



## Inner South Canberra Community Council

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### **NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY (NCA) DRAFT AMENDMENT 95 - NORTH CURTIN DIPLOMATIC ESTATE AND URBAN AREA – the Curtin horse paddocks**

The ISCCC understands that the primary purpose of DA 95 is to seek approval to change the land use policy of the Curtin holdings to become a new Diplomatic Estate to accommodate new offices and residences for foreign diplomatic missions and for the establishment of a new residential area adjacent to Yarra Glen. A number of smaller parcels of land in Curtin, Yarralumla and Weston Creek are also included.

1. The ISCCC notes that the exchange of land has been conducted on a Government-to-Government basis without any reference to affected parties or the wider community:

- Given that this is a fait accompli, the ISCCC expects the NCA to work closely with affected parties to address concerns in the design of the proposed new diplomatic and residential estates.

2. In 2013, the Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (JSCNCET) recommended that the NCA develop a long term comprehensive plan to guide diplomatic estate development. The ISCCC requests advice on whether the NCA has developed a strategy along the lines recommended by the JSCNCET and, if so, would appreciate a copy of it.

3. The Curtin Horse Paddocks and surrounding open space are home to significant species of flora and fauna, including many bird species and the critically endangered golden sunmoth. Provision must be made in the diplomatic estate development plan for a wildlife corridor to be retained.

4. While the ACT Government will be responsible for managing the proposed residential development in the area bordered by Yarra Glen and the Cotter Road, we

are aware that the NCA will have a planning approval role. This provides an opportunity to develop a whole of suburb approach, incorporating a mix of innovative and environmentally sustainable housing and landscape design, consistent with garden city principles. It will also be important to protect the high value vistas from Adelaide Avenue and Yarra Glen towards the Brindabella ranges.

Accordingly, on page 27 of DA95, we recommend the addition of these two dot points to the detailed conditions of planning, design and development that must be addressed for the residential land:

- A high level of environmental sustainability, for example in terms of Green Star Community certification
- Retention of vistas from Adelaide Avenue and Yarra Glen towards the Brindabella ranges

Yours sincerely



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Chair

7 July 2020