

2 Hill Corner  
Yarralumla ACT 2600

4 June 2007

Mr Andrew Barr MLA  
Minister for Planning  
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory  
GPO Box 1020  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Barr

**Hill Corner Parkland, Yarralumla (Section 62, Block 3)**

We are a group of Yarralumla residents and former residents who have been working together since 2002 to protect the pocket park at Hill Corner from development, by having it rezoned from Community Facility back to its original zoning of Urban Open Space.

We last met with the then Minister for Planning (Simon Corbell) on this matter on 11 April 2007 and were delighted when he informed us that he agreed that the change of land use policy should be made. Our understanding was that Mr Corbell considered that the best and quickest way to achieve this was to include the change with a number of other changes that were to be made in the restructured Territory Plan that was to be the subject of legislation later this year.

Mr Corbell subsequently wrote to us on 16 April 2007, confirming his decision to protect the Hill Corner park from development by rezoning it as Urban Open Space and advising that he had asked ACTPLA to prepare a variation to the Territory Plan to implement this.

Mr Corbell also issued a media release on this matter on 24 April 2007 and as a result we were contacted by the Canberra Chronicle seeking information for a story. Consequently, the Chronicle arranged a meeting with us in the park on Thursday, 26 April when a large group of residents and former residents gathered to celebrate the good news about the park and to participate in the Chronicle's photo session.

Since this announcement, and in accordance with the invitation in Mr Corbell's letter, residents have followed up the rezoning process with ACTPLA. Your staff have also been very helpful in explaining the normal process involved.

However, we feel concerned by the length of time that might be required for the rezoning to be implemented through the normal process. Moreover, we had understood from Mr Corbell that the intention was for the process to be adopted in this case to be streamlined.

As I am sure you will understand, after trying for so long to secure the protection of the Hill Corner park into the future, we are keen to ensure that this takes place as quickly as possible and does not get forgotten in the normal administrative processes. We therefore seek your support for a streamlined implementation of the Government's undertaking to protect the Hill

Corner park, which forms an important part of the Burley Griffin design for this part of Canberra.

.

We attach copies of the following documents as background:

1. Letter from Simon Corbell, 16 April 2007
2. Media release from Simon Corbell, 24 April 2007
3. Canberra Chronicle article and some photos, Tuesday 1 May 2007
4. Residents' submission to Simon Corbell, in which we outlined our case for protecting the Hill Corner park, 6 August 2002

We look forward to hearing from you about the future protection of our much loved pocket park at Hill Corner.

Yours sincerely

Julia Trainor  
Member, Hill Corner Committee