



Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



ACT
Government

Light Rail Stage 2B
Commonwealth Park to Woden

Environmental Impact Statement Submissions Guide



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Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

What is the Stage 2B EIS?

Design, planning and approvals for Light Rail to Woden: Stage 2B (Stage 2B) are progressing. The ACT Government has submitted a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to both the Australian and ACT governments for consideration.

The draft EIS examines the project's potential environmental, social and economic impacts and suggests ways to manage or mitigate them. It includes the ACT Government's preferred alignment, State Circle East, and an alternative alignment through the National Triangle and Barton.

The draft EIS will be placed on public exhibition for 45 business days. During this time, interested stakeholders and the broader community can view the draft EIS and provide feedback in a submission or representation.

What is an EIS?

An EIS assesses the environmental, social and economic impacts a project may have on its surroundings. An EIS:

- describes the current environment of the project area
- details the features of the project and describes how it would be built and operated
- looks at the anticipated impacts of the project
- outlines how positive outcomes may be achieved or enhanced
- outlines how potentially adverse impacts can be avoided or reduced
- provides a conclusion about whether the impacts are acceptable and justified.

The assessment of issues is based on a concept design which was developed to reflect key findings and outcomes from consultation undertaken in 2024.

Why is an EIS needed?

Stage 2B is a complex project that requires several Australian and Territory government environmental and planning approvals. The project connects Commonwealth Park to Woden, passing over areas of Commonwealth and Territory land, and is likely to impact matters of national environmental significance.

The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is responsible for protecting nationally significant matters using the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. The EPBC Act protects and manages nationally significant plants, animals, habitats and heritage places.

The Territory Planning Authority (TPA) requires formal assessment of potential environmental impacts in zoned Territory Land for some proposals. This is done through an EIS process, as outlined in the *Planning Act 2023*.

The draft EIS has been prepared to satisfy legislative requirements under both the EPBC Act and the Planning Act.

DCCEEW will consider the consistency of the draft EIS with the Commonwealth EIS guidelines (July 2024). The TPA will consider the consistency of the draft EIS with the EIS scoping document it issued for the project in March 2024.

