



# *Telopea*

## *Amateur Swimming Club Inc.*

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[www.telopeaswimclub.org.au](http://www.telopeaswimclub.org.au)

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COMMENT – DRAFT VARIATION TO THE TERRITORY PLAN No 205 (DV205) –  
DEAKIN BLOCK 11, SECTION 68 (OASIS LEISURE CENTRE) PROPOSED OFFICE USE

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft variation to the Territory Plan No 205 (DV205). The Telopea Swimming Club has been based out of the Oasis Leisure Centre since 1985. Telopea has an active swimming population of 106 swimmers including National, International and Olympic level swimmers. The Club is currently one of the top ten Swimming Clubs in NSW.

Telopea has been a supporter of the draft variation but the support has been contingent on the pool facility refurbishment being completed to the satisfaction of the Territory **before** the ‘purpose clause for any unit within Units Plan No 1556 is varied to allow offices’.

As one of the strongest Swimming Clubs in the ACT we have a very keen interest in the Oasis Swimming Pool in particular, but also the broader issue of access to pool space for Swimming Squads across the ACT. Oasis is the only all year covered complex between Civic and Tuggeranong and with two Swimming Clubs (Telopea and Burley Griffin) now based out of the pool the impact on ACT swimming if it were to be lost would be significant. The ACT already has a shortage of ‘lane space’ for swimming clubs affiliated with Swimming ACT which is a significant limitation on the development of competitive swimming in the ACT. The loss of the Oasis facility would result in two of Canberra’s oldest and most successful swimming clubs facing very serious difficulties to find adequate pool space for training which has the real potential to threaten our ability to continue as Swimming Clubs.

The social benefit of the Oasis Complex as a multi-sport facility in the Deakin area of the city is important. The sustainability of the pool however, is related directly to the standard of the facility. Telopea has attracted a number of high performance athletes because of our Coaching programme and the standard of the Club, but this potential is limited by the general state of the pool and gym facilities. Unless the facility is maintained at the standard expected in the ACT our ability to attract and develop swimmers will be restricted. In this regard four additions to the pool refurbishment currently contained in DV 205 are worthy of consideration:

- Increase the depth of the pool to 1.8 metres to accord with current diving safety requirements.
- The increase in lanes from 6 to 8 to allow for greater use by a range of swimmers.
- The retention and refurbishment of the gym facilities.
- The parking area opposite the Oasis Complex off King Street requires re-surfacing and lighting if it is to handle adequately office workers and patrons of the Centre.

Given the importance of the Oasis facility in terms of its public good it is the view of Telopea Swimming Club that the pool remain a key element of the Territory Plan, but in addition the centre be identified as a facility worthy of a form of public/private partnership. In this regard we believe it would be of value to the Community that the proposed amendment (DV 205) be included in the Deakin Neighbourhood Plan. While the lessee has the potential to gain an advantage from capital appreciation from the property's redevelopment this motivation alone is insufficient to ensure the pools ongoing utility. The lessee requires encouragement beyond the commercial motivation to continue to invest in the pool facility. There has been experience in the ACT where lessees have allowed facilities to run down thus enabling subsequent redevelopment. The sports complex must be protected to ensure a reasonable planning horizon for the Organisations currently using the facility. It is our view that Government has a community role to protect facilities such as pools that contribute to the public good.

The Telopea Swimming Club would be keen to work with all interested parties to ensure that the opportunity to rejuvenate the Oasis Complex is maximised for the good of the whole community. The Club would also welcome the opportunity to meet with the Committee to further develop the points set out in this Submission.



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