



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents

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RISK MITIGATION AND BEST PRACTICE – PRINCIPLES TO APPLY TO RESTORE TRUST

1. There are well known risks from using discretion rather than rules in decision making and there is widespread discretion in the documents under review. There is also a systemic risk from climate change and more frequent natural disasters, which will exert massive pressure on the economy. If this Committee accepts these risks it should recommend risk mitigation strategies including immediate tracking and evaluation systems.
2. Decision making with integrity requires transparency and fairness to deliver the broad foundation of trust that an effective, durable planning system relies on. The reason this planning system review is taking place is because in practice the Directorate responsible, EPSDD, and its statutory body ACTPLA, have failed the wider community.
3. Restoring trust depends on demonstrating visibly that decisions are taken on the basis of sound advice and actual facts, with adequate oversight and internal checks. Consistency, approval times, appeal mechanisms, will all contribute to whether or not this new system is embraced or rejected.
4. Perception of outcomes will vary depending on short- and long-term perspectives. It will also vary depending on the circumstances and background that the viewer brings to bear. Clarifying for decision makers the grounds on which an outcome ought to be assessed is vital. Independent evaluation at timely intervals (every 6 months) is necessary to ensure the system is operating as it's meant to.
5. DV369 and Living Infrastructure targets are given minimal weight in the new system, which exposes the city to unacceptable environmental risks in the long term.

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