

Yarralumla Residents Association Inc

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee
Planning, Environment
and Territory and Municipal Services
committees@parliament.act.gov.au

Re: Inquiry into the Planning and Development (Project Facilitation) Amendment Bill

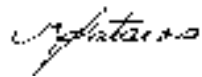
The Yarralumla Residents Association (YRA) would like to express its concern at the very short time made available for public submissions on this Amendment Bill. Giving the community two weeks to prepare submissions, including over the Easter public holidays, is nothing short of tokenism. A major piece of legislation, with long-term implications, deserves more considered public consideration.

The Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC), of which the YRA is a member, as well as the Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association, have prepared very detailed submissions on the Bill. Rather than repeat many of the points made in those submissions, the YRA would like to support those submissions, which reflect many of the concerns that the YRA also holds about the proposed legislation.

In particular, the YRA would like to see much more time provided for community views on proposed "special precinct areas" and "significant projects" than the 30 days in the Amendment Bill. It should be at least 60 working days, and the information material should all be made available online free of charge. Also, there should be a much clearer definition of what constitutes a "special public benefit". The current definition would enable many developments to meet the test. If the intention was that this Bill would be an alternative to call-in powers, it does not seem to have worked out that way, as a reading of the Bill suggests there would still remain a call-in power.

There are many further issues with the Amendment Bill, and the YRA hopes that additional time will be made available to ensure that the draft legislation is thoroughly reviewed and amended to take into account such concerns.

Yours sincerely



Marea Fatseas
President
22 April 2014

