

ACT GREENS

2012 ELECTION INITIATIVE

Free public Wi-Fi trial

ACT GREENS WILL...

Commit \$100,000 for a one year trial of:

- Free Wi-Fi on a selection of ACTION buses
- Free Wi-Fi hotspots at Canberra's bus interchanges
- Free public Wi-Fi hotspots around Civic with the potential to expand to other town centres.

*"Wi-Fi where you need it,
when you need it"*

Canberra Wi-Fi Trial

- The ACT Greens will trial free Wi-Fi on Canberra's public transport and at town centre 'hotspots'.
- It is about building a Canberra that has a modern, convenient public transport system and vibrant, well connected town centres.
- The Wi-Fi trial is just one aspect of a significant Greens' commitment to improving public transport and public space in Canberra.

Wi-Fi for buses, interchanges & town centres

- **The Canberra Wi-Fi Trial will establish and operate Wi-Fi on a selection of ACTION buses to test its feasibility.** This will be a minimum of 10 buses. The Greens will explore opportunities for private sector partnerships, advertising or sponsorship arrangements to reduce costs and increase the number of Wi-Fi enabled buses for the trial.
- **The Canberra Wi-Fi Trial will establish Wi-Fi hotspots at Canberra's bus interchanges:** Tuggeranong, Woden and the City (Belconnen Westfield already provides Wi-Fi), as well as the major bus stop in Gungahlin Town Centre.
- **The Canberra Wi-Fi Trial will also be rolled out in Civic:** Garema Place, City Walk, Petrie Plaza, Glebe Park and Civic Square. This will attract more people to these locations and entice them to stay longer, bringing an increased vibrancy to the heart of our city.
- Passengers with laptops or mobile devices (such as smart phones and tablets) will be able to access the internet for free while they travel on a Wi-Fi enabled bus or while they wait at a bus interchange. Canberrans will have a more enjoyable and productive journey on public transport.
- As an example, a person catching the **111 from Calwell to Civic** or the **313 from Charnwood to Civic** could use free Wi-Fi for about **45 minutes** every morning to do work, write emails, or use social media.
- Wi-Fi enabled buses will operate on a variety of routes to help assess their best use, including some longer and less frequent routes (eg. suburban routes) and some frequent routes (eg. the Red Rapid).
- Free Wi-Fi will assist lower income people to get connected. Many people own mobile devices but have difficulty paying for data plans.

Wi-Fi around the world - on transport & in the city

Modern cities around the world are establishing public Wi-Fi in city centres and on public transport, such as:

- Manly and Brisbane Ferries; Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane buses. Deane's buses uses Wi-Fi on services in regional NSW and Canberra.
- Europe's train system offers free Wi-Fi for travellers, and is widely recognised as an international leader with over 70,000 'hotspots'.
- Numerous US cities offer free Wi-Fi services on buses and trains.

Great cities all around the world have free Wi-Fi hotspots in public places, for example:

- New York City currently has 23 public parks connected to free Wi-Fi and they are continuing to roll out more.
- Paris currently has over 250 free Wi-Fi hotspots in public parks, gardens, libraries, museums and town halls throughout the city.
- Closer to home, free public Wi-Fi in Wellington, New Zealand averages over 5000 users a day.

Easy, secure web access

- The Trial will utilise the ACT Government's filtering protocol to prevent inappropriate use of the network.
- Connections will be managed by either time or download limits to ensure responsible usage.
- Costs could be minimised by using existing whole-of-government telecommunications arrangements.
- Public transport Wi-Fi can be integrated with a future "real time passenger information" service.



Trial outcomes

- The Canberra Wi-Fi Trial will be assessed after one year.
- ACTION's "MyWay" ticket system, survey data and patron feedback will provide information about how the free Wi-Fi influences public transport patronage and whether it makes using public transport more productive and enjoyable.
- The Trial will allow an assessment of technical issues so that Wi-Fi could be rolled out across the broader public transport network and town centres smoothly in the future.

“The Greens offer a better connected, more affordable and liveable city.”

- *Meredith Hunter MLA
ACT Greens Parliamentary Leader*



Your Greens Representatives in the ACT Legislative Assembly



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