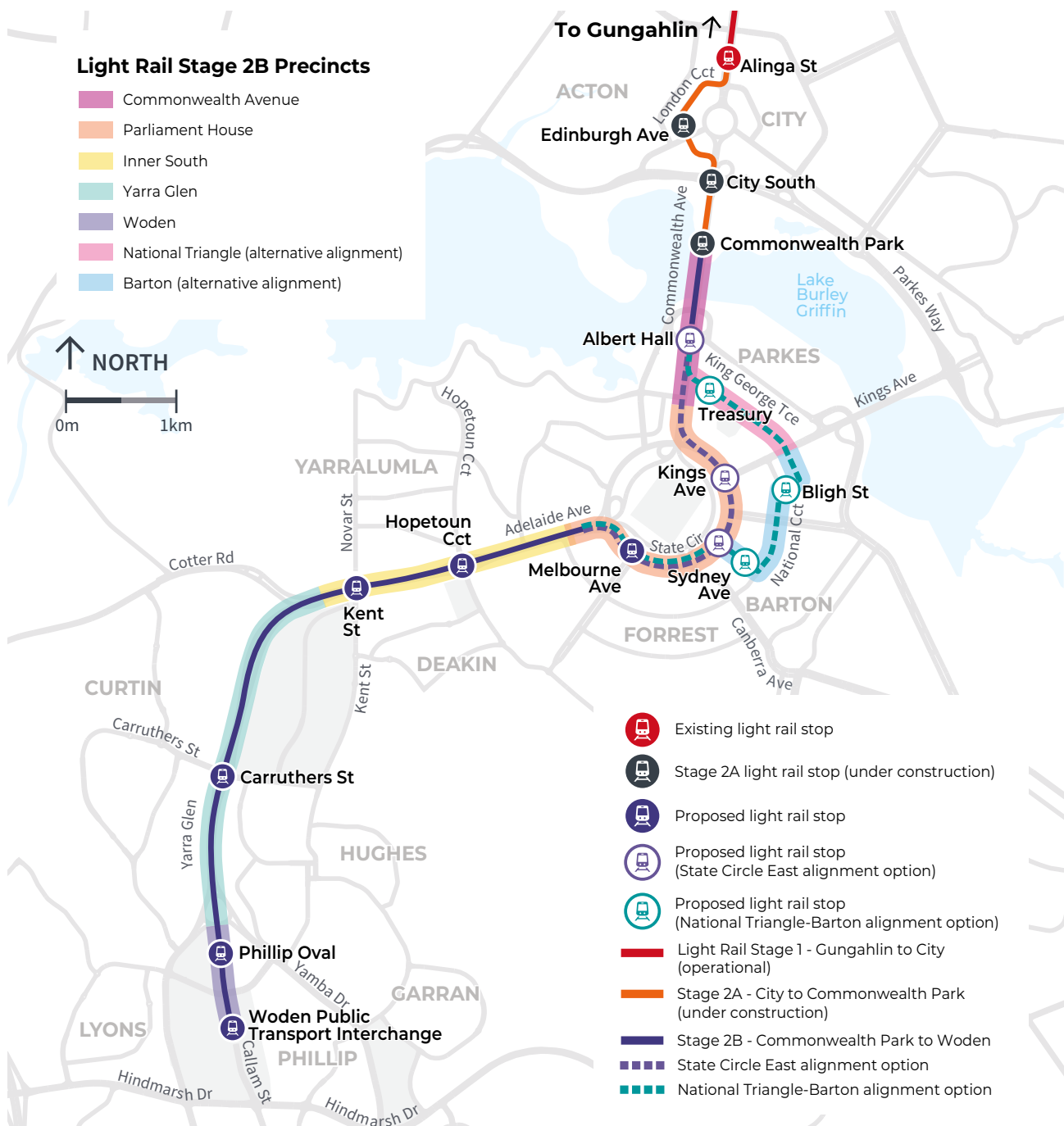
What is the approvals pathway?

This complex project requires several Australian and ACT government environmental and planning approvals.



What is included in the draft EIS?

The draft EIS looks at the project as a whole and as seven unique precincts as well as the Mitchell Depot. It includes the preferred alignment of State Circle East and an alternative alignment through the National Triangle and Barton precincts.



The structure of the EIS is outlined below.

Part A – Introduction and context

Part A describes the project and discusses the surrounding context. The executive summary and first five chapters provide an overview of the project and draft EIS. The remaining chapters in Part A consider construction, sustainability, legislation and assessment approaches and methodologies.

Executive Summary

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Need for the Project

**Chapter 3:
Project development**

**Chapter 4: Stakeholder and
community consultation**

Chapter 5: Project description

Chapter 6: Construction

Chapter 7: Sustainability

**Chapter 8:
Legislation and policy**

**Chapter 9: Approach to the
environmental assessment**

**Chapter 10: Assessment
methodologies**

Part B – Environmental impact assessment

Part B is the assessment of the environmental issues resulting from the project construction and operation. These chapters provide an assessment for each precinct and Mitchell Depot. Issues that are not precinct-specific and/or apply to the whole project are assessed in the Project-wide issues chapter.

Chapter 11: Project-wide issues

This chapter provides information about the project-wide issues. Issues include traffic and transport, biodiversity, heritage, hydrology, flooding, soils and contamination, socio-economic, land-use and property, air quality, climate change risk, greenhouse gas generation, materials, waste and resources, and hazard and risk.

**Chapter 12:
Commonwealth Avenue precinct**

**Chapter 13:
Parliament House precinct**

**Chapter 14:
National Triangle precinct**

Chapter 15: Barton precinct

**Chapter 16:
Inner South precinct**

Chapter 17: Yarra Glen precinct

Chapter 18: Woden precinct

Chapter 19: Mitchell Depot site

These chapters provide an understanding of issues at a more local level. Each chapter includes an overview of the precinct along with key issues such as traffic and transport, noise and vibration, biodiversity, heritage, landscape character and visual assessment and socioeconomic.

