



SIGNAL SEVEN

5 October 2021

Northside Future Takes Shape

Following the UFU obtaining commitment to building 2 new fire stations (Acton and Molonglo), plans are taking shape for the future shape of North Canberra fire cover.

With Ainslie seen at best as a short to medium term option (size of footprint limits future expansion), and Gungahlin posing traffic problems, options are now under active consideration for future coverage of Canberra's north.

We have today received confirmation that tomorrow's ACT Budget will include funding for the refurbishment of the Gungahlin JESC. This funding will support a phased transition to ACT Policing assuming full occupancy of the JESC. The first phase of the transition will see the ACTRFS and ACTSES relocate to leased premises in Mitchell. There will be no changes for ACT Fire and Rescue at this stage.

The 4 phase approach that has been communicated to us is set out below:

- Phase One – fourth quarter of 2021 and first quarter of 2022
 - ACTRFS and ACTSES relocate to a new site in Mitchell. This relocation is temporary until a suitable permanent site is identified.
 - ACTAS and ACTP reposition at JESC with increased vehicle and personnel space.
- Phase Two – fourth quarter of 2021 and first quarter of 2022
 - A site-specific feasibility study will be conducted for a future station in the Gungahlin region for ACTAS and ACTF&R.
 - A master design will be developed for ACTP to ultimately assume full occupancy of the current JESC site once ACTAS and ACTF&R relocate.
- Phase Three – date TBD
 - ACTAS and ACTF&R relocate to proposed northside station.
- Stage four – date TBD
 - ACTP take possession of JESC.

We will keep members informed as matters progress.

In relation to Acton station, progress has been disappointingly slow. Members will be aware that the enterprise agreement includes a completion date of December 2021, and it has been obvious for some time that this date will not be met. Nonetheless, a consultation session will take place next week concerning preliminary sketch plans for the site. We remain capably represented by Warrick Hancock, our facilities committee representative, throughout this process.

In relation to Molonglo station, further consideration is being given to the precise site for construction, and we understand that ACT Fire and Rescue are seeking to optimise amenity and functionality through the choice of location.

Strength in Unity

Authorised by Greg McConville, Secretary, UFU, A.C.T. Branch.

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