



Inner South Canberra Community Council

ISCCC Chair's Report 2021-2022

Annual General Meeting

8 November 2022

1. Introduction

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, and their elders past, present and emerging.

I came back into the Chair role in March 2022 after the retirement of Gary Kent, and pending the election of a new Chair at this AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gary Kent again for his very significant and long term commitment to the ISCCC since its establishment in 2010. I would also like to thank our former Treasurer David Johnstone who was a very valued and longstanding member of the ISCCC Committee, and who also retired during the course of the year. Thanks to Ann Forrest for stepping in as Deputy Chair and John Edquist as Treasurer pending this AGM.

COVID restrictions continued to be a challenge in the 2021-22 financial year, but we adapted and held our committee and public meetings in-person, online or as hybrid in-person/online meetings. The hybrid meetings created the most challenges and are still a work in progress.

2. Highlights of the year

a) Efforts to improve planning and development continued to occupy much time at ISCCC public meetings and in submissions and other activities during the year, particularly in the context of the current Planning System Review. Ensuring we end up with a planning system that meets the needs of current and future residents is critical to the liveability of the inner south.

A major piece of work in late 2021 was the development of the ISCCC's Inner South Canberra District Planning Strategy that set out what we had heard from our member residents groups and from a 2019/20 survey of inner south residents about how they would like their district to develop. This is particularly relevant now as we see what the ACT Government's own proposed plans are for areas of change in the Inner South. Several people put a lot of hard work into the ISCCC's document, especially Richard Johnston, David Denham and Barbara Moore and I would like to thank them for their commitment. Of course, this is a living document that will be reviewed as we respond to community feedback on the ACT Government's current proposed inner south district strategy.

b) Reviewing the ISCCC's constitution to ensure that it is consistent with the latest model rules of the Associations Incorporation Act was also a major piece of work during the year, and we will be voting on that tonight. Thanks go to the subcommittee that spent many hours on revising the constitution, in particular its convenor John Bell, our former Chair Gary Kent, and Ron Fraser.

c) Protecting and enhancing the Inner South's living infrastructure is also critical to the future liveability of the inner south, and to its resilience in the context of a warming climate. Our survey of inner south residents in 2019/20 found that what they value most about where they live is the treescape/vegetation and open green spaces. So the ISCCC has participated actively in ACT

Government consultation processes about making adequate provision for green space on developed and redeveloped residential blocks, as well as protecting and enhancing the urban forest.

d) Working with member residents groups and other stakeholder groups to have a say on major precinct scale developments and proposed infrastructure in the Inner South was also a key focus, including in relation to Light Rail Stage 2, East Lake, Dairy Road, Kingston Arts Precinct, Canberra Brickworks and Forestry Precincts in Yarralumla.

During the year, the ISCCC was represented on several stakeholder groups:

- The Combined Community Councils
- ACT Environment and Planning Forum
- Brickworks Community Panel, and
- Kingston Arts Precinct Community Panel.

3. ISCCC Submissions

The ISCCC's submissions during financial year 2021-22 reflect the key issues I have just referred to:

- Canberra Brickworks Redevelopment Environmental Impact Statement (Jul 21)
- ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project (July 2021)
- Raising London Circuit (Dec 2021)
- Forestry Place Development (Aug 2021)
- Works Approval Application Blocks 1151 and 864 WestonCreek—Construction of Independent Living and Aged Care Facility (Sep 2021)
- Assembly's Planning Standing Committee decision not to hold an Inquiry into Draft Variation 369 to the Territory Plan (Dec 2021)
- Crematorium Symonston (May 2022)
- Planning Bill (June 2022)
- Urban Forest Bill (June 2022)

I thank the ISCCC's member residents' groups for all their input to these submissions, as the ISCCC could not respond to the many and varied issues affecting the inner south without the contribution of our member groups.

4. Communication and community outreach

A key way in which the ISCCC engages with inner south residents is through our regular public meetings and forums. This complements the communication activities of ISCCC member residents' groups. We have held a mix of in-person meetings, online Zoom meetings, and hybrid in-person/online meetings.

The ISCCC has continued to build on several other communication channels, including an email list reaching nearly 700 residents, communication through the eight inner south suburban residents groups and their networks, occasional City News supplements, our Twitter site with over 1200 followers and Facebook page with over 900 followers. We share posts with other Facebook pages such as the Kingston and Barton Residents Group Facebook site that has over 1600 followers. We've been reaching out to a range of other community organisations and groups as well.

