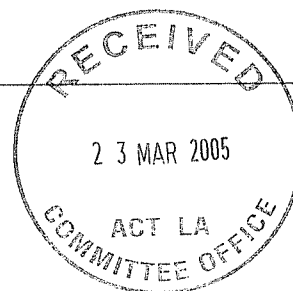


Lamont, Linzi

Submission
Number

9

From: Janine Ferry [jaferry@ozemail.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2005 8:51 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Stromlo Submission1.doc



Please find attached a brief submission put together by both past & present residents of the Stromlo Forestry Settlement

To:

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY – Standing Committee on Planning and Environment

Re: Inquiry into Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No. 244 – Duffy part Block 2 Section 56 Stromlo Settlement (DV244)

We would like to make a submission in support of the above Draft Variation to the Territory Plan, and to reconfirm our desire to return to Stromlo at the earliest opportunity.

We note that in the interests of sustainability there have been certain modifications to the original draft which we are willing in principle to accept in order to return to the village lifestyle which we love.

The following people intend to attach their personal feelings and statements to this document, and we hope that you will consider them in relation to this submission.

Janine, can you please add the names and correct addresses of yourself and the others at this point....

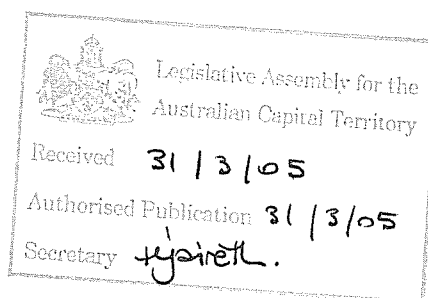
Janine Ferry
Ron and Barbara Schubert
Graham and Barbara Franklin-Browne 29 Folingsby St, Weston, ACT, 2611,
gfb@aapt.net.au, ph 0408 421 085

- We feel we have waited a long time for closure on this part of our lives, and we are counting on a satisfactory outcome for the residents so that healing process can be completed.

Thank you for your continuing to listen to our story,

-
- Yours sincerely,
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-
-
- Stromlo Residents
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Submission on behalf of former residents of Stromlo Forestry Settlement

Our submission addresses a number of issues relating to sustainability, and the compatibility of the rural village concept, and the need to provide a soft bushfire buffer zone on Canberra's vulnerable western urban boundary.

Block Size: We note that there has been some discussion regarding the suitability of retaining large block sizes in the new development.

We would like to retain block sizes between 1500 – 2000 sqm for the following reasons:

1. We are used to maintaining large blocks and living in a semi-rural environment. Ex Stromlo residents now living in the suburbs are still reporting extreme difficulties adapting to an urban environment, fitting in with their urban neighbours and feeling part of a community.
2. Our yards were capable of sustaining large vegetable gardens. The produce from was frequently distributed to friends and neighbours. There have also been many weddings and large community get-togethers held in our gardens.
3. Some residents who may wish to purchase later feel that smaller rental blocks would disadvantage them in relation to the owners of larger blocks.
4. Larger block sizes will facilitate plant and habitat diversity, and maintain an effective fire buffer zone.
5. Smaller block sizes would significantly impact on the sustainability features in the proposed variation, for example the opportunity to site houses to gain maximum solar effect, and protection from bushfires.

Memorial Park for Dolly McGrath: The informal memorial set up for Dolly is currently on Federal Land. This was near to the exact spot where our friend and neighbour died while trying to save her dogs. We realise there may be obstacles to this, but we would like to keep the memorial where it is, as it will remain part of our community healing process.

Ambience: We have the following comments to make about the need to try to re-establish the ambience of our village.

1. We fervently wish to maintain the rural village character and we don't require curbing and guttering, streetlights, or telephone boxes.
2. The "commons" area is crucial to maintaining the village ambience. It was a place where our children played football, flew kites, boomerangs etc. In the early days when Stromlo was an active forestry settlement, it was the site for friendly pre-bushfire season competitions between Canberra's forestry settlements. Fire crews would gather and compete in tanker and light unit races, which provided excellent training opportunities as the vehicles reversed through obstacle courses and put out small fires in hay bales or drums.
3. It was also where the helipad was located as part of a forward firebase during bushfire seasons.
4. Many Stromlo residents were keen gardeners and one of our residents had won a number of garden competitions including the Canberra Open Garden Competition, which was a fundraiser for the Cancer Society.
5. It was a very safe place to live, because we did look out for each other. It is notable that many of the long-term residents can remember only one burglary in a 23-year period. There was also very little flow-through traffic, which made the open areas safe for our children.

Fire Prevention: We believe that effective bushfire buffer zones are active, not passive. Landscape design, siting, choice of species, and maintenance will be ineffective if the resident population doesn't care. We do care about our village, and have done so for many years.

Sustainability – We believe that the village concept will enhance the landscape on the urban edge, and living on large size blocks, with room for large sheds, workshops, organic gardens, chickens, etc will make us a sustainable community. For a long time we have been used to doing much of our own maintenance on the houses we lived in, for example most residents took the opportunity to paint their own interiors with paint supplied by the Dept. Within limits, we would expect to maintain some of this sense of self-sufficiency in the new village.

Preservation of Community: We believe that Stromlo residents have made a positive contribution to community life in the Duffy and Weston areas. We were well represented on school committees, in the classrooms as class helpers, and on local community group committees. Our village provided a healthy rural alternative to children in Duffy and Holder who frequently came up to play in the settlement and visit our children.