

Dear Sir/Madam

As residents of Griffith for over 20 years, my wife and I are writing to request that the committee reject any variation to the current zoning of the Brumbies facilities.

The Brumbies obtained their current site by taking over the old Bowling Club. They did so with the promise that they would maintain a restaurant there as a community facility. This promise was not kept for very long and the restaurant was closed. A community facility has been privatised by stealth, and there is no reason to believe that the club will become any more community-minded in the future.

The current use of the oval by the Brumbies is a disgrace and reveals a particularly anti-social and anti-community attitude on the part of the players and the club managers. In particular, the stand of large eucalypts on Austin street has suffered for years from soil compaction from parked cars, and the area has a slummy look because the players are not fit enough to walk from their buildings to the ground for training, insisting on parking under the trees themselves. Nor do the Brumbies or their supporters ever clean up the mess that they leave after a game.

Whatever the purely legal position, there can be no justification for turning a community facility into private wealth for a club of individuals. If the Brumbies wish to risk their own capital and engage in a development project, they should be required to bid for designated commercial properties elsewhere in Canberra.

We would therefore urge you to recommend against acceptance of the proposed variation.

Yours sincerely

Leo and Alice Dobes