

These notes are points of interest that are not part of the minutes, but are activities that the committee has been involved in since the committee meeting.

Representation

The YRA wrote to Neil Savery of ACTPLA stating that Yarralumla does not have representation via any organisation that has formal consultations with the ACT Planning Authority, despite our size and the amount of current development in Yarralumla. We asked him for what steps we can take and who we should contact.

Response

Neil Savery responded and said that he thinks there should be Southside representation but the problem is that there is no Southside Community Council in existence, under the auspices of the Department of Community Services (DCS). The Community Council's role is to channel community services. ACTPLA uses a representative from the Community Council to provide representation to ACTPLA.

He says he would welcome us cooperating with DCS to setup a body which would legitimately represent South Canberra for the purposes of discussing planning issues.

The full text of Neil's reply is below.

"Susan, we have been very keen for there to be a group in the South that can broadly represent interests in this location, much for the same reasons as you have put in your email. It has been unfortunate that a South Canberra Community Council equivalent to the other parts of Canberra has not emerged, but these are ultimately a construct of local communities and not for a Government Department such as this one to foist upon someone.

As you are proposing something that has no equivalent in the ACT there is no precedent to draw on for ideas.

The ACT Planning and Land Authority does not involve itself in setting up community groups and therefore despite the fact that you say you do not want the interests you represent to form a community council, I think your first point of call should be with the Department of Community Services to discuss what options might be available.

The Minister's Planning and Development Forum is structured so that community representation is at the Community Council level, and as you say, South Canberra, by virtue of not having a Community Council, does not have a representative interest on this body. Having said this, both the Minister and I hold the view that it is not tenable to have South Canberra represented by an individual or a residents association that does not have legitimacy with the wider geographic region. In other words something equivalent to the five other Community Councils, even if its interest are different.

I should also point out that the Forum does not discuss or involve itself in individual development proposals, but rather broader policy issues, where the Authority can provide early insight into some of its work and therefore provide both advanced notice of topical matters and also obtain early input into framing some of its consultation processes for these exercises.

So I appreciate the conundrum and we certainly would welcome something that could represent the whole of Inner South Canberra, but I am not in a position to bring that to fruition"

NCA Review of Heights on Adelaide Ave

We became aware of a Development Control Plan which was to review the height provisions of buildings fronting Adelaide Avenue. A Draft Control Plan is explained on the NCA website at

http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au/planning/NCP/dev_control_plans/

On their website the NCA explains:

“In some areas, the National Capital Plan sets out special requirements for development in the interests of the National Capital.

In general special requirements require the preparation of Development Control Plans which are approved by the National Capital Authority.”

Looking at the process flow of progression of the DCP, no community consultation is stated, however it could be that consultation may follow the preparation of the draft.

The YRA wrote to the NCA (National Capital Authority) who are reviewing the height provisions of the DCP (Development Control Plan) for a number of sites fronting Adelaide Avenue including the Embassy Motel site. It has also agreed to undertake public consultation before making a decision on the new changes proposed to the DCP.

We asked:

- Which are the sites involved?
- How we will be informed of this process?
- Will this be advertised in the newspaper?
- Could the NCA ensure that the YRA will be informed?
- When will it be happening?
- How will the process be conducted?
- How much notice will we be given?
- Will the meeting be open to all members of the public and be at a sizeable venue.
- We would hope to have our suburb letterboxed in time for the meeting.