



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL

Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA (Chair), Mr Mark Parton MLA (Deputy Chair)

Mr Michael Petterson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Planning for the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency Centre (SPIRE) and the Canberra Hospital campus and immediate surrounds.

Submission Number: 14 - Neilsen

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - PUR](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SUBMISSION on the SPIRE Development Garran
Date: Sunday, 23 February 2020 12:36:44 PM

Inquiry into Planning for the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency Centre (SPIRE) and the Canberra Hospital campus and immediate surrounds

Dear Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal.

I'm a resident of Garran. My property is close to the hospital, Garran Primary, and Palmer St. I regularly drive, bus and walk around this entire area.

My concerns with the SPIRE development centre on the proposed location of the entry from other parts of Canberra. I do not believe that Palmer St or Gilmore Rds can or should be subject to increased traffic, particularly for emergency services. Quite clearly, these roads are suffering increased traffic as matters stand through development and population increase in this suburb. It is noticeable for anyone who lives here. The amenity, safety and security of residents who live in close proximity of the Canberra Hospital will be affected, including me.

Those of us who chose to live here due to the relative quiet should not have to endure the increased traffic.

While I do not oppose the need for the development per se. Nor do I have any problems with the rescue helicopter continuing to land at the hospital. I do strongly object to the proposed entry way being via Palmer St and affecting access to the primary school.

We have already seen an uptick in accidents in our quiet streets which are meant to be walkable. The residents and school children do not deserve any increase in danger from increased traffic.

I am submitting my view that the Government consider putting the entry around the other side of the hospital to make better use of the existing wide road access and traffic volumes from Yamba Drive. Traffic from Hindmarsh Drive can continue around to Yamba Drive and that you create an entrance on that side of the development.

Moreover, I would like to see serious attention to improving safe pedestrian access from the other side of Yamba Drive. Currently, people who work at the hospital but live in Woden have to cross at the lights. Either an overpass or under pass would be a more modern way to improve traffic flow on Yamba. Perhaps you could create a special underground entrance for ambulances to the hospital that isn't accessible to public traffic off Yamba Drive and an overhead pass for pedestrians to move back/forth from Woden.

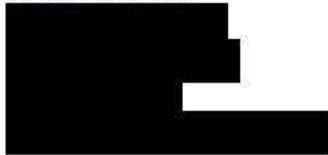
We all know these are technically feasible options. I'm not sure what's happening with the light rail, but it seems to me it would make more long term sense that the rail run down Yamba Drive to/from the city and the direction of Mawson, Isaacs, Tuggeranong if you're planning to extend it at all. There should be a hospital stop.

I'm not an urban planner or engineer. But, I have lived in very big, densely populated cities. It dismays me how short term, myopic and unfit for the local community's needs today and into the future the proposals have been to date. What Canberra needs is integrated, long term planning that satisfies everyone's needs - not just minimising budget and maximising developer convenience, which seems to be underpinning the original proposal.

You should also make it impossible for people to use the Gilmore Rd or Palmer St environs as over flow parking for the hospital. Currently, there is parking that narrows the road on both those roads, which makes the bus transport difficult. By all means, make the parking multistorey paid parking and put the helicopter landing pad higher up on the roof top. Since the main building is multistorey already, I can't see why this can't be done to minimise any "lateral sprawl". I'm sick of seeing the so-called patients smoking, throwing their bandages and misusing the parking next to the oval which is for the use of the oval. It's anti-social and unhealthy. As a whole, the hospital precinct looks like a seedy dump with all these people standing around smoking around both sides. That's not a good look for any hospital.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I apologise this is not in word format, but hope my email is acceptable. I would be happy to be contacted on my individual submission.

Greta Nielsen



Written submissions should be lodged with the Committee Secretary by close of business on Sunday, 23 February 2020.

The Committee prefers all submissions to be lodged in electronic form (Word format), although handwritten submissions are acceptable. All submissions, including those sent electronically, must include a name, an email address, a postal address and a telephone contact number. Personal contact details will not be published.

Submissions should be forwarded to:

The Committee Secretary, Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal, Legislative Assembly for the ACT, GPO Box 1020, CANBERRA ACT 2601.

Email LACommitteePUR@parliament.act.gov.au

