



Turner School

Established 1953

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Valuing differences * Celebrating learning * Achieving excellence



Inquiry into Higher Density Residential Development Policies – Inner North Canberra

Submission from Turner School Board, October 2009

The Turner School Board is pleased to be able to make a submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services Inquiry into Rz3 and Rz4 Residential Redevelopment Policies—Inner North Canberra announced on 25/06/2009.

Turner School will be affected by any upward change in residential density in Section 63 Turner which may result from a lifting of the current moratorium and the allowing of Rz3 redevelopment in the Hartley St. part of that section.

Turner School has already experienced a number of higher density developments adjacent to its grounds in recent years, in particular Section 64 on the northern end of Hartley St. as well as in Section 48 on Condamine St. directly opposite the main school entry driveway. These higher density developments (and others) have resulted in increased traffic movements on the streets around Turner School as well as more congestion caused by on-street parking particularly on Hartley St. A further issue has been insufficient allowances for guest parking resulting in some overnight guests of these apartments using the School's already stretched car parking facilities.

Turner School is a unique combined special needs and mainstream school in the ACT Government system. As such, it has special requirements for the transport of children with special needs which results in a large fleet of small buses being utilised to bring students to the Hartley St. and Condamine St. entrances each morning and taking them home again each afternoon. The Board has already been notified on several occasions as to the difficulties that drivers of these buses can experience in getting their vehicles into and out of the car park on Hartley St. due to cars being parked inappropriately.

Furthermore, Turner School has experienced an increase of around 200 in student numbers over the past several years, including after the closure of some other ACT Government schools. This increase in student numbers, generally from out-of-area, has resulted in a large number of students being transported to and from the school by private vehicle each day which has further resulted in an

increase in vehicular traffic around the school. Poor pedestrian access across McCaughy and Hartley Streets also contributes to this problem.

Whilst the School Board is not opposed to a lifting of the moratorium on further development in Section 63 for the purposes of single dwelling or possibly dual-occupancy, the Board strongly opposes any further increase in the residential housing density around the School. The Board is especially concerned about the safety of Turner School children (and others) being put at risk by an expected further increase in traffic activity around the School which would result from higher-density housing in Section 63.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Edwards', written in a cursive style.

Robert Edwards,
Turner School Board Chair, 2009.