Village.

From mid-2024 until late 2025, ACT Government-contracted consultants have been developing a detailed design for comprehensive stormwater improvements in Hall Village funded by matching contributions from the ACT Government and from the Commonwealth Government through its Disaster Ready Fund. The contracted consultant together with ACT Government staff presented detailed analysis and a proposed master plan for stormwater improvements to residents and stakeholders in August 2025. Feedback and comments were provided by Hall residents to the consultants. Development Applications for the detailed design for stormwater improvements in Hall Village are anticipated in Q1 2026.

Cycle and Pedestrian Path from Gladstone Street Hall to Clarrie Hermes Drive

Budget Requirement

As it is almost 12 months since the Commonwealth announced funding to the ACT Government for the new community path between Hall Village and Gold Creek, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that the preferred design option be discussed with the Hall Progress Association and the Hall community without delay and, once agreed with the Hall community, construction be completed as a priority.

Situation

The lack of a formed, sealed cycle and pedestrian path connecting Hall Village to Clarrie Hermes Drive presents an ongoing, serious road safety hazard to the ACT community. Following a number of requests by the Hall Progress Association, in 2024 the ACT Government contracted the feasibility design of a safe cycle and pedestrian path from Hall Village to Nicholls. Three options were identified by the consultants and the Hall Progress Association is awaiting to discuss the preferred option with ACT Government staff.

In March 2025, the Commonwealth Infrastructure Minister announced almost \$3.5 million to the ACT for a new community path to be built between Hall Village and Gold Creek known as the Hall Village Main Route. The announcement stated that the path will be about 2.3 kilometres long with a width of three metres to provide safer and more accessible transport options for visitors and locals.

Comprehensive Assessment of the Safety of the Intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road, Hall

Budget Requirement

The Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that the funding required for a comprehensive assessment by the ACT Government of the safety of the intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road, particularly considering the current alignment and safe line of sight to traffic in all directions as well as the appropriateness of the 100 kph speed limit on this section of the Barton Highway.

Situation

It is now 46 years since the Barton Highway bypass of Hall Village was opened in 1980. In 1980 when the Barton Highway bypass was opened, the population of Yass was approximately 6,500 people; few of whom travelled daily from the Yass district to school or work in Canberra. The population of Yass district has approximately trebled in the last 45 years and the number of people commuting from Yass and surrounds to Canberra for work or study has far outstripped the growth in population.

46 years ago, the area of Wallaroo was dominated by sheep and cattle grazing and traffic to and from the Barton Highway to Wallaroo was primarily farm related. Today, there are seven wineries with cellar door sales, an equine centre and riding school, farm-gate sales of olive produce, fig produce, cherry produce and hazel nut produce, multiple restaurants and reception venues, and multiple accommodation providers. Wallaroo has transformed from a grazing backwater to a significant visitor and tourism destination that has seen a dramatic increase in traffic leaving and entering the Barton Highway that is even greater on the weekends.

Numerous concerns have been raised by Hall Village and Wallaroo residents about the safety of the intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road.

The intersections of Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road are particularly dangerous as they are largely “blind” with extremely limited line of sight to oncoming Barton Highway traffic generally travelling in excess of 100 kph.

CONCLUSION

Commitments cannot be realised without the allocation of sufficient funding to complete the projects in the ACT Budget.

The Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that sufficient funding be allocated in the FY 2027 Budget for implementation of Storm Water Drainage, a Cycle and Pedestrian Path and the Assessment of the Safety of the Intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road.