

The Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning & Environment
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
ACT 2601

81 Stradbroke Street
Deakin ACT 2600



February 10, 2005

DEAKIN EMBASSY MOTEL SITE (DV 237)

Dear Sir,

As a resident of Deakin since 1955 I wish to submit some comments on the proposed development of the Deakin Embassy Motel Site.

The site has been an ideal location for a one storey Motel which has served Canberra for many years for visitors seeking accommodation. The proposal for a 7 storey development on the site would be disastrous for the following reasons.

1. It would not "sit well" and overlook the neighbouring already established single storey Embassy (Saudi Arabia) and the proposed embassy opposite on Hopetoun Circuit in neighbouring Yarralumla on the other side of Yarra Glen;
2. It would add traffic to the already busy intersection opposite the Motel site of Grey Street and Hopetoun Circuit particularly during school hours due to the traffic emerging from the Girls Grammar School;
3. All nearby existing buildings (Deakin Shops, Croatian Club, Oasis Centre etc) are no higher than one storey.

Finally Deakin is essentially a residential suburb with medical, leisure, schools, child minding, and business centres and embassies that merge with its similar neighbouring suburbs of Forrest and Yarralumla. This group of suburbs are not like nearby Manuka and Kingston which contain facilities (theatres, shops, cafes etc) that attract people and may be in need of a "Gateway" which is not required to highlight the Yarra Glen entrance to the residential and other facilities in Deakin or the Deakin/Forest/Yarralumla triangle.

I would strongly recommend that the Motel Site be maintained as a single storey Motel Site providing accommodation as it has for many years that may need upgrading to modern standards and not be replaced by a 7 storey "Gateway" development.

I wish the Committee well in its investigations.

Yours faithfully


David White

