



Mr Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management
gentleman@act.gov.au

Dear Mr Gentleman

RESTRICTED APPLICATION OF VARIATION 346

The Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) congratulates you on your decision to restrict to newer suburbs the application of the Solar Access rule changes in V346. The ISCCC regards this as a satisfactory outcome to the lengthy consultation process.

As you might be aware the ISCCC was directly represented at the initial Northern Boundary and Solar Access workshop convened by the Environment and Planning Directorate in March 2014, but subsequently left the issue largely to the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association and other community sector representatives. Nevertheless, the ISCCC supported and supports their view that any solution proposed for any problem for small blocks in new suburbs should be solved with a solution directed at where the problem occurs. The ISCCC consequently welcomes the Government's decision to restrict application of the new rules in V346 to blocks approved after 5 July 2013.

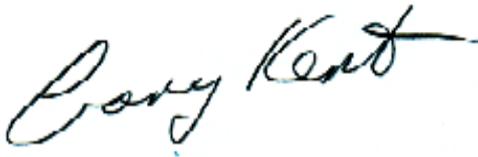
I understand from those who attended the consultations that Mr Gary Rake played a major role in ensuring that the community sector's reservations with the initially proposed DV346 were brought more clearly into focus in the Government's final consideration of this issue. It is the ISCCC's view that Mr Rake deserves commendation for the way he handled this difficult task and his efforts to secure a mutually satisfactory compromise.

The ISCCC regards it as unfortunate that the Master Builders Association (MBA) does not appear willing to accept this compromise. Noting that there is further work to be done in relation to appropriate modification of the regulations to remove some of the concerns that emerged during the consultations, the ISCCC and other community sector groups are prepared to engage in further consultation.

However, to be fully effective all parties have to accept that other participants are also trying to obtain the best outcome possible for the ACT, even if we might disagree about the route chosen, and must treat each other with civility. It is consequently unfortunate that an MBA representative saw fit to publicly disparage the community sector on ABC radio. These comments were most disappointing.

The ISCCC supports the Environment and Planning Directorate's approach to addressing contentious issues through community consultation, and looks forward to the opportunity to take part in future consultation where appropriate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Kent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary Kent
Chair
12 August 2016