

# Deb Foskey MLA

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## New approach to transport needed

Deb Foskey, Greens MLA, today expressed concern that the new town of Molonglo will end up with the same public transport deficit as Gungahlin unless planners' attitudes change.

"It seems that the latest ACTION network isn't convenient for many residents in Amaroo and other parts of Gungahlin, as buses no longer wind their way past people's homes through suburban streets but stick to the main drags," said Dr Foskey today.

"We know from the narrow suburban streets that public transport was the last thing on developers' minds when the first Gungahlin suburbs were built."

"I would have thought we'd have learned our lessons in this time of peak oil and climate change though, and the future town of Molonglo would be planned to overcome this problem."

"I was shocked to discover that, although much of Molonglo will be high and medium density from the start, the main road into the town will be two lanes, instead of incorporating a bus or light rail capacity, forcing people in this twenty-first century town to rely upon their cars to get to work."

"On questioning I was told that when the required density is there - that is, after the first suburbs are built and residents have adapted to the need for constant car travel - the government might find the money to widen the road for rapid transit buses or light rail."

"Since the government is seeking a premium on land sales, it makes sense to harvest the extra revenue that is gained by blocks well-serviced by buses or rail. There is plenty of evidence that suburban homes and blocks of land with good access to public transport sell for higher prices."

"Imagine Gungahlin with light rail from the town centre to Civic, with buses linking to major stops along the way - imagine what that would do to the value of blocks on Flemington Road."

"Now imagine Molonglo with light rail or rapid bus transit system along Cotter Road to the new town centre, with buses taking people to their homes. I would have thought it a no-brainer for any new town - but the ACT government hasn't applied a futuristic lens and is stuck in a traffic jam of old ideas," said Deb Foskey.

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