



Inner South Canberra Community Council

To: communityengagement@act.gov.au

ISCCC SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT URBAN OPEN SPACE LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

The Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) is a voluntary, not for profit, community-based association operating in the inner south area of Canberra, in the Australian Capital Territory.

The ISCCC's objective is to preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of Inner South Canberra and the Inner South Canberra community. Eight inner south suburban residents' groups participate in ISCCC activities.¹

The ISCCC appreciates this opportunity to comment on the draft urban space land management plan (UOSLMP). The ISCCC had the benefit of a presentation of the plan by Daniel Iglesias in May 2023.

Recommendations

The ISCCC supports the submissions and recommendations of our member groups, including the Kingston and Barton Residents Group, the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association and the Old Narrabundah Community Council.

In addition, the ISCCC notes the statement on the Have Your Say website that:

*"The Urban Open Space Land Management Plan will replace five existing regional land management plans to provide an overarching and consistent direction for managing our urban open spaces that complements [Canberra's Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan](#)."*²

Having examined the regional land management plan relevant to the Inner South, the "Inner Canberra's Urban Parks and Sportsgrounds", dated 2000, we find that it identifies all public open spaces and attaches specific values, according to their individual qualities. This appears to have been downgraded in the new Draft Urban Open Space Management Plan, with public open spaces referred to only in general terms according to the type of open space

¹ Old Narrabundah Community Council, Griffith Narrabundah Community Association, Yarralumla Residents Association Inc, Deakin Residents Association, Red Hill Residents Group, Kingston and Barton Residents Group, Oaks Estate Residents Association and Forrest Residents Group

² <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/managing-our-urban-open-spaces>, downloaded 13/8/23

they represent. Accordingly, we have lost an understanding of the individual values of each of these sites.

If public open spaces are not named specifically in the new Urban Open Space Land Management Plan, we recommend that they be included in the District Strategies. Currently, the coverage of valued open spaces in the District Strategies is inadequate and incomplete. In the ISCCC's survey of inner south residents in 2019-20, residents indicated which areas of open space they valued in their suburbs and in the inner south as a whole (see attached report).

As noted earlier, the ISCCC supports the comments and recommendations of the submissions of member groups, including the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association, the Kingston and Barton Residents Group and the Old Narrabundah Community Council.

Member groups note, in particular, the need to:

1. Give greater emphasis to the role of urban open space in responding to climate change.
2. Give greater emphasis to the role of urban space in addressing well being.
3. Adopt a heat management strategy as part of the Urban Open Space Land Management Plan
4. Identify opportunities to provide shade where it is needed in open spaces, preferably by suitable trees and possibly supported by shade structures.
5. Give greater acknowledgement of the Garden City heritage reflected in the original and older suburbs (we note that the Heritage Council/Unit are not mentioned as key stakeholders consulted during preparation of the Draft Plan)
6. Include the Heritage Act as key legislation,³ and refer to heritage in the core values.
7. Acknowledge the high heritage value of district parks such as the heritage listed Telopea Park, and sporting grounds such as the heritage listed Manuka Oval, Kingston and Griffith Ovals.
8. Give significant attention to the valuable role of verges and street trees, and the importance of regulating, monitoring and enforcing the rules relating to parking on verges.
9. Under 'Collaborative and responsive' 'Principles' (page 60) we note the 'Strategy to: "Identify opportunities to engage and inform the community". We applaud this and look forward to its early implementation.
10. Finally, we would like to see an indication in the Draft Urban Open Space Land Management Plan of what significant works are or can be proposed in our Urban Open Spaces.

³ The Heritage Act should be referenced in relevant legislation.

The importance of the Inner South's urban open spaces

The Inner South is the district with the largest proportion of high density housing in Canberra.⁴ It is also the district with the second lowest proportion of low density housing⁵. It has the second highest number of jobs in any district in Canberra.⁶ This means that the urban open space in the Inner South is invaluable in responding to the heat island effect and providing for the well-being of residents.

Old Narrabundah is fortunate to have two of Canberra's "**informal (dryland) use ovals**" (DRAFT PLAN TCCS 2023, p. 40) as well as green corridors such as that at the back of houses stretching from a lane off Matina Street to one of the ovals and the Narrabundah Primary School. With increasing housing density and back yards becoming smaller, these are important green spaces for the recreation of children and adults alike.

On 17 July Minister Shane Rattenbury's office advised us, in answer to our questions, that, as part of the 2023-24 Budget, funding was allocated to updating the land surface heat data and analysis undertaken by CSIRO in 2017. We were informed that the results of this heat mapping project will be used to:

- monitor known hotspots;
- identify new or emerging hotspots;
- inform the development and implementation of mitigation measures to address urban heat; and
- support adaptation planning to ensure that mitigation measures are being implemented where they are needed most.

We look forward to this heat island mapping being undertaken as soon as possible to inform the Urban Open Space Land Management Plan and the new District Strategies. However, there are indications that this exercise may not be carried out until the summer of 2024/2025.

The urban open space of the Inner South is also a very valuable heritage resource for Canberra. It is not only part of our ancient indigenous heritage but also forms part of the region's early colonial settlement. The inner South is home to many trees of enormous worth.⁷

⁴ Fig 6 Inner South District Strategy: 48% apartments (highest in Canberra)

⁵ Fig 6 Inner South District Strategy: 41% single dwellings (Nth Canberra 39%, Molonglo Valley 41%)

⁶ Fig 8 Inner South District Strategy: 49,130

⁷ During Sept 1920 Weston valued the tree at Lambrigg at 5,040.18 pounds, Canberra and District Historical Society

Parks and Gardens in Canberra Origins and Foundations 1911-1920

G.L. Murphy

Paper presented to Society in condensed form 19 Nov 1963

In the light of the escalating environmental challenges, it is imperative that the ACT Government support an holistic and well-funded approach to the management of public open space in Canberra.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marea Fatseas', written in a cursive style.

Marea Fatseas
Chair
15 August 2023