



EASTERN SUBURBS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

ACT Government

Brumbies Submission - Variation to the Territory Plan No 307 Block 15, Section 42 Griffith

Dear Committee Members

My name is Owen Brown and I am President of Eastern Suburbs Rugby Union Football Club (Easts Rugby). My club has been centred in the inner south Canberra area for over 70 years, more specifically utilising Griffith Oval both as a training and playing venue throughout that period. Many of our membership either live within or came from the inner south Canberra area.

We would like to express our support for the variation to the Territory Plan proposed by the Brumbies organisation.

We acknowledge that the Brumbies earlier submission to redevelop the Griffith Oval site raised an amount of local opposition, some of whom made reference to our club's historic use of Griffith Oval and its precinct. However none of these opponents sought any feedback from Easts as the grounds principal user. We were in support of that proposal to improve the ground and provide updated and enlarged facilities, just as we support the current proposal to redevelop the site for residential development.

Our club has also had the experience of attempting to run the former South Canberra Bowling Club under a lease arrangement. Unfortunately the vocal minority who are resistant to the current Brumbies proposal did not provide patronage to the licensed club and we had to cease operations in late 2007. I might say that these "locals" did not support our predecessors Royals Rugby Club and the South Canberra Bowling Club when they attempted to manage a licensed premises on that site.

The old club premises do not provide the Brumbies with adequate facilities for the operation of an elite international sporting organisation especially given the rejection of the Griffith Oval redevelopment, thus leaving them with little option but to sell the site to recoup the capital investment they have undertaken over the last few years. If the site is not rezoned for residential reuse it will become a derelict eyesore when the Brumbies are finally forced to relocate.

As "locals" with a significant historical and emotional tie to the area we encourage the ACT Government to support the Brumbies proposal to vary the Territory Plan over the objections of a vocal few.

Owen Brown
President
21 October 2011