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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



March 2021

NCCC e-newsletter

Dear North Canberra Community

One year ago, Canberra was commencing lockdown as the initial spread of COVID-19 caused significant uncertainty for the local community. In those early months, with the future trajectory of the economy highly uncertain, it was also unclear what the consequences would be for the pipeline of prospective developments that had been planned for North Canberra.

One year on, it is safe to say that the question has been resoundingly answered as new Development Applications continuing to accelerate, particularly along Northbourne Avenue, with potentially many more on the horizon.

The North Canberra Community Council has met with the proponents of a number of developments over the past few months and, while there are positive aspects to a number of developments, there is also a broader sense that considering each project individually risks missing the cumulative impact of all these developments on existing infrastructure, such as shops, schools and roads, and on green spaces, particularly in the context of a warming climate.

As these shifts continue to take place over the coming years, it is important that the planning system is able to grasp the great opportunities available right now to guarantee sufficient green space and social infrastructure for the growing North Canberra community.

NCCC updates

- **Canberra Racing Club lease variation proposal:** At the February General Meeting, the Canberra Racing Club CEO Andrew Clark provided a presentation on their proposal to lodge a lease variation for a section of the park (which is near EPIC) to allow for residential development. Planning reports are currently being finalised and the community consultation period has commenced, with a proposed Territory Plan variation to be lodged in the second half of 2021. While the details have not yet been finalised, the development would be expected to comprise approximately 3,000 dwellings (in buildings of four to six stories).
- **ACT Health Canberra Hospital Masterplan:** ACT Health also presented at the February General meeting to provide an update on the Canberra Hospital Master Plan, which would guide the hospital's development over the next twenty years. The key challenges identified by NCCC members related to how the hospital could expand in a densifying area while still preserving amenities and easy transport access. Feedback on the Master Plan can be provided on the draft Master Plan at [yoursay](#). ACT Health will also provide an update at the April General Meeting.
- Following the news that Lake Burley Griffin has been nominated for Commonwealth Heritage Listing, the NCCC wrote to the Australian Heritage Council endorsing the submission made by the National Trust of Australia. The NCCC considers that Lake Burley Griffin clearly possesses heritage value for the nation, noting that other world-class cities include a major public open space that become synonymous with those cities (Central park in Manhattan for example), and as Canberra develops and matures, the social and cultural value of the lake will only increase.

Local news and updates

- **AIE Campus Renewal proposal:** The Watson Community Association (WCA) has been coordinating a combined community response to the proposed AIE Campus Renewal proposal, to be developed on the current Canberra Technology Park site on Phillip Avenue.

While the WCA supports the renewal of the AIE site and appreciates the extent to which AIE has sought to engage with the community and take on board concerns, concerns remain around the scope of the development, especially site density, tree removal and future canopy cover. You can read more about the project plans [here](#).

- **Dickson Residents update:** The Dickson Residents Group officially incorporated as a community association on 8 March, with its official address listed as PO Box 775 Dickson ACT 2602.

The President of the new Dickson Residents Association, Jane Goffman, will be hosting the [Wings of Dickson Heritage Festival](#) event on Saturday 10 April, which will provide a tour of Canberra's original 1920s aerodrome and landing ground.

Details on the local heritage events can be found at the Heritage Festival program [website](#).

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

Financial Update

The NCCC has approximately \$10,000 of planned expenditure remaining for the 2020-21 financial year, which is mainly to support activities being delivered by the Residents Associations, such as website costs and heritage activities.

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to wind down over the year, it is expected that some spending in the 2021-22 financial year will support some of the social events and festivals traditionally held by the Residents Associations (such as Light Up Lyneham) that weren't able to be held in 2020.

North Canberra Community Council

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