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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



August 2021

NCCC e-newsletter

Dear North Canberra Community

It has been an eventful month in the ACT with the COVID-19 outbreak, particularly in North Canberra where a substantial proportion of the community went into quarantine due to the exposure sites such as Lyneham High. The NCCC sends its best wishes to all those who have been adversely affected.

While the transmission rate remains relatively low, given there are still a number of exposure sites in North Canberra identified by ACT Health every day, we encourage members to regularly check the exposure site list which is updated daily by ACT Health at this [website](#).

While, the ramifications of these events on upcoming developments such as the Dickson Coles or processes such as the ACT Planning Review is currently unclear, we will keep you updated as information comes to light.

NCCC updates

- **Peter Cain introduction:** At the August NCCC General Meeting, the ACT Shadow Minister for Planning and Land Management Peter Cain MLA delivered a presentation to NCCC members to introduce himself as an MLA and discuss local planning issues.

Mr Cain outlined concerns about the current state of planning policy, remarking that we do not have the balance right in terms of densification and upholding the Bush Capital vision for Canberra, and expressed a concern that the ACT Planning Review was progressing to a predetermined outcome. Mr Cain advised he was not opposed to

densification per se, but also considered there were opportunities to extend the ACT's border to allow for more development options.

- **ACT Planning Review workshop report released:** The ACT Government has published the 'listening report' from the Inner North Workshop on the ACT Planning Review, which was held in June to seek the views of North Canberra residents on planning policy. The purpose of the listening report is to compile and synthesise the feedback from community members who attended the workshop. The report can be accessed [here](#).

The NCCC is concerned that the listening report does not adequately reflect or capture the content or nature of discussions that took place, with the input of participants limited to a few sentences in a few infographics. While the NCCC recognises that community consultation does not necessarily result in a consensus on every issue, the reduction of community input to a few motherhood statements does little to allay perceptions held by some NCCC members that consultation is treated as little more than a box-ticking exercise.

- **Canberra Hospital development:** The July newsletter noted that the second phase of consultation for the Canberra Hospital Master Plan had commenced, with ACT Health to provide an update to the NCCC at the August General Meeting. It therefore came as a surprise to the NCCC to see that the ACT Planning Minister Mick Gentleman had used Ministerial call-in powers to [fast-track the development](#) and side-step the consultation process.

While the Minister notes that consultation had been undertaken on the project (ACT Health had also presented to the NCCC earlier this year in its initial phase of consultation), it's unclear why a multi-phased consultation process was originally announced if the ACT Government was satisfied that the first round of consultation would be sufficient. The NCCC recognises ACT Health's efforts in engaging with the NCCC on this development, but considers that the outcome reflects an ad hoc and inconsistent approach to planning policy.

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's current balance as of the end of August 2021 is \$2,790. The expenditure since July related mainly to the provision of funding to undertake a strategic review of the NCCC's communications and engagement with community members. The Deed of Grant for the 2021-22 Budget has also been signed, with the NCCC Committee expected to review a list of proposals from Residents Associations in 2021-22 in the next month.

We encourage residents associations and other potential applicants to consider potential proposals for NCCC's consideration for the 2021-22 financial year.

North Canberra Community Council

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