

North Canberra Community Council (NCCC)

LA Committee Inquiry: Draft Planning notes

As stated in NCCC submission what we would like to see in this Draft Planning Bill are, in particular, the following:

1. **Clear definition of ‘desired outcomes’ capable of enforcement**, in particular with respect to sustainability, energy efficiency, affordability, supportive/social housing, common goods, green space and design;
2. **Design competitions for major projects to provide choices** for community to consider and to improve the quality of developments;
3. **Expanded opportunities for community engagement** including genuine and responsive pre-DA community consultation;
3. **NCCC also requests that the definitions and application of the concepts around ecologically sustainable development be reviewed** by an organization or firm with expertise in climate and planning law, to determine whether it can be considered 'world-leading' or of the highest standard relative to other planning frameworks around the world;
4. **A clear explanation of how the Planning Bill ensures that the macro objectives around climate resilience will be applied consistently at the micro level.** The definition of ‘sustainability and resilient principles’ in Section 9 is quite vague and open to the interpretation of the Chief Planner. E.g. “Mitigating the effects of urban heat” (mitigating to what extent?), “achieving energy efficient urban environments” (how much more energy efficient?), “minimizing loss of habitat” (significantly minimising, or just minimising to a limited extent?), and so forth;
5. **We request more stringent and quantifiable metrics that can be applied to these definitions to ensure they are applied to an acceptable standard.** For instance, energy efficiency ratings, or carbon performance targets, or access to suitable cycle lanes/EV charging points/green transport infrastructure etc. NCCC recognises that climate resilience and mitigation are reflected in the object of the bill, but it remains unclear how these principles will actually be implemented on a case-by-case basis.

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NCCC Committee Member