Chapter 20: Cumulative impacts

Issues that overlap or interact with other projects during construction and operation are assessed in this chapter.

Part C – Environmental management and conclusion

Part C includes a chapter that lists management and mitigation measures to address the identified environmental impacts. The final chapters conclude and summarise the draft EIS findings and detail the justification for carrying out the Project.

**Chapter 21:
Environmental management
and mitigation measures**

**Chapter 22:
Summary of assessment and
residual impacts**

**Chapter 23:
Justification and conclusion**

Part D – Appendices and technical reports

Part D includes appendices and technical reports that support the draft EIS.

Appendix A: Glossary and abbreviations

Appendix B: Scoping Document (ACT Government requirements)

Appendix C: EIS Guidelines (DCCEEW)

Appendix D: EIS cross references

Appendix E: Proponent's environmental history

Appendix F: Information sources and references

Appendix G: Study team

Appendix H: Consultation (activities and outcomes)

Appendix I: Public Domain Master Plan

Appendix J: Environmental risk assessment

Appendix K: Property and land use planning

Appendix L: Environmental Management Plan outline

Technical Report 1: Traffic and transport

Technical Report 2: Biodiversity

Technical Report 3: Heritage

Technical Report 4: Hydrology, flooding and water quality

Technical Report 5: Contamination

Technical Report 6: Socioeconomic

Technical Report 7: Climate change risk

Technical Report 8: Greenhouse gas

Technical Report 9: Noise and vibration

Technical Report 10: Landscape character and visual amenity



Public exhibition of the draft EIS

Where can I view the draft EIS?

Printed draft EIS documents

The draft EIS is available to view until the close of the public exhibition period at:

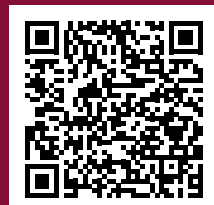
- Civic Library (Civic Square, London Circuit, Canberra City)
- Dickson Library (Antill Street, Dickson)
- Gungahlin Library (Corner of Hibberson and Gozzard Streets, Gungahlin)
- Tuggeranong Library (Cowlshaw Street, Greenway)
- Woden Library (Corinna Street, Phillip)

Online

Under the EPBC Act, Infrastructure Canberra has published the draft EIS on a digital platform where you can view the documents and a collection of resources including videos and an interactive map. You can explore the EIS findings by precinct or topic on this platform.

Visit the digital EIS platform

- Watch videos about the project
- See the schedule of drop-in information sessions where you can speak to a member of the project team
- Explore the interactive map
- Read the Project and Environmental Impact Statement summary
- Download a submissions template



Under the Planning Act, the draft EIS is available online during and after the public exhibition period at the Territory Planning Authority's website. Visit planning.act.gov.au and search "light rail EIS".



Making a submission

Why is making a submission important?

The public exhibition of the draft EIS is an important opportunity to see the assessment of project impacts and provide feedback. By making a submission you can express views, concerns or support, and contribute knowledge.

Information in submissions and representations will help Infrastructure Canberra to understand community views about the project. DCCEEW and TPA will also use feedback to assess the EIS.

Your feedback is important as we progress with approvals and further design.

How can I make a submission to the draft EIS?

The community is invited to review the draft EIS and make a submission during the public exhibition period. A submission must be made on or before the last day of the public exhibition period. Submissions can be sent to Infrastructure Canberra (under the EPBC Act) by:

Email:
Stage2BEIS@act.gov.au

Mail:
 Infrastructure Canberra - Stage 2B EIS
 PO Box 158, ACT 2601

Please provide your contact details so that a submission number can be provided to you when your submission is received.

Territory Planning Authority

Representations to the TPA under the *Planning Act 2023* for impacts in zoned Territory Land should be addressed to the Chief Planner and be made in one of the following ways:

Online:
 Visit planning.act.gov.au and search “light rail EIS” to complete the Public Submission Smartform

Email:
ACEPDcustomerservices@act.gov.au

Mail:
 Land, Planning and Building Services Shopfront,
 GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

By hand:
 Access Canberra Land, Planning and
 Building Services Shopfront at
 8 Darling Street, Mitchell ACT 2911

What happens to my submission?

All submissions and representations will be considered by both DCCEEW and the TPA. Infrastructure Canberra and the TPA will share all submissions and representations with one another.

This will ensure Infrastructure Canberra has collected and considered all submissions appropriately.

All matters will be reviewed and considered during the exhibition period. The EIS will be updated to address concerns and suggestions made.

The final EIS will include a report that outlines:

- the submissions and representations
- the issues raised
- a response to the issues
- key project amendments made to the Draft EIS in response to submissions.

What do I include in my submission?

To assist Infrastructure Canberra to address and respond to your submission, please consider the following writing tips.

Details to include

Please include your contact details and organisation (if applicable).

Writing tips

A submission can be written in bullet points or full sentences. It can be written in plain-English and does not require technical expertise.

Making a group submission

Submissions can be made by groups. Group submissions can reduce the workload for individuals and increase the pool of ideas and suggestions.

A group submission, signed by one person or the group's representative, will be considered as one submission. The names of all people involved in the submission can be included.

Information to assist the submission process

- 1.** Divide your submission into topic areas or precincts and reference the chapter and section you are writing about.
- 2.** Include a statement on whether you support, object to or are providing comments on the topics and issues raised in the draft EIS.
- 3.** If your submission is more than a few pages please include a summary of your main points.
- 4.** In your response refer to relevant matters or issues in the draft EIS.
- 5.** Where relevant, provide reasons and supporting information for any issues raised in your submission.
- 6.** Attach supporting documents and information to your submission. This is helpful when new information should be considered.

Example of what to include in your submission

New Message

To:

Stage2BEIS@act.gov.au

Subject: EPBC Ref: 2023/9753 – Public Comment

<Your full name>
<If relevant, organisation or group name>
<Your email or postal address>
<The date>

Dear Infrastructure Canberra,

General comments

Please provide a summary of your views, concerns or requests. Also include your overall view of the project, such as I/we support the project, I/we object to the project or I/we are providing comments.

Detailed comments

The following table can help if you have specific or detailed comments on the draft EIS. Use a new row for each issue or topic and add more rows as required. This format will help us clearly address each issue in the revised, final EIS.

Chapter & section If possible, please note the section of the draft EIS you are referring to. <i>For example: Chapter XX, pages XX to XX</i>	Topic or key issue Please provide a few words about what your comment relates to.	Comment Please provide details about the topic or key issue. This can include your views, concerns or support, or knowledge about the topic or key issue raised.

Add Rows As Necessary +

Concluding statements

If relevant include concluding statements or summaries and attach further information to support your submission.

Regards

Sign off as an individual or on behalf of your group or organisation

Next steps

After the public exhibition period feedback from the community will be used to inform revisions to the draft EIS where appropriate.

The revised, final EIS will include a report outlining the comments received, issues raised and a response to the issues and values identified. It will include one alignment.

Once this process is complete the revised, final EIS will be lodged again to DCCEEW and TPA for consideration and

approval. This process will determine if the project can proceed and if so, under what conditions. The final EIS will also be made publicly available.

Following completion of the EIS process, the Project will progress to Development Application approval, Parliamentary approval and Works Approval.



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Contact us

For more information about the Light Rail to Woden Project, you can visit our website or contact the project team:

 act.gov.au/lightrailtowoden

 1800 956 409

 lightrailtowoden@act.gov.au



To speak to someone in a language other than English telephone the Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) **13 14 50**. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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