



Andrew Barr MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER

MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER FOR URBAN RENEWAL

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND EVENTS

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Mr John Edquist
President
Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc
PO Box 4127
MANUKA ACT 2603

Dear Mr Edquist

Thank you for your letter of 24 February 2015 about the proposed redevelopment of Gowrie Court (Narrabundah) and Stuart Flats (Griffith).

The Government remains committed to the renewal of the public housing portfolio by replacing buildings that have reached the end of their useful life with quality modern accommodation which public housing tenants deserve. This includes both Gowrie Court and Stuart Flats.

I understand that there has been significant consultation with the community and that the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association has helped facilitate this engagement. Overall, there appears to be broad community support for the redevelopment of Gowrie Court and Stuart Flats although some issues have been raised about the height of the replacement buildings, the impact of parking and traffic, overlooking and overshadowing and loss of open space.

The Public Housing Renewal Taskforce is in the process of finalising indicative concept plans for the two sites, which will then be submitted to the Environment and Planning Directorate for consideration and preparation of a draft Territory Plan Variation for public comment. Consistent with commitments to date the Taskforce will inform the community of its preferred concept plan for the sites before the draft Territory Plan Variation is released for public comment.

I believe that by breaking down concentrations of disadvantage we will create better amenity in our suburbs, as well as a better way of life for public housing tenants. For the renewal of the public housing portfolio to proceed, it is important that the planning policies on these sites be changed so that the benefits of urban renewal are maximised. In addition to addressing the issues raised by the community, maximising the return on the sale of the land is a legitimate objective of the change in planning policies.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6205 0011 Fax: (02) 6205 0157 Email: barr@act.gov.au

Facebook: Andrew.Barr.MLA Twitter: @ABarrMLA



CANBERRA

These sites are intended to be transferred to the Land Development Agency for sale once replacement housing has been constructed. The purchasers of these sites will be bound by the conditions and controls of the Territory Plan Variation.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

27 MAR 2015