




Submission Number	10
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Mick Gentleman MLA  
 Chair – Standing Committee on Planning and Environment  
 ACT Legislative Assembly  
 GPO Box 1020  
 Canberra City  
 ACT 2601

 <b>A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE</b>	
SUBMISSION NUMBER	10
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Patron: Professor William Hawkey MBE

Dear Mr Gentleman,

**Draft Variation to the Territory Plan no.236 – City West**

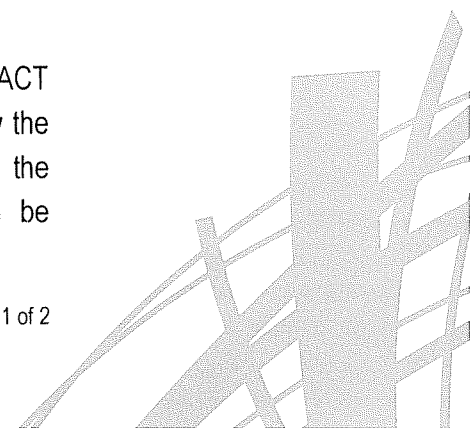
Ausdance ACT is the peak body for dance in the ACT. Our mission is to take a leadership role in initiating, promoting, and servicing dance as a vital, healthy and creative art form in the region.

Ausdance ACT has taken a keen interest in the future of City West because of our support for the ACT Government's stated intention that the area become a performing arts precinct and has a possibility of housing a National Choreographic Centre. Also one of our members - the Canberra Dance Theatre, is currently housed in the Rocks area.

As you would be aware, in May 2004 the ACT Government released the *City West Masterplan*, which laid out a vision for City West that included a performing arts precinct. This study was followed up by a *City West Performing Arts Study* undertaken by the ACT Government (through artsACT) late in 2004. It is believed that the allocation of \$150 thousand dollars in the 2005-06 Budget for a City West Performing Arts and National Choreographic Centre Forward Design Project will build on these reports; however Ausdance ACT has not yet been able to obtain a full copy of the *City West Performing Arts Study*.

Ausdance ACT, with other performing arts organisations, has been part of consultations facilitated by artsACT to further explore the concept, as proposed in ACT Government documents, of creative industries and arts activities on Childers Street.

The recent public announcement of an agreement between the ANU and the ACT Government for the use of the land in City West has raised questions about how the vision of performing arts precinct will be realised. Ausdance ACT is currently in the process of seeking more information about the agreement and how it will be



implemented. We have not yet been able to sight the Memorandum of Understanding that we believe covers the arrangement.

Hence it is of great interest to us, considering the current uncertainty relating to the City West area (specifically the northern region), that the ACT Planning and Land Authority is proceeding with a draft variation for the area. The changes proposed by DV 236 seem to be out of step, or at least pre-emptive, of current discussions concerning the region.

The proposal to change most of the Community Land Use policies to Commercial A will hinder the development of the performing arts precinct. While ideally a performing arts precinct will include a mix of community and commercial, DV 236 does not leave adequate Community Land in the area. There is a fear that commercial imperatives will over-run any hope of community and not-for-profit access to land and space, and leave the area without the grass-roots arts community needed.

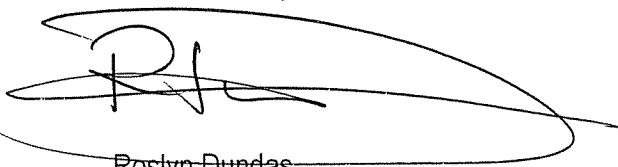
It is not adequate for the Community Land to simply be replaced elsewhere. Unless there is designated Community Land in the City West Precinct that can be utilised for community arts space then the ACT Government's vision for a performing arts precinct in this area will not be realised.

It is also not adequate for the assumption to be made that performing arts can be incorporated into commercial buildings. Ideally there would be purpose built premises, with space available for meeting and idea sharing, allowing the arts to grow in an accessible and inclusive way. These premises could fit side by side with certain commercial developments that could encourage and support performing arts.

It is unclear how the ACT Government's stated vision of a performing arts precinct will be achieved if available land, or land near by, is developed without taking into consideration the requirement for performing art space, community space, possible noise, light, human traffic, parking, and other issues that will occur within a performing arts precinct.

If you require any more information on the issues raised in this submission please don't hesitate to contact me on 6247 9103 or by emailing [act.eo@ausdance.org.au](mailto:act.eo@ausdance.org.au) I would be able to appear before the Committee if that was requested.

Yours sincerely,



Roslyn Dundas

Executive Officer

30 May, 2005