



Inner South Canberra Community Council

ISCCC Newsletter April 2024
Paper 24/12

Hi everyone, especially ISCCC and members of our eight constituent community associations.

2. Here's an update on our recent activities. After a busy year in 2023, it's been full on for the Committee since our last newsletter in February. I would like to express particular thanks to fellow members of the Committee for their vital contributions to our submissions and meetings. I also thank Eastlake Club for their continued hosting of our live meetings. The period ahead, leading up to the ACT election, will be a particularly busy and important one for us, and the Committee will be especially appreciative of help from the broader membership of the Inner South Community.

Upcoming events

- Disability election forum 2 May 6.30pm

3. A reminder that we will be holding our disability election forum on 2 May in partnership with Advocacy for Inclusion, by Zoom. This is an important opportunity for people with a disability, carers, family and friends to contribute ideas for candidates to consider in the run up to the ACT election on 19 October. Here's a link to the flyer, which contains details of how to register. Please encourage anyone you know with experience of disability issues to join us, we will greatly benefit from their input.

<https://www.isccc.org.au/joint-online-public-forum-2-may-6-30pm>

4. You may also be interested in the submission we made to the Assembly Committee considering the Disability Inclusion Bill, which you can find at this link:

<https://www.isccc.org.au/isccc/wp-content/uploads/Final-ISCCC-Submission-Inquiry-into-Disability-Inclusion-Bill-2024.pdf>

- Public Forum 28 May 7pm 'Better Residential Development – Building & Landscape Design For Climatic & Social Resilience'

5. We will hear about efforts to deal with 'urban intensification' in Sydney while seeking to restore community trust in planning and achieve better places responding to climate change and technological advances. We will then have a discussion led by three very experienced architectural, landscape and town planning professionals with examples of past, recent and proposed Canberra projects, and a Q&A session chaired by ISCCC Chair Colin Walters.

To attend in person, please register on trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/CRHUZ>

To register to attend online, please register in advance on zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpdOutpzksG9dzMEj9XzsmjHDaZmIOGaQE>

ISCCC Election Platform 2024

6. Thanks to everyone who came along to our public meeting on election issues on 26 February. A record of the meeting, including the excellent presentations, is at

<https://www.isccc.org.au/record-of-public-forum-26-february-2024>

7. Following on from the public forum, the Committee has approved the ISCCC election platform for 2024. Here is a link to the platform, which we began sending to parties and potential candidates on 24 April, together with a media release.:

<https://www.isccc.org.au/category/act-elections-24>

Other planning policy issues

8. The Assembly's Planning, Transport and City Services Standing Committee report on the Territory Plan and associated documents, which references our evidence, can be found at this link:

<https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees/committees/ptcs/inquiry-into-ev-adoption/Inquiry-into-the-Territory-Plan-and-other-associated-documents>

9. Our oral evidence can be found at this link:

https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/2339437/Hearings-day-1-2023-12-06-Inquiry-into-Territory-Plan-program-FINAL-at-05.12.23.pdf

10. A delegation from the Committee met the new planning Minister, Chris Steel, on 12 February, to discuss our concerns with the new planning system, and dispatched a summary of the issues discussed below:

<https://www.isccc.org.au/isccc-follow-up-letter-to-minister-steel-24-feb24>

11. However, the Chief Minister has since indicated that there will be no further changes to the planning regime this side of the forthcoming election. The Government are offering further training sessions on the new planning system, which will obviously be in place in its present form for a while, at

<https://www.planning.act.gov.au/professionals/our-planning-system/training-and-education>

12. We have also made further policy submissions on several issues:

- the ACT budget:

<https://www.isccc.org.au/act-2024-25-budget-consultation>

- the Disaster Resilience Strategy of the ACT:

<https://www.isccc.org.au/disaster-resilience-strategy-of-the-act>

- the proposed Independent Planning Advisory Service:

<https://www.isccc.org.au/submission-on-independent-planning-advisory-service>

13. We have written to MLAs Elizabeth Lee and Shane Rattenbury to express concern over aspects of the Liberals' and Greens planning policies respectively. The letters can be found at these links:

<https://www.isccc.org.au/r1-zoning>

<https://www.isccc.org.au/canberra-zoning-plan>

14. In response, Ms Lee has invited us to meet in order to discuss our concerns and our alternative ideas for increased housing density. This meeting was held on 24 April. A meeting with the ACT Greens is being scheduled.

Individual Planning Matters

15. We have made submissions on the following individual planning matters:

- Inquiry into Draft Planning Bill 2023

<https://www.isccc.org.au/submission-property-developers-bill-2023>

- Deconcessionalisation of the Canberra Services Club former site:

<https://www.isccc.org.au/isccc/wp-content/uploads/ISCCC-submission-CSC-DA201732582.pdf>

- Commonwealth Park to Woden Light Rail Project 2B, environmental issues:

<https://www.isccc.org.au/epbc-referral-no-2023-09753-commonwealth-park-to-woden-light-rail-project>

- Draft Territory Plan amendment relating to the East Lake/ Causeway

The ISCCC has provided brief overview comments on Draft Plan Amendment A East Lake - The Causeway Area (DPA-A) supporting submissions from the Kingston and Barton Residents Group and the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association respectively.

<https://www.isccc.org.au/draft-plan-amendment-a-east-lake>

Yarralumla - Forestry Place

16. We have been notified of an important development in the planning for the former CSIRO site at Yarralumla, in the form of an amendment to the National Capital Plan. The Yarralumla Residents' Association continue to make representations on this matter on behalf of the community as opportunities arise. The amendment and related documentation can be viewed at:

<https://www.nca.gov.au/amendment-97-block-7-section-4-yarralumla#>

Deakin Heritage

17. The Deakin Residents' Association has completed its heritage project supported by the ACT Government. The project has involved the preparation of heritage information and signs for the Deakin shops and La Trobe Park. Minister Vassarotti will unveil the sign at the Deakin shops on Sunday 28 April at 2pm.

Transport

18. We partnered with the Woden Valley Community Council in a forum on Transport Options for South Canberra on 3 April 2024.

An independent group which included John Bell from the Deakin Residents Association has published a report "21st Century Public Transport Solutions for Canberra". This can be downloaded from the DRA website – www.deakinresidents.asn.au

Education

19. Speakers at our recent public meeting drew attention to the need for more school buildings, in view of the projected doubling of our local population by the 2060s. We have been notified of the report of an Assembly inquiry into the future of school infrastructure. This can be accessed at:

<https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees/committees/eci/Inquiry-into-the-Future-of-School-Infrastructure-in-the-ACT#tab2119289-5id>

Narrabundah festival and shops

20. Congratulations to Old Narrabundah Community Council on the success of their annual festival on Saturday 23 March and to Committee member Sue Tongue for organising an opinion survey of folk attending the festival. Results of the survey can be found at

<https://www.isccc.org.au/isccc-survey-at-old-narrabundah-community-council-festival-23-march-2024>

21. We have been notified by City Services of some welcome improvements at Narrabundah shops, at this link:

<https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/Infrastructure-Projects/city-inner-north-and-inner-south/narrabundah-shops->

Format for future meetings

22. As required by the Government, our 26 February public forum was held by dual format, both live and via Zoom, with thanks to the company Sidestage for providing audio and visual services. The result was successful in a technical sense, with very clear vision and sound, but only a handful of people opted to join by Zoom. The considerable cost of mounting dual mode format meetings using professional video and sound is beyond the capacity of ISCCC on a continuing basis, and we have asked the Government to release us from this requirement and/or to reimburse the costs. As a consequence, future meetings will likely be held either by Zoom or live, depending on the circumstances. We are trialing cheaper and more limited Zoom options.

Free leaf bag to collect autumn leaves

23. The ACT Healthy Waterways team are offering ACT residents a free leaf bag to collect their autumn leaves. For more information see:

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/ACT-Healthy-Waterways/healthy-waterways-resources-for-community/around-the-home-and-garden>

24. For the diary

- 2 May Disability election forum - see above for details
- 28 May Public forum - precinct planning options
- 24 June Committee meeting
- 22 July Committee meeting
- 26 August Public forum - volunteer gardening and various land use projects in the Inner South
- 24 September Murrumbidgee electorate Candidate forum
- 30 September Kurrajong electorate Candidates forum
- 25 November Annual General Meeting.

25. That's all for now folks. Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings as we progress through the year.

Colin Walters
Chair