



Conservation Council
OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION & CANBERRA



Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment

We would appreciate your consideration of the following further concerns regarding the inquiry into the *Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No 236: City West - Commercial A Civic Centre Land Use Policies, Exemption of Preliminary Assessment and Part D-Definitions*.

We note that in the Estimates Committee 24 May in answer to a question on the matter Mr Corbell stated that the *City West Master Plan* would inform development of the site and that elements of this plan would be "adhered to" in development.

Considering how little detail there is in the Master Plan this is less than reassuring.

For example there are commitments in the Master Plan in:

-Goals and Objectives (Executive Summary) - that City West be "*A model for sustainable urban development*" and a commitment to "*Community development by establishing a framework for mixed use development and allowing for appropriate community facilities to be progressively provided*"

-Key Outcomes -"*Provide opportunities for affordable housing and community facilities as needs are established*"

- Social and community aspirations (page 8)

Residential population "*City West faces issues of affordability, development and redevelopment pressures, maintaining a social and housing mix, and ensuring the social sustainability of neighbourhoods and communities. To attract a range of permanent residents, housing opportunities and affordable housing must be provided to suit families, couples, singles and the aged... The sustainability of Canberra will be improved with the introduction of further residential development, a greater mix of residents and increased employment opportunities into the city.*"

Community Facilities (page 9) "*The community organisations in City West have an environmental and health focus...There is a need for facilities, opportunities and locations for appropriate community groups in the revitalisation of City West.*"

Also, according to the Master Plan (page viii) "*The collaborative approach, beginning in April 2002, informed stakeholders of progress at all stages and provided a sense of ownership of the Master Plan outcomes.*"

It is therefore in our view extremely important that at this critical stage of the process, when the detail has to be built into the development plan, that there is community involvement. We are very concerned that the Precinct Committee established to oversee this process does not include in its membership a member of the Community Sector or a woman. On the first matter we refer you to the commitments made in the Social Compact and on the second to the Report of the Select Committee Inquiry into the Status of Women.

We are also concerned that there should be a collaborative process with broad community input informing the practical implementation of the broad commitments and aspirations of the Master Plan. It is also essential that the process is open and transparent.

We therefore respectfully ask you to recommend to the Government:

- 1- that the Precinct Committee membership be changed to better represent gender equity;
- 2- that the Precinct Committee membership be changed to include representation from the Community Sector;
- 3- that all minutes and documents of this Committee are made public on a web page as is the case for the ACT Planning and Land Council; and
- 4- that there is a community engagement policy established immediately which is also made available on the web page of the Precinct Committee.

Yours sincerely

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