

Bus depot planned for Fyshwick highway site

The Canberra Times 21 October 2017 Stephen Jeffery

Planners have proposed a bus depot for a narrow, vacant strip of land straddling the Monaro Highway at Fyshwick.

The National Capital Authority is producing a development control plan for the site, which sits between the highway and Ipswich Street, before the depot application is formally submitted.

In a draft development control plan posted on the NCA website, the authority said Purdon Planning had come forward with a proposal to build a bus depot on the block.

A public meeting will be held in Parkes on Wednesday to provide further information about the development control proposal.

The draft development control plan includes requirements to obscure new buildings from the highway, as well as reducing noise in the area.

While the land is the responsibility of the ACT government, its position next to the Monaro Highway means the authority must create the control plan and is responsible for approving any additional works on the highway verge.

"The character of development in this area contributes to the experience and quality of the Monaro Highway as a significant approach route to the National Capital," the draft control plan said.

"Development along the identified approach routes is to conform to development control plans agreed by the National Capital Authority, which seek to enhance the surrounding predominantly rural character and landscape outside the urban areas."

Among the requirements for such land in the plan is to direct views of the surrounding natural environment and to "enhance ... elements that will introduce visitors to the inherent characteristics of Canberra".

The land sits below an embankment on which the highway is built and any new buildings would need to be less than 12 metres tall.

The draft plan would also require the buildings to be coloured in a way that is "sympathetic to the rural landscape ... high contrast colours will not be permitted".

No entrances to the site from the highway would be allowed, instead requiring vehicles to come in somewhere along Ipswich Street between Canberra Avenue and the railway lines.

If the depot development application is approved, landscaping and tree planting on the Monaro Highway would need to be completed before construction on the buildings could begin.

The draft development plan is available [online at the NCA website](#). The public information session will be held on Wednesday from midday to 1pm at the NCA offices in the Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes.

Written comments on the proposal will be accepted until Wednesday, November 9.