

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to register my strong opposition and significant concern of the proposed rezoning of the block of land on Austin Street, Griffith, which currently houses the Brumbies Headquarters.

I have several concerns in relation to the proposal. I cannot fathom how a sporting organisation should be permitted to make changes to their current lease in order to assist them financially, at the expense of the community. No other business in the ACT can operate as the Brumbies have done, and expect the ACT Government to assist them in this way.

I understand the ACT Government's desire to achieve higher urban density. My concern however, is the suitability of the sites upon which multi-storey apartments should be allowed to be built. One only has to look at the proposed site to see the hugely negative impact such a proposal will have on the current environment and amenity. Currently the site is heavily treed- and this will change significantly. In addition to that, the roads in and around the area will be greatly impacted. The intersection of Austin St and La Perouse is already difficult at times, as is La Perouse and Flinders Way. I noted during the consultation period the Brumbies held this time two years ago, that they were stating that Capt Cook Cres is the "most under-utilised road in Canberra". I ask, according to who?!! As a resident of Capt Cook Cres, the road is busy. Cars use it all day and all night, many at very high speed. A proposal of 150 apartments will mean an increase of at least 150 car movements in the morning and in the evening (I expect it will be far greater than this as most of the residents in the apartments will have one or two cars per apartment, as is the norm for most apartments across Canberra). That is a minimum of 300 car movements per day on top of what we already experience. Like most apartment complexes, parking will spill out onto the streets - a significant impact on the amenity of residents in the area.

For the Brumbies, this is a financial business decision. For us, it affects our personal lives and the way we live on a day to day basis. This is not an anti-Brumbies stance. My family are strong supporters of the Brumbies players and team and attend all their games. We take our young sons across the road to see them train (at a respectful distance) but I really feel the principle of allowing a Club to change their lease in such a way is disenfranchising the residents of the area. What principle does this set for other sporting teams in the ACT? Can they too expect to receive this kind of assistance?

I realise that the Brumbies have been using their membership database asking members to write in support of their proposal. I would respectfully ask that you are able to differentiate between the submissions from those that are doing so as members and who will not be personally impacted by the proposal, from those of us who will be directly impacted on a daily basis.

Yours sincerely,

Elke Mackenzie