



Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc.

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**SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT SOUTH-EAST AND
TABLELANDS REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN
FROM THE VILLAGE OF HALL AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

THE VILLAGE OF HALL AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Village of Hall and District Progress Association (VHDPA) is an incorporated, not-for-profit community association which promotes the interests of Hall Village and District community members. As the Village of Hall was established in 1882, prior to the creation of the ACT, as a centre for the surrounding areas including Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo, the VHDPA continues to have membership from residents and rate-payers across the 2618 Postcode whether in the ACT or NSW.

The objects and purposes of the VHDPA are to further the interest and welfare of the community of the Village of Hall and District (Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo), to protect and progress the amenity and heritage character of the Village of Hall and District and, to facilitate the recreational, educational, environmental, heritage, artistic, occupational and other interests of members and residents of Hall Village and District.

SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT SOUTH-EAST AND TABLELANDS REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN

This submission on the Draft South-East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan is made on behalf of residents and rate-payers of the NSW communities of Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo, and the residents and rate-payers of the ACT community of Hall.

CURRENT TRANSPORT CONTEXT AND SERVICES IN HALL DISTRICT

Although located in the ACT, Hall Village is the essential hub for the NSW communities of Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo.

There is currently only one CDC NSW bus transport service daily on Monday to Friday, 9:21 am from Hall Village to Canberra City via Belconnen (starting in Yass) and one service daily on Monday to Friday from Canberra City 2:05 pm via Belconnen to Hall (terminating in Yass), although there are 4 weekday return services daily from Yass to Canberra, 3 of which bypass Hall Village along the Barton Highway. Such a single weekday daily service via Hall at the current times presents little usefulness for employment, medical, commercial or recreational purposes. As a consequence, these services are rarely utilised from Hall Village, Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo.

There are no bus services connecting Nanima, Spring Range or Wallaroo to any large centre or Hall Village other than the school bus routes.

The ACT Centenary Trail travels along the NSW/ ACT border from Hall Village near One Tree Hill (Spring Range) to Mulligans Flat in the ACT. This Centenary Trail is also connected to an extensive cycle/ pedestrian path network connecting to major ACT town centres including Belconnen, Canberra City and Gungahlin. There is also marked, on-road cycle lanes north and south bound on the Barton Highway in the ACT to the NSW border. These marked cycle lanes also connect to the network referenced above.

The roads linking the three communities of Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo to the major arterial Barton Highway are essential for economic activity, especially tourism to the wineries, cafes, and restaurants, and small businesses including organic small farmsteads. These three roads are continuously in an extremely degraded and parlous state. The roads in Wallaroo in particular are subject to the damage caused by heavy trucks that exceed the specified bridge limit travelling to sites of illegal dumping in Wallaroo.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DRAFT SOUTH-EAST AND TABLELANDS REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Increase to Four Daily Weekday Services via Hall Village

Improvement of Tier 1 and Tier 2 connections between Yass and Canberra and linking to the NSW communities of Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo, and improvement of employment commuting options reducing vehicle traffic and green-house gas emissions will be achieved by increasing the daily weekday services from Yass to Canberra via Hall Village.

Specifically, having the Route 842 “commuter” services from Yass to Canberra and return travel via Hall Village would enable passengers from the NSW Hall District communities and Hall Village avail of these services to travel to employment in the ACT, reducing individual car travel including by using a “park and ride” option via Hall Village. Such “park and ride” services will require the establishment of adequate parking for District commuters within the area adjacent to Hall Village in consultation with residents and stakeholders in Hall Village and District.

Develop Cycle Paths in Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo

The draft South-East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan includes objectives towards facilitating and supporting economic growth and providing convenient opportunities for cycling and walking. Developing cycle paths in the NSW communities in Hall District provides an opportunity to contribute to these objectives.

Residents, ratepayers and small businesses in Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo are seeking to develop a “green triangle” network of both sealed and gravel cycle/ walk ways, constructed beside roads, to connect with the enormously popular ACT Centenary Trail (which hugs the Territory boundary north of Hall) and the Yass Valley Council \$2.2 million Murrumbateman wineries cycle way (under construction).

This would involve two separate items:

- Construction of a sealed cycle/ pedestrian path beside the Barton Highway currently under duplication from the ACT border to Murrumbateman; and
- Development of unsealed off-road cycle ways in Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo connecting with the ACT Centenary Trail and the Barton Highway cycle way and providing cycle/ walking access to wineries, restaurants and other visitor attractions within the NSW 2618 Postcode communities of Hall District.

Provide “On-Demand” Transport Options in Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo

The Draft South-East Tablelands Regional Transport Plan identifies an ageing population as a key driver requiring the provision of on-demand transport, and as part of a bespoke multimodal transport network.

On-demand transport options need to be provided to support the aging population in Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo linking to Hall Village and to the ACT town centres of Belconnen, Canberra City and Gungahlin. This is also essential to enable access for carers of aging residents in the District. This will also require appropriate technology to rural holdings to support all transport services.

NSW - ACT Cross Border Transport Working Group

The Draft South-East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan proposes the establishment of a NSW - ACT Cross Border Transport Working Group.

The NSW communities of Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo and the ACT community of Hall have some 110 years experience of the challenges facing communities that are inseparably tied economically, socially and culturally while being administratively divided by the border NSW – ACT border.

NSW residents and businesses in Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo and ACT residents of Hall welcome the establishment of a Cross Border Transport Working Group to address the numerous matters that are inconsistent with a response that focuses on one jurisdiction alone. Further, the Progress Association recommends that regular stakeholder consultation engage groups with a cross border view such as the Progress Association.