



## Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

### **Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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Asked by Ms Suzanne Orr MLA on 7 December 2023: Mr Ben Ponton MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 7 December 2023, page 120

In relation to: Removal of existing path between Dominion Circuit and National Circuit

**MS ORR:** Even though we are one minute over, can I just ask a question about this forest footpath?

**THE CHAIR:** Sure.

**MS ORR:** Can I just ask that you have a look at it. Because we had some submitters in who seemed to have an issue that I reckon can be resolved.

**THE CHAIR:** Great one to take on notice.

**Mr Ponton:** I am not sure what the issue is we will probably look at the Hansard.

**MS ORR:** Well just watch the session\* before this one. So if you can just undertake to watch the session and address the issue of how the footpath is reflected in the Territory Plan, that would be great—

*\*Details of previous session:*

*Ms Barclay and Dr Coleman representing Forrest Hotel and Apartments raise the issue around an existing pedestrian pathway between Dominion and National Circuit, Forrest. The draft Inner South District Strategy showed a number of pedestrian pathway options, but did not recognise that there was an existing pathway.*

*Ms Barclay and Dr Coleman are asking to remove this principle from the District Strategy and recognise the existing pedestrian path.*

**THE CHAIR:** And our secretariat will send you the map.

**Mr Ponton:** Okay, provided it—I am happy to look at it, but if it is not a plan initiative, I will direct it to the relevant—

**MS ORR:** It is a planning issue, Mr Ponton—

**Mr Ponton:** Okay.

**Mr Chris Steel MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Inner South District Strategy has identified a site between National Circuit and Circuit Dominion (Sections 12 and 19 in Forrest) as Key Site 1, which includes the Forrest Hotel and Apartments site (refer p.43 at Attachment A).

The district strategy states (page 43) that any future development will require a full investigation of planning, environmental, infrastructure and traffic issues (including transport planning and modelling) with reference to a number of principles. These principles include *'providing a publicly accessible pedestrian path between Dominion Circuit and National Circuit'*.

The consultation draft version of the Inner South District Strategy identified some possible conceptual pathway linkages, however following consideration of feedback and how certain elements would be represented in all district strategies, the final district strategy now refers to the principle in written form above and does not include the concept linkages shown on plan or all of the existing pathways. Something not being illustrated in the district strategies does not mean it doesn't exist or might not exist in the future.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature: 

Date: 18/12/23

By the Minister for Planning, Mr Chris Steel MLA

### Key Site 1: Section 19 Forrest – Category 2

Key site 1 includes Section 19 Forest (Figure 18).

**Figure 18:** Section 19 Forrest



Not all areas within the boundaries of the key sites may be developed. Some areas are included for context to make sure consideration is given to the relationship with surrounding areas. Key site area boundaries will be refined as planning progresses.

This section has a range of zones, including PR22 (Restricted Access Recreation), RZ1 (Suburban), RZ2 (Suburban Core), CFZ (Community Facilities) and CZ6 (Leisure and Accommodation). This supports a diverse range of uses including the Canberra Bowling Club, Forrest Tennis Club, Free Serbian Orthodox Church, Forrest Hotel, apartment buildings and the site of the former Italo-Australian Club. Blocks 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12 are zoned as either RZ1 or CZ6 and have potential to be rezoned to CZ5 Mixed Use, which could support uses including residential.

A full investigation of planning, environmental, infrastructure and traffic issues should be undertaken (including transport planning and modelling) with reference to the following principles:

- Provide a publicly accessible pedestrian path between Dominion Circuit and National Circuit.
- Access to the blocks is by the existing driveways. Avoid access from Dominion Circuit to Block 9 to reduce impact on the houses opposite.
- Provide suitable landscaping to the Dominion Circuit frontage to reflect the residential character opposite.
- Consider noise and overlooking impacts of the adjoining tennis courts and church. These uses may extend after hours and must not be compromised by any future redevelopment of these blocks.