



SUBMISSION TO THE FY 2026 ACT BUDGET

THE VILLAGE OF HALL AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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

The VHDPA is the Australian Capital Territory's oldest community association and represents a community that appreciates the Ngunnawal-Ngambri, historic and natural heritage values of its surrounding environment.

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Over recent years, three significant matters have been raised by the Progress Association with the ACT Government on behalf of Hall residents and businesses. Initial action has been undertaken on Storm Water Drainage and a Cycle and Pedestrian Path. Nothing has yet been done to assess safety of the intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road. The Hall Progress Association recognises that sufficient resources must be allocated by the ACT Government to ensure full implementation of any activity.

On this basis, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that these three projects have the necessary funding allocated in the FY 2026 ACT Budget.

Storm Water Drainage in Hall Village

Situation

Hall Village, established in 1882, 29 years prior to the creation of the Federal Capital Territory, has evolved organically over the last 142 years with basic infrastructure lagging significantly behind development of the community. The changes in climate in recent years, including the frequency and severity of torrential rain, has seriously exacerbated a chronic issue of inadequate storm water drainage and its effects on water incursion to properties, washing gravel and debris on to roads making them unsafe, and erosion particularly of gravel laneways.

Since January 2022, the Progress Association has been seeking urgent attention by the ACT government to establish storm water infrastructure in Hall Village. During FY 2023, a consultant was contracted to identify flooding hotspots for the entire Village, and to develop flood mitigation options to alleviate the identified flooding.

The Hall community were very pleased to learn in July 2023 that the ACT Government had provisioned funding for the detailed design for stormwater improvements in Hall Village with matching contribution from the Commonwealth Government through its Disaster Ready Fund. The contracted consultant is currently completing the detailed design for stormwater improvements in Hall Village and the Progress Association is awaiting a presentation of proposals to Hall residents and rate payers.

Budget Requirement

In order that the storm water drainage infrastructure not be delayed, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that the funding required for construction of comprehensive storm water drainage infrastructure is included in the FY 2026 ACT budget, as per the agreed detailed design.

Cycle and Pedestrian Path from Gladstone Street Hall to Clarrie Hermes Drive

Situation

The lack of a formed, sealed cycle and pedestrian path connecting Hall Village to Clarrie Hermes Drive presents an ongoing, serious road safety hazard to the ACT community. The Village of Hall and District Progress Association has actively advocated for the establishment of safe pedestrian and cycle access from Clarrie Hermes Drive to Hall Village.

In 2024, the ACT Government contracted the feasibility design of a safe cycle and pedestrian path from Hall Village to Nicholls. Three options have been identified by the consultants and the Hall Progress Association is awaiting the opportunity to discuss the options with ACT Government staff.

The Hall Progress Association proposes that the Hall Village to Nicholls path be implemented in two separate stages – Hall to Clarrie Hermes Drive as stage one and Clarrie Hermes Drive to Nicholls as stage 2.

Budget Requirement

In order to address the significant safety risk of cyclists on Victoria Street between Hall and the Clarrie Hermes Drive, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that the funding required for construction of the Hall Village to Clarrie Hermes Drive fully formed and paved cycle and pedestrian path be included in the FY 2026 ACT Budget.

Comprehensive Assessment of the Safety of the Intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road, Hall

Situation

It is now 45 years since the Barton Highway bypass of Hall Village was opened in 1980. In 1980 when the Barton Highway bypass was opened, the population of Yass was approximately 6,500 people; few of whom travelled daily from the Yass district to school or work in Canberra. The population of Yass district has approximately trebled in the last 45 years and the number of people commuting from Yass and surrounds to Canberra for work or study has far outstripped the growth in population.

45 years ago, the area of Wallaroo was dominated by sheep and cattle grazing and traffic to and from the Barton Highway to Wallaroo was primarily farm related. Today, there are seven wineries with cellar door sales, an equine centre and riding school, farm-gate sales of olive produce, fig produce, cherry produce and hazel nut produce, multiple restaurants and reception venues, and multiple accommodation providers. Wallaroo has transformed from a grazing backwater to a significant visitor and tourism destination that has seen a dramatic increase in traffic leaving and entering the Barton Highway that is even greater on the weekends.

Numerous concerns have been raised by Hall Village and Wallaroo residents about the safety of the intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road. The intersections of Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road are particularly dangerous as they

are largely “blind” with extremely limited line of sight to oncoming Barton Highway traffic generally travelling in excess of 100 kph.

Budget Requirement

The Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that the funding required for a comprehensive assessment by the ACT Government of the safety of the intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road, particularly considering the current alignment and safe line of sight to traffic in all directions as well as the appropriateness of the 100 kph speed limit on this section of the Barton Highway.

CONCLUSION

Commitments cannot be realised without the allocation of sufficient funding to complete the projects in the ACT Budget.

The Village of Hall and District Progress Association requests that sufficient funding be allocated in the FY 2026 Budget for implementation of Storm Water Drainage, a Cycle and Pedestrian Path and the Assessment of the Safety of the Intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road.