The number listed below of guests attending our public forums/meetings is likely to understate actual numbers as many attendees did not sign the attendance registers.

Date	Location	Number committee attending	Number guests attending	Key Agenda Item, guest speaker etc.
13 July 2021	Zoom online	14	27	Forum: Emma Davidson MLA Guest Speaker. Also: Inner South District Consolidated Plan, Light Rail, Red Hill Integrated Plan, Canberra Brickworks, Kingston Arts Precinct
10 Aug 2021	Eastlake Football Club	9	1	Committee meeting
14 Sep 2021	Zoom online	Included in total estimate 14	64 all online	Forum: Planning System Review and Reform, Draft Inner South Canberra District Strategy, Light Rail Stage 2B, Local MLAs and Resident Group Reports
12 Oct 2021	Zoom	15	All online	Re-September ISCCC-Woden Valley Community Council meeting: Light Rail, Resident Group Reports, Key Sub-Committee Reports-Planning, Transport, General Business
9 Nov 2021	Zoom online		39 Online	Annual General Meeting, Resident Group Reports, Reports from MLAs
19 Feb 2022	Eastlake Football Club	17		Committee Meeting - Annual Planning
8 March 2022	Zoom		64 All Online	Forum: Dairy Road-Next phase Estate Development, Kingston Arts Precinct, Fyshwick Business Association, East Lake Precinct, Light Rail, Group Reports, MLAs
15 March 2022	Zoom	18	All online	Special Committee Meeting - Election of Office Bearers for vacant positions
12 April 2022	Eastlake Football Club	12		Committee Meeting
10 May 2022	Eastlake Football Club and Zoom	Estimate 18	87 incl. 56 in person 31 online	Forum: New Planning Bill Urban Forest Bill

Date	Location	Number committee attending	Number guests attending	Key Agenda Item, guest speaker etc.
14 June 2022	Eastlake Football Club	13		Committee Meeting

5. Future Activities

As a result of the experience gained in organising online Zoom meetings during periods of COVID restrictions, the ISCCC will continue to hold more online and hybrid in-person/online meetings.

Issues that will continue to occupy our time in the coming year include the finalisation of the ACT Planning Bill and Urban Forest Bill, the new Territory Plan, the Inner South District Planning Strategy, Light Rail stage 2, social housing, the East Lake precinct, Canberra Brickworks, Kingston Arts Precinct and Dairy Road.

In particular, we anticipate a significant community engagement process as the ISCCC refines the Inner South Canberra District Planning Strategy that it released in late 2021, including in response to the ACT Government's new District Strategies as part of its Planning Review and Reform.

6. Thanks

I'd like to emphasise that effective work cannot be done by a volunteer-run organisation like the ISCCC without the contribution of all those members of our Committee, subcommittees and others who give of their time, expertise and experience to address issues with significant implications for our Inner South and broader ACT community. So I thank all of my fellow Committee and subcommittee members and others who have chipped in when we needed help. Thanks to our Secretary Kathie Potts for keeping the ISCCC running efficiently, and helping to organise our public meetings, Assistant Secretary Deb Price who has assisted with meeting records during our hybrid in-person/online meetings, and Anne Forrest and other committee members who have assisted with our meetings and in so many other ways. Thanks also to Sue Ross for reviewing the ISCCC's annual financial statements.

The ISCCC is the peak body of our inner south residents groups, and they are critical to the ISCCC's success. I thank them for their very valuable contributions and support. They include member groups: the Deakin Residents Association, the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association, the Kingston and Barton Residents Group, the Oaks Estate Residents Association, the Old Narrabundah Community Council, the Red Hill Residents Group, the Yarralumla Residents Association and the "pop-up" Forrest Residents Group.

We are grateful for the collegiality of other Community Council chairs, including Peter Elford from Gungahlin and Bill Gemmell from Weston Creek, who have shared their skills in running hybrid in-person/online meetings. Thanks also to Eastlake Football Club for continuing to provide free access to club meeting rooms for our regular meetings, and to our website host Lance Williamson, who is quick in putting posts on our website. Lance is in hospital with COVID, and we wish him all the best for a speedy recovery. Of course, I thank all of you who take the time to participate in our meetings and activities, and for your ongoing feedback that helps our Council serve you better.



Marea Fatseas, Chair ISCCC