



ACT Government
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MEDIA RELEASE

STUDY EXAMINES AFTER-HOURS BUS IMPROVEMENTS

Planning Minister Simon Corbell said a feasibility study examining demand responsive transport systems will consider ways of improving after-hours services and making the public transport system more efficient.

Releasing *The Sustainable Transport Plan*, which examines ways of encouraging ACT people to make more journeys by public transport, cycling or walking, the Minister said the Department of Urban Services advertised a request for proposals to undertake the study last week.

“One of *The Sustainable Transport Plan’s* aims is to reduce public transport travel times compared with private car journeys, making public transport more competitive with cars,” Mr Corbell said.

“Public transport travel times can often be long particularly at night time due to the long waiting times associated with less frequent feeder services. Evening off-peak feeder services are poorly patronised making them very costly to provide on a per passenger basis.”

Mr Corbell said the study would assess the feasibility of introducing demand responsive transport services in place of existing evening bus services. It would identify an appropriate transport model, the types of vehicles, such as buses, taxis and hire cars, which would be available to provide the services, and appropriate pricing structures.

“The study may find, for example, that small public passenger vehicles could be used in the evenings for travel from interchanges to local suburbs,” Mr Corbell said. “Under this model, people might assemble at a designated area at an interchange. Trips would be coordinated in much the same way as occurs at many airports.

“The small public vehicles would depart when fully occupied or within ten minutes of being occupied, rather than in accordance with a set timetable. Under such a model, each interchange would have a list of suburbs it would service and people wanting to go further would use the inter-town bus service in association with the demand responsive service.

“I am sure the feasibility study will be able to explore many options, indeed it will be exciting to see what ideas are put forward.

“The final report is expected by the end of August 2004. Should the report conclude that a demand responsive service is viable, the Government will liaise with stakeholders to determine arrangements for a trial of the new service.”

Demand responsive transport services are part of the “Living with the Environment – Our Bush Capital” theme of *The Canberra Plan*.

Statement Ends.

