



PO Box 396
Dickson ACT 2602
info@northcanberra.org.au
www.northcanberra.org.au

Protecting, promoting and enhancing the economic, cultural, social and environmental well being of the residents of North Canberra

The North Canberra Community Council receives funding and support from the ACT Government



August 2020

NCCC e-newsletter

Dear North Canberra Community

It has been another busy month in North Canberra planning news. In particular, the recent use of Ministerial 'call-in' powers to fast-track the Dickson 'Common Ground' development exemplifies many of the concerns by residents about the current nature of the ACT's planning processes.

As the 2020 ACT election draws closer, there will be an opportunity for community concerns about these planning issues to be put to the candidates for the North Canberra seat of Kurrajong, with the NCCC's ACT Election candidates forum taking place on 13 September. Details on the event, which will be held online via Zoom, will be sent out to NCCC members in the coming days.

You can share some of the key issues you would like put to the candidates with us via the NCCC [Discussion Board](#).

NCCC updates

- **Canberra Community Councils joint statement on planning:** The NCCC recently signed a statement along with other Canberra Community Councils calling on a commitment from all candidates contesting the ACT Election to support the timely completion of the Review of the Territory Planning System and implement immediate improvements to the Development Application process.

With the ACT Election only a few months away, the NCCC considers that it is vital that

election candidates outline how trust and confidence in the ACT's planning system can be improved.

- **Historic Dickson Aerodrome:** The remnants of Canberra's first aerodrome has been nominated for the ACT's heritage register, following the work of local town planning expert and NCCC member Jane Goffman in raising the issue.

The site, which is also the site of Canberra's [first plane crash](#), is located on today's Dickson Oval (near Hawdon Place), which still contains remnants of the original 60-foot diameter concrete ring that marked the centre of the landing ground.

A team of archaeologists began surveying work on the site in mid-August, with the timeframe for the consideration of the heritage nomination yet to be finalised.

You can find out about new Development Applications in your area, including information on how to lodge a submission, by accessing [this](#) ACT Government website.

Local News and Updates

- **Planning Minister 'calls-in' Common Ground:** The Common Ground development, which would be a six-storey 40-unit affordable housing complex on the Dickson Section 72 site near the ovals, has been fast-tracked [following a decision](#) by the ACT Planning Minister Mick Gentleman to use his Ministerial 'call-in' powers to bypass the normal planning process.

The NCCC believes that 'call-in' powers should only be used in very circumstances as a last resort, noting that they override any public right of review via the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

- **Watson Technology Park:** The ACT Government recently reached agreement to sell the Canberra Technology Park site in Watson to the Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) for a new Canberra Technology Park. Further details on the scope of the development are expected to be released as part of a community engagement process.

The ACT Government will demolish the current buildings, which are known to contain residual asbestos, with the Government advising that the works are unlikely to commence before 2021.

- **Development of Bill Pye Park, Ainslie:** A group of Ainslie residents has spoken out regarding a proposed new higher density development on the Bill Pye Park site in Ainslie, which would remove community park land. While the Development Application is yet to be lodged, the Ainslie residents have prepared a flyer which contains [further information](#) and encourage other residents to contact their local MLAs and election candidates.

Treasurer's Update

The NCCC is currently examining its funding priorities for the 2020-21 financial year.

The NCCC's annual grant from the Government (\$12,800) is for the purposes of "communicating to the Territory the views, expectations and concerns of community members" and "encouraging the community to participate in Recipient activities". This includes a range of activities related to communication, such as the development and maintenance of websites, community campaigns on specific issues and Association publications.

The Council has also provided funding contributions for community events which Residents Associations have organised, which enable Associations to bring the community together, raise the profile of the work of Associations and the NCCC, and canvass views on issues they are addressing.

If you are an inner north resident undertaking an activity in 2020-21 that you think may be eligible, we encourage you to contact the NCCC either directly or via your local Residents Association for more information by **10 September**.

North Canberra Community Council

Our mailing address is:

secretary@nccc.org.au