LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
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Mr Mark Parton MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents

Submission

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 27 October 2023 2:16 PM
To: LA Committee - PTCS
Subject: input to Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents
[redacted]

I have just become aware today of this Inquiry's deadline and am disappointed its ToR have not honed in on a number of major matters or questions arising from the formation of documentation, associated policies and processes for a whole new planning system that is supposed to direct and influence a vast array of significant on-the- ground 'outcomes' for years into the future.

Linked directly to this are concerns about the poor communication about this Inquiry, and what seems to be a lacklustre ACT government approach to better informing the wider public about the latest two major and influential components of new system, and the system as a whole .

Some time ago I gathered there might be an inquiry but have not seen any articles about it or received any advisory emails (having put in submissions on the previous bill inquiry and on the district strategies late last year and earlier this year). Also, nothing alerted anyone to the Inquiry in the October ***Our CBR***. Nor did the ACT Greens' email newsletter/update of 20 October make any mention of the Inquiry in its paragraphs on planning matters and the new Territory Plan. (No information emails from other MLAs et al have been received that could have highlighted the opportunity for input.)

Worse still, https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/act-planning-review does not appear to mention any inquiry or provide a link to it for information.

The past few weeks have been very busy for many in Canberra re the new planning system. Like others, since mid-September I have rearranged a lot of personal activity to attend several of EPSDD's 'E and T ' sessions on the finalised territory plan and strategies documentation and processes, and to deal with organisers' changes to scheduling etc. Nothing has been mentioned about an inquiry in those sessions either. (Also, on the whole the sessions have not been adequate in content, or well organised and promoted , especially to the broader public.)

Overall, from a public perspective , no real broadly targeted effort seems to have been made to inform the broader public about this latest input opportunity that ends only a month out from the start of the quite complex new system.

Unfortunately the ACT government's focus on 'wrapping up' the new system at this stage of its gestation seems to be about 'going through the motions ', keeping it 'under wraps ' as much as possible and out of the media - thus keeping most in the dark.

Given all this , and the Inquiry's policy focused ToR 1, and the Committee's deadline of March 2024 , I suggest that the planning system should not be implemented even in the currently unclear 'interim ' way until after the March report is completed and considered, and any changes made . By then the public may also have been advised clearly and widely about all the other documentation that is still being prepared by EPSDD (as advised very recently in a planning system 'E and T' session, thanks to Qs being raised by attendees about certain matters).

Given today is the deadline for submissions to this Assembly Inquiry, in addition to the above comment and concerns I attach the submission I made to EPSDD on the district strategies and related planning and public

communication matters in March, for your consideration . Comment in most sections is still relevant to the Inquiry's **policy** ToR, and its ToR 2 considerations too, but especially

- the need for robust system policies, processes and public communication approaches and ensuring public faith and trust in same from Day 1 – see **I, II, III**
- the need for associated policies and procedures to deliver clearly more 'joined up' planning and more balanced planning outcomes, including up front assessments and sharing of same (re various densification impacts on social and public transport servicing and infrastructure needs) - see **IX, X , XII**
- more attention to addressing urban heating and treeing in integrated ways – see **XI**
- the suggested need for new planning system risk assessments - see **XIII**
- more frequent and honest reporting on the system's functioning and actual outcomes is also needed to re-establish community faith and trust in what occurs and how .

Attention to and answers about these matters do not seem to be adequately embedded into the new system, and they are all policy, process and outcome related.

<u>If submissions are made public or used publicly in various ways</u>, I am happy to have this input made public but without any personal ID details as set out in this email (there is no personal ID info. in the attached submission).

Thank you

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