



Planning Canberra's commercial zones

6.05.2011

The ACT Planning and Land Authority is seeking community comment on its review of planning and development policies for Canberra's commercial zones.

ACTPLA Chief Planning Executive, Neil Savery, today launched a discussion paper on commercial zones as part of the current review of the Territory Plan.

"Group and local centres play an important role in our daily lives; we use their shops, work in their offices, relax at their hospitality and entertainment venues, and visit their community facilities. These centres are also increasingly home to many Canberrans," Mr Savery said.

"Policies for group and local centres need to meet community expectations now and into the future, so we want residents to tell us how we can improve planning policies to make these centres environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically dynamic.

"The discussion paper outlines issues and options and asks readers to comment on various questions.

"For example, what land uses should be allowed in the centres? How should land use planning controls be changed to allow for more supermarkets and, in doing so, respond to the Government's supermarket policy to help promote competition?

"Should we allow higher buildings to encourage more residential development in centres? What policies could be introduced to ensure this housing meets the needs of the ACT's changing demographics?

"What can we do to control noise from night-time activities but still allow for a vibrant local live music scene as more people choose to live in and close to centres?

"These and other questions arise from the contemporary challenges our centres face. They are relevant to the current development of master plans for key Canberra centres and will complement the outcomes of Time to Talk, which helped identify community aspirations for how Canberra should develop.

"Feedback from public comments on the discussion paper will help determine policy directions for recommendation to Government and likely changes to the current policy settings of the Territory Plan.

"As part of the commercial zones review process, ACTPLA will reconvene the reference group that reviewed community comments during the review of the residential and subdivision codes."

The discussion paper and an explanatory fact sheet are available at www.actpla.act.gov.au/TerritoryPlanreview and ACTPLA's shopfront at 16 Challis St Dickson.

Comments close on Monday, 4 July 2011.

For more information please call 6205 3146 or 0402 780 981.