

From: David Kibbey
Sent: Wednesday, 28 September 2011 9:18 AM
To: Committees
Subject: Draft Variation to the Territory Plan Number 307 Griffith - Change of Zoning

Dear Committee Members,

Recent press has, in my view, been unfair in its criticism of the ACT Government on the issue of land planning in general. Of particular concern to me have been the implied allegations by Griffith residents of corruption and favouritism by the ACTPLA towards the Brumbies and developers and the view published recently that "...our weak ACT Government gratefully gathers the revenue.....". The reality is quite the opposite and I applaud this and previous Liberal governments on the decisions and policies adopted over time and the balance it has struck in urban infil policy and decisions taken. Like many, I was against the Deakin high-rise development but now have a different point of view seeing the reality on the ground. Austin Street in Griffith will be the same.

I believe the wider population understands the needs of our city going forward and accepts that many residents either come to Canberra or having lived here a long time, want to live "down town". It would be a tragedy if the Manuka/Griffith suburban complex did not offer more apartments and town houses. It concerns me that almost 100% of those who have criticised the Brumbies proposed development at Austin Street are local residents who want the open space essentially as an extension of their front lawns! A decision in favour of this proposed development will not be unpopular outside of the immediate area despite what is being said. Simply put, Canberrans want the ability to live "down town".

I applaud the Assembly's evenhanded and visionary approach, your extensive consultation and your determination to act in the wider interests of Canberra and the Territory. I hope you can support the Brumbies initiative and subsequently that the Assembly can come together in a demonstration to our people that progress is paramount.

It is possible to preserve our heritage and make room for progress. Large attractive tracts of land suitable for urban infil, such as at Griffith, should be made available to all Canberran's so that the vibrant and modern city state we want can be developed.

Thank you,

David Kibbey AM JP