

2007

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT -
REPORT NO 28

DRAFT VARIATION NO. 276
ANU CITY WEST PRECINCT
“THE ANU EXCHANGE”

Circulated by the authority of
Minister for Planning
Mr Andrew Barr MLA

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that this proposed variation to the Territory Plan proceed.

Response

Agreed.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the development of Section 20 include high quality landscaping with native trees and plants, which complement those around some ANU buildings on McCoy Circuit and Ellery Crescent, to reinforce the southern gateway to the University.

Response

Agreed.

This landscaping requirement would be incorporated into Lease and Development Conditions, and Development Control Plans, prepared for Section 20.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the heritage and cultural significance of the ROCKS area be recognised and commemorated in the new development on Section 21.

Response

Agreed.

The developer has been advised of the Committee's recommendation and supports the recognition of the heritage and cultural significance the ROCKS area in the redevelopment of Section 21. The proponent is willing to make a suitable reference through the provision of a commemorative plaque or similar feature.

Recommendation 4

The Committee endorses the stipulation in the *City West Master Plan* that when substantial and important trees are removed, then double the number of those trees must be replaced either on the site or in the public domain with mature trees of the same species, to the satisfaction of the Territory. Adequate space must be set aside to allow for the normal growth and development of trees, including large trees. The Committee recommends that this commitment apply throughout the ANU Exchange Area.

Response

Agreed.

The *ANU Exchange Master Plan and Implementation Plan* is required to be consistent with the *City West Master Plan*.

Therefore, this requirement for trees would apply in the ANU Exchange area.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Planning and Land Authority place particular importance on the achievement of active street frontages in the ANU Exchange Area, with particular reference to University Avenue as a centrepiece of the redevelopment in City West.

Response

Agreed.

The intent of the *City West Master Plan* and *ANU Exchange Master Plan and Implementation Plan* is for active street frontages. The requirement for active street frontages would be incorporated into Lease and Development Conditions, and Development Control Plans, prepared for sites in the ANU Exchange.

ACTPLA has capital works funding in 2007-2008 for the upgrading of the public realm for the side streets adjacent to Childers Street, including University Avenue. This project will ensure the importance of University Avenue in the hierarchy of city streets is reinforced.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that a design competition for public artworks be considered for the ANU Exchange area.

Response

Not agreed.

The 'arts heart' of Childers Street, between Hutton Street and University Avenue, was upgraded in 2006-2007. The design intent of these infrastructure works, completed in February 2007, was to provide an integrated design approach to the artwork with other street architecture elements including street furniture, lighting and so on.

The current 2007-2008 infrastructure works are for roads adjoining Childers Street and a community park at the northern end of Childers Street, that connect the 'arts heart' to the surrounding areas of the City and the ANU. These areas will include some elements of the 'arts heart', but will generally be more 'modest' in the level of finishes provided. It would be

appropriate to incorporate public art into the design of these works, rather than through a separate design competition that may not necessarily result in integrated artwork.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that cycling infrastructure development in City West should be a priority in the implementation of the *Ten Year Master Plan for Trunk Cycling and Walking Path Infrastructure 2004–2014*.

Response

Agreed.

The 2001 Census data showed that over 10 percent of ANU staff cycled to work at the ANU campus, which was higher than most commercial centres. While the 2006 Census data is not yet available, it is anticipated to be similar to the 2001 data. The ACT Government would seek to encourage cycling to work by ensuring the City West area is a priority for trunk cycling and walking path infrastructure.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Planning encourage the extension of the Lindsay Pryor Walk on the ANU

campus and/or the construction of other high-quality signed walks and pedestrian corridors, to better link the ANU with the City, the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the CSIRO, Canberra Nature Park and Lake Burley Griffin.

Response

Agreed in part.

A large proportion of the Australian National University is Designated land, under the planning control of the National Capital Authority.

The Minister for Planning has written to the Vice Chancellor of the ANU alerting him to the Committee's recommendation and encouraging him through consultation with the NCA to explore opportunities to extend the Lindsay Pryor Walk through the university campus and/or the construction of other high-quality signed walks and pedestrian corridors, to better link the ANU with the City, the Botanic Gardens, CSIRO, Canberra Nature Park and the Lake.

The ACT Government would seek to coordinate with the ANU in regard to any proposed or existing pathways on Territory land that are to link with pathways on the ANU campus.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the landscape character of University Avenue be enhanced, forming an extended avenue merging into the main Childers Street entrance to the ANU.

Response

Agreed.

ACTPLA has capital works funding in 2007-2008 for the upgrading of the public realm for the side streets adjacent to Childers Street, including University Avenue. The landscape character of University Avenue would be considered as part of this capital works project.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Planning and Land Authority ensure that the City West area realises its aim of having active ground-level street frontages, public art, wide footpaths and planting zones, and good permeability, to ameliorate the 'closed in' nature of the proposed built environment.

Response

Agreed.

The intent of the *City West Master Plan* and *ANU Exchange Master Plan and Implementation Plan* is for active street frontages. The requirement for active ground-level frontages would be written into Lease and Development Conditions, and Development Control Plans, for sites.

Issues of public art, footpath wides, planting zones and good permeability were addressed in the 2006-2007 capital works program for upgrading the 'arts heart' of Childers Street. These issues would be further addressed in the City West area through the capital works program in 2007-2008 for upgrades of the public realm adjacent to Childers Street.