



Inner South Canberra Community Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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Investing in streetscapes and open green spaces is more important than ever

An online survey by the Inner South Canberra Community Council [ISCCC], conducted before the COVID-19 crisis, found 71 percent of respondents highly value the street trees, vegetation, gardens and wide streets that make up the streetscapes of Inner South suburbs and 69 percent also highly value recreation spaces such as parks, ovals and bushland.

These streetscapes and open green spaces are now proving to be more important than ever and have become an essential ingredient in making life more bearable for Canberrans during the COVID-19 lockdown. These same spaces are also essential in providing cool, green sanctuaries during our increasingly hot summers and for our community's future resilience and wellbeing.

The Council is calling on the ACT Government to commit to an ongoing investment in the streetscapes and open green spaces around our city to ensure these spaces are well maintained and renewed regularly.

“The results of the survey undertaken by the ISCCC along with the results of the ACT Government’s own *Better Suburbs* and *Places and Spaces* surveys, confirm how high a value the people of Canberra place on maintaining our streetscapes and open green spaces,” said Ms Fatseas, Chair of the Inner South Canberra Community Council. “We also know from ACT Government-commissioned research, that suburbs with significant tree canopy cover are several degrees cooler in summer than suburbs with low canopy cover.”

“During the COVID-19 lockdown, the increased number of people accessing the wonderful green parks and spaces within walking distance from their homes has proved vital for our physical and mental wellbeing during this stressful time. We therefore need to ensure the ACT Government commits sufficient funds for the ongoing maintenance and renewal of these spaces.”

Survey respondents mentioned many valued open green spaces including, amongst others: Telopea Park in Kingston, Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Bowen Park in Barton, La Trobe Park in Deakin, Collins Park in Forrest, Manuka Pool and Manuka Oval, Blaxland Park, parkland and ovals along Captain Cook Crescent, remnant woodland adjacent to La Perouse Street, and Bass Gardens in Griffith. Also rating mentions were the open space between Matina Street and Jerrabomberra Creek, and Rocky Knob Park, both in Narrabundah. Other valued open spaces are the Red Hill Nature Reserve and Voyager Park in Red Hill along with Weston Park and Stirling Park/Ridge, and woodland near the Brickworks in Yarralumla.

Ms Fatseas went on to say, “We are pleased to learn that among the ACT Government’s fast tracked infrastructure projects designed to keep Canberra working through COVID, \$9.75 million has been allocated to upgrade and build new footpaths, improve road safety, upgrade transport facilities and undertake landscaping and mulching in open spaces across Canberra. We are keen to find out how much of this budget is allocated to the upkeep of open green spaces within the Inner South.” Ms Fatseas concluded by saying, “The Council will continue to advocate for urban planners to pay close attention to the streetscapes and open green spaces, so essential to the wellbeing of our community, in the design of new developments and redevelopments in the Inner South of Canberra.

For more information contact:

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