

Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Civic Square
London Circuit
Canberra ACT

From: Frank Mines, 

**Re: Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No. 308
Cooyong Street Urban Renewal Area Braddon sections 52 and 57 and Reid section 7
– change of zoning)**

My interest in the proposed redevelopment of Braddon sections 52 and 57 is how this might affect St Patrick's Church, Braddon. St Patrick's was the first Catholic church built on the north side of Canberra after the Australian Capital Territory was established.

St Patrick's played a central part in the religious and educational life of north Canberra from the 1930s onward and continues to play an important part in religious and welfare activities today. It can seat 271 people comfortably. On some occasions such as Ash Wednesday there is an overflow congregation. There is an active St Vincent de Paul branch at St Patrick's that provides assistance to people in difficulties in the Braddon and City area – homeless people, the unemployed and people suffering from substance abuse.

The leases originally provided by the Commonwealth on the north side of Canberra catered to a range of human needs, commercial, residential, recreational and religious. It is to be hoped that this balance is not lost in the pursuit of financial and commercial gain.

Incorporation of existing heritage features

Recognition of Aboriginal heritage

Consultation with local residents

Provision for worship. Existing places of worship should be incorporated into the Territory Plan and provision made for further expansion of facilities for public worship in the future.

Provision for recreation. This could include gardens, recreation rooms and so on.

Provision for parking. This should mean adequate parking for residents and some provision for visitors.

Provision for community meetings

Provision for gardens

Provision for community vegetable gardens

Provision for family and individual dwellings

Limit on height

Provision for ambulance friendly lifts

Provision for neighbourhood shopping

Provision for neighbourhood cafes and restaurants.

Provision for neighbourhood sculpture and art