



What's happening in Belconnen?

Over the next two years improvements will be made to the Belconnen Town Centre giving people better access to the shopping mall, simpler bus routes and easy pedestrian access to the entire town centre.

Why are improvements being made to the Town Centre?

People using the Belconnen bus interchange say it feels isolated, run down and is too far from the shops. It is difficult to walk to the lake foreshore from the town centre and pedestrian access to the Belconnen Mall from the surrounding streets is poor.

Are you going to replace the bus interchange?

Yes.

People told ACTPLA during consultation on this development that the connection to the mall via the footbridge from the interchange was unattractive and in need of an upgrade.

The interchange was seen as isolated and lacking in services and amenities such as toilets, shops and fare and ticket information.

The existing interchange will be demolished and a new bus station will be built at the south-west corner of Belconnen Mall. Cohen Street will be extended to Emu Bank with new bus stops built near the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Lake Ginninderra College.

The upgrade will allow bus travellers to get off at either the 'retail' stop at the western extension of the mall, the 'ABS' stop on Cohen Street (close to the old interchange) or the 'college' stop at Emu Bank.

How will the project affect traffic?

The new traffic arrangements will reduce commuter travel times by simplifying bus routes through the town centre.

The current dedicated busway from the north will be closed.

From 2010 buses servicing the Belconnen area will mostly approach the town centre using a route along Luxton Street, stopping at stations along the length of the Cohen Street extension and on to Eastern Valley Way.

Buses from Civic, North Canberra and Gungahlin will use the Eastern Valley Way route moving on to Emu Bank and the Cohen Street extension.

Will there be changes to traffic lights?

In early 2009 work will start on traffic lights at five intersections.

These are:

- Benjamin Way / Emu Bank
- Emu Bank / Eastern Valley Way
- Cohen Street / Josephson Street
- Cohen Street / Nettlefold Street
- Cohen Street / Lathlain Street.



Why are new traffic lights being built?

The traffic lights at the Intersections of Emu Bank/Benjamin Way and Cohen Street/Josephson Street will reduce the number of crashes.

The traffic lights will also slow car traffic in the town centre, making it easier to walk to the lake foreshore and to the shopping centre from the surrounding streets. The lights should also make the streets safer for families with small children and the elderly.

How long will the upgrade take?

Work is scheduled to start early in 2009 on the road works and the expansion of the mall. All improvements are currently forecast to be completed by the end of 2010.

How much is the upgrade going to cost?

The estimated cost of the project is \$24.4 million for the road works and about \$100 million for improvements to Belconnen Mall.

Who is paying for it?

The ACT Government will fund the road works. Westfield Belconnen will construct the new bus station integrated with an extension to the western side of the mall.

How will the improvements affect:

Visitors to Westfield Shopping Centre?

The upgrade includes a new retail precinct bus station that directly links into level 3 of the south-west corner of the mall. The new station is much closer to the shops and will be better serviced.

Local employees?

A new bus station on Cohen Street close to the site of the old bus interchange will provide easy access to the ABS building, Margaret Timpson Park and the community facilities precinct that includes the health centre, library and Belconnen Community Services.

Students at Ginninderra College and visitors to the Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre?

A new bus station will be constructed on the eastern edge of the town centre on Emu Bank adjacent to Lake Ginninderra College.

What happens to transport arrangements while the upgrade is being constructed?

From April 2009 when construction of the Cohen Street extension begins, temporary bus stops will be established along Lathlain Street and Cameron Avenue. Bus patrons wanting to visit the mall can use the Lathlain Street stop, with other stops further east more suited to people wishing to access offices, the college and community facilities.

How can I find out more?

Information on the planned upgrade of Belconnen Town Centre is available at:

- ACTPLA - www.actpla.act.gov.au
- Territory and Municipal Services - www.tams.act.gov.au
- ACTION - www.action.act.gov.au