



Mr Andrew Barr, MLA  
Chief Minister  
[Barr@act.gov.au](mailto:Barr@act.gov.au)  
cc Minister for Planning and Land Management

Dear Mr Barr

## **MANUKA OVAL AND MANUKA PRECINCT MASTER PLAN**

I write on behalf of the Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) about the proposed establishment of a Community Panel to help develop a masterplan for the Oval. This was announced on Friday 5 August, at the same time that you announced that the Government had decided to reject the redevelopment proposal for Manuka Oval brought forward by Greater Western Sydney and Grocon. The ISCCC and its constituent residents' groups have argued for the development of a master plan with significant community input, and consequently welcome your announcement.

In your announcement you indicated that the Government will move to 'now establish a community panel to help inform a new, detailed masterplan for the Oval and its surrounds'. We note and endorse your view that "The master planning process will include parking and how the oval could be better connected with Manuka, Kingston, the Foreshore and Telopea Park". We agree that the impact of any development at Manuka Oval on all of these places needs to be taken into account. However, we would also point out that the needs of users of Manuka Pool, and of students at Telopea Park School, both of which adjoin the Manuka Oval precinct and would be impacted by any Oval development, will also need to be given consideration.

We note that the composition of the Community Panel has not yet been determined, beyond including 'members from across the community'. Given that the Oval is located in the middle of inner south Canberra we believe that there should be a representative from the ISCCC on the Panel to represent the wider interests of inner south Canberra residents. In addition, as the Manuka Oval physically impinges on Barton, Kingston, Griffith and Forrest, the Panel should also include representatives from the Kingston and Barton Residents Group (KBRG) and the Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA), to ensure that the concerns and interests of those immediately and directly affected by any changes at the Oval are not overlooked.

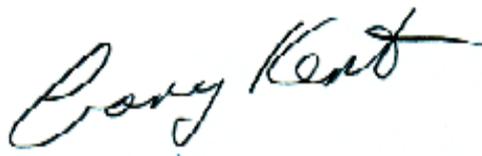
As touched on above it would also be of value to have Community Panel members who represent the management and users of Manuka Pool, and the interests of Telopea Park School, respectively. The National Trust should also be represented given the significance of heritage issue associated with the precinct. We also believe that it will be important to have representatives of retail interests at Manuka, Kingston and Kingston Foreshore represented on the panel, but note that these would need to be representative of all retailers and service providers, and not just the owners of bars, cafes and restaurants, to ensure that a balanced assessment of the impact of development at the Oval is reflected.

We also endorse your suggestion that the Community Panel should include sporting representatives, but these should be local sportspeople playing local sport. We appreciate that Cricket Australia and the Australian Football League or one of its constituent teams may have an interest in the development of facilities at Manuka Oval, but these organisations are not local community organisations and it would be at best incongruous for them to be represented on a Community Panel. Such bodies with a national profile should be free to make their views known to the Community Panel, but should not have any part in deciding the Community Panel's final position on any question. It is unlikely that such large national organisations would feel that they have been unduly silenced by any decision to exclude them from the Community Panel, given their resources and their ability to make their views known through other channels.

You have made the suggestion that any community consultation arrangements should be similar to those for the Yarralumla Brickworks development. We believe that this is an excellent suggestion and strongly support it as a good way to develop a Master Plan. We do however support open engagement throughout the process to ensure that all the community that this is a genuine open and transparent process.

The ISCCC and its constituent residents' groups look forward to a fruitful consultation process in relation to the Manuka Oval and surrounds. We would be happy to discuss the Community Panel further with officers of your Directorate or from the Environment and Planning Directorate if this was thought to be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Kent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Kent  
Chair

17 August 2016