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**KBRG SUBMISSION ON DRAFT DISTRICT STRATEGY – INNER SOUTH 2022 AND DRAFT TERRITORY PLAN 2022**

The Kingston & Barton Residents Group Inc. (KBRG) was formed more than 10 years ago as a voluntary, not for profit, non-political, community organisation that seeks to promote and protect the interests of its local community and the environment. Its Constitution says: “The aim of the KBRG is to ensure the Kingston and Barton area is a great place to live, and to do this by promoting:

- High quality planning, urban design and construction
- The preservation and recognition of the area’s unique heritage character
- The provision of adequate green public open spaces
- Effective transport planning including traffic and parking management, & access for pedestrians & cyclists
- A strong community spirit, and
- Other quality of life matters such as public safety and noise management”

The KBRG Committee endorses the separate submission from our President, Richard Johnston. In particular we are very concerned about the following matters.

**1. DRAFT DISTRICT STRATEGY – INNER SOUTH 2022**

**The government’s draft strategy delivers very little “key infrastructure for the benefit of the local communities”.** As Mr Johnston has pointed out, this should be an important goal of local strategic planning.

The Inner South Canberra Community Council’s ***Inner South Canberra District Planning Strategy – FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR OUR DISTRICT – 2021*** is a much more comprehensive, locally sensitive attempt at a District Strategy. **This should form the basis for a totally revised DRAFT DISTRICT STRATEGY: INNER SOUTH.**

KBRG was the lead group for the ISCCC's *District Planning Strategy* and it required a great deal of voluntary work, with inputs from the other groups in the Inner South and a public workshop with residents. We are very disappointed that the government has apparently ignored this work and the whole range of specific 'Actions' it called for, eg. within KBRG's area of interest:

- Primary and secondary school capacity in the area will need augmentation.
- Much of the utilities infrastructure including kerb and guttering needs upgrading or replacement.
- Shared paths and footpaths need fixing and widening to cater for high level of mixed mode active travel and additional kerb crossings may be required in the vicinity of schools.
- Improve the connectivity between Canberra railway station and the ACT transport network.
- Development at Kingston and Manuka Centres must respect the heritage values of the areas.
- Support Fyshwick transitioning to a diverse mixed-use area. Phase out heavy industrial and polluting activities.
- Fyshwick needs a Masterplan process to prevent *ad hoc* industrial proposals (such as waste processing or freight hubbing) unsuited for the area.
- All public realm to be provided with continuous tree canopy corridors.
- Ensure the heritage urban forest is retained, renewed when trees die, and celebrated.
- Provide substantial tree and other plantings within and connecting to existing parks and wildlife corridors.
- Ensure the needs of younger people living in the Inner South are assessed and reflected in provision of community facilities, including school facilities.
- Improve the safety linkages of cycle paths for all Inner South suburbs for work and recreation.
- Introduce play/recreational areas at Norgrove Park and Bowen Park and provide much needed toilets at Norgrove Park on the Foreshore...
- The Kingston Arts Precinct design should respect the 2014 Master Plan, meet all heritage requirements and maintain significant sight lines to the Powerhouse. The design should also address the heat island effect through the establishment of green open space and tree canopy cover and minimize traffic impacts on Eastlake Parade.
