

From: Corinne Dobson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 26 October 2023 6:52 PM
To: LA Committee - PTCS
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: EOI to appear at public hearings: Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents

Dear Committee Secretariat,

I am writing on behalf of the ACT Council of Social Service, to request that we appear as a witness at the upcoming hearings into the Territory Plan.

As the peak community sector organisation in the ACT, ACTCOSS advocates for social justice and represents not-for-profit community organisations across Canberra. The design and implementation of the Territory Plan has an important role to play in achieving our vision of Canberra as a just, safe and sustainable community in which everyone has the opportunity for self-determination and a fair share of resources and services.

In our previous submissions to aspects of the Territory Plan and the related Bill, we have underscored the importance of embedding equity considerations into all aspects of the Plan, ensuring the Plan fosters inclusion, accessibility and sustainability, and with a particular focus on prioritising the needs of those experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, young people and other people experiencing disadvantage. We have also emphasised the need for planning processes that support genuine community co-design and ensure the voices of a wide cross section of the community are consulted and heard.

With ongoing cost-of-living pressures, growing housing insecurity and inequities, and persistent and growing inequalities in wealth, we believe our input into the Committee's hearings is important to provide a clear focus on equity considerations and the needs of Canberrans experiencing the greatest social and economic disadvantages. With the recent commitments all governments have made at COAG in relation to rapidly growing the supply of housing via reforms to planning laws and processes, ACTCOSS believes the need to foreground equity considerations in the Territory's Planning processes is as pressing as ever.

We also recognise that while poor urban planning and climate change have the potential to deepen inequalities across the ACT community, there is an opportunity to ensure planning outcomes that both support climate change adaptation and improve social inclusion. ACTCOSS believes the intersection between social and environmental sustainability is fundamental, and we would welcome the opportunity to further elaborate on how climate change adaptation measures in the Territory Plan can better incorporate considerations around equity and social inclusion.

Thank you for considering our Expression of Interest.

Kind regards,

Corinne

Corinne Dobson (she/her) | Head of Policy

ACT Council of Social Service Inc. (ACTCOSS)

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