



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Transport
and City Services

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the provision of municipal services in Canberra

Submission number: 023

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Yolanthe Daly

I would like to make a submission to the inquiry into providing of municipal services in the Australian Capital Territory.

I am a citizen of Canberra and that gives me a particular perspective on how the self government of our city has gradually eroded some of the excellent elements of the design that provide the liveability in the Canberra city and environs. I would urge you to use the national capital plan and other planning documents to inform municipal maintenance every time tax payers' money is invested in contracting work for municipal services.

In particular I would like to refer to your term *b) The appropriateness of the geographic spread of active travel infrastructure, parks and playgrounds*

This is a critical part of our city's livelihood. Active travel infrastructure is an inbuilt aspect of some areas of Canberra and we must protect and enhance them at every opportunity. They are valued in creating a highly liveable city and they offer a key aspect of the future if we are to tackle the climate crisis, as they offer ways of living without a car, and this can improve living standards immeasurably, by reducing commuting time spent alone in vehicles and building in exercise for healthy living.

I live in the Radburn estate area of Curtin which provides a high level of amenity in terms of active travel. It is a critical aspect of healthy living in that I know a great number of my neighbours through walking through the green corridors that are designed for active travel through walking and cycling.

I would like to note that maintenance and other municipal services such as street tree plantings and parking regulations all seem oblivious to the particular design elements of this area. We have attempted to draw attention to the intangible values through a provisional heritage listing.

One example of this lack of planning awareness is that residents are inappropriately targeted with parking inspections that issue infringements for parking outside our houses on a concrete verge which is deemed to be a foot path by parking inspectors. The design of radburn identifies that foot paths in the parks, and the roads are designated as service roads only when we politely explained this, the parking services

response was 'we deem what is a footpath'. Clearly these kinds of services have no remit to be sensitive to the design elements they might encounter in our city, nor to the use of residents. Instead it is an operational focus with no grounding in knowledge.

This kind of poor communication and lack of awareness is common throughout municipal management issues. I would like to call on you to encourage contractors and subcontractors to comply with heritage listings, especially when it comes to indigenous heritage. For such a small jurisdiction, it seems that ACT government sets itself insurmountable silos that separate and complicate municipal works.

The kinds of things that are reported through fix my street are not checked against any standard of delivery and it makes for piecemeal land management, when each local area has a very specific landscape and microclimate to manage.

I would like to advocate strongly for addressing the impact of climate change as one of the core elements considered in all such works. things as tree plantings and management of erosion, as well as encouraging wild life corridors through our suburbs. It should be a priority to create tree canopy and reduce the heat sinks created by the huge developments that have continued in the city. The strategies and priorities of our government need to be well documented and communicated to all parts of the municipal services. There seems to be very poor cross jurisdiction training in these things which will become mission critical to land management in the ACT.

Lastly I would like to comment on the effectiveness of your system in introducing bulky waste removal as an annual service for every household. This has reduced the occurrence of dumping, and was a masterstroke in providing services. Thank you for showing that foresight.

I would like to encourage you to reintroduce second hand Sunday as well. Returning to an annual arrangement that allows people to put goods out on the street for sharing with other citizens. This reduces the effort citizens have to remove unwanted items from their home and builds a sense of community sharing in the material wealth we have in our homes. These kinds of actions would make a substantial impact on our waste reduction.