



Inner South Canberra Community Council

ISCCC NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024: PUBLIC FORUM ON 26 FEBRUARY AND OTHER UPDATES

Public forum, 26 February: The coming ACT election: what does the Inner South community want from the new Government?"

The ISCCC hopes you can join us at the Public Forum on Monday 26 February, at 7-9pm at the Eastlake Football Club. The purpose of this public forum is to gather your ideas for an election platform the ISCCC can put to candidates.

The ACT general election will take place on 19 October 2024. During the winter, the parties and candidates will reveal their platforms. If we want to feed ideas into their policy making processes, we can't leave it until then. So the ISCCC has arranged this forum for the Inner South community to put forward its views and suggestions. Drawing on suggestions made at the meeting, the ISCCC will draw up a document which will be sent to the active parties and known likely candidates for our electorates, Kurrajong and Murrumbidgee. There may need to be separate documents for each electorate.

The agenda for the meeting is attached. Commentators from within our community will make short presentations to open the discussion.

We will hold a public forum at which the candidates will be able to present their policies, including their reactions to our election platform, on 30 September.

Details of the public meeting.

Please note that the meeting room at Eastlake is accessible by lift. Please allow good time for arrival at the meeting, which will start promptly at 7pm.. Eastlake has a small car park for which you take a ticket at the entry barrier and present at reception on departure to obtain a second ticket. Both tickets are scanned at the exit of the car park to obtain free car parking. On-street parking in the vicinity is limited.

Please register in advance to attend in person at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist?aid=178021>

This meeting is being held in dual mode, both live and on line via Zoom. You can register to attend via Zoom in advance at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAof-6qrzsrG9DbH2WD3WFETIaL5-G2IfBs>

If you have registered to attend in person and your circumstances change, please cancel your booking so that someone else may attend.

If the in person meeting reaches capacity, you may wish to consider attending online.

Registering in advance to attend both in person and via zoom is important so that we can communicate with you in advance if this becomes necessary.

Other News

Training sessions on the new planning system. The Government advises:

“The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is pleased to advise registrations are now open to attend a new set of training sessions on the ACT planning system.

“Training will start on 6 February 2024 and run to May 2024.

“New training will help you build the practical skills you need to use and interact with the planning system. The sessions on offer are:

- Submitting a Development Application
- Dual occupancy subdivisions in RZ1/RZ2
- Achieving better design outcomes
- Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guide & other considerations
- Understanding the public notifications process

“The full list of session times and registration details will be available on the planning website: planning.act.gov.au/professionals/our-planning-system/training-and-education

Early access to registrations: In the meantime, we are offering you the opportunity to register for the first five training sessions directly through the Eventbrite pages, via the below links:

- [Tuesday 6 February 2024, 11.30am to 12.30pm: Dual Occupancy subdivisions in RZ1/RZ2](#) (online event)
- [Tuesday 13 February 2024, 9.30am to 11am: Achieving better design outcomes](#) (online event)
- [Wednesday 14 February 2024, 2.30pm to 4pm: Submitting a Development Application](#) (online event)
- [Thursday 15 February 2024, 10am to 11am: Understanding the public notifications process](#) (online event)
- [Wednesday 28 February 2024, 1.30pm to 2.30pm: Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guide & other considerations](#) (online event)

Inquiry into the Territory Plan by the Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Evidence was given to this Inquiry on 6 December by the Chair, and by Committee members David Denham Tim Field and Richard Johnston, representing the GNCA and in Richard and Tim's case themselves. A transcript of the evidence can be found at this link. The Committee's report is awaited.

<https://www.hansard.act.gov.au/Hansard/10th-assembly/Committee-transcripts/ptcs37a.pdf>

Meeting with the new Planning Minister

An ISCCC delegation met new planning Minister Chris Steel to discuss issues with the planning system on 12 February. Main points made by the delegation were:

- With major reports due on the Territory Plan and Governance in the next few weeks, the Minister has a golden opportunity to fix some of the major problems of the new planning system.
- 60% of us in the Inner South already live in units or town houses, and many more apartments are on the way. Where is the missing middle?
- We are not opposed to more development or infill, done well. There are plenty of opportunities, eg at Eastlake, Dairy Road, the Brickworks and

the Forestry School. We want to work constructively with the Government on these developments.

- There is scope for more dwellings in RZ 2 zone. This can be done better with block amalgamation.
- We don't support holus bolus redevelopment of our shopping centres - which are much more than just shopping centres - Manuka, Kingston and our local shopping centres are treasured centres of our communities and ecosystems of vital small businesses. They don't deserve the bulldozer and tower blocks.
- Planning outcomes will be better with closer community engagement and clearer appeal processes. Knock down rebuilds need to come within the system, with rights of appeal.
- Heritage areas continue to need special protection. In particular, the exempt development approval pathway must not apply.
- Planning system changes need continuous evaluation and rigorous risk assessment and management. We need more details of the promised review of the new system in Spring 2024

The Minister gave us a very good hearing and indicated that he was happy to work with us as he moved through the issues.

Inquiry into the Territory Budget

ISCCC responded to an invitation to provide input to the ACT's budget process. Our letter is now available on the Government website, with other submissions, at this site

[Input Received - Budget Consultation \(act.gov.au\)](https://www.act.gov.au/act-budget-consultation).

We have also been invited to appear at a Treasury Roundtable about preparations for the ACT budget on 21 February. Colin Walters and Richard Johnston will attend.

Colin Walters
Chair

Agenda for the public forum, 26 February

The coming ACT election: what does the Inner South community want from the new Government?"

Eastlakes Club, 7pm, or by Zoom

Agenda

7pm Forum opens, welcome by the Chair.

7.05 First session:

Planning, housing and preventing the urban heat island effect in the ACT.
Discussion leaders, Richard Johnson, David Denham, Beatrice Bodart-Bailey

7.50 Second session

Transport, including tram, buses, roads and parking
Discussion leader John Bell

8.30 Third session:

Supporting diverse groups in the community, other issues including gardens and parks, finance and rates. (Discussion Leaders Colin Walters, Cordelia Gee)

9.00 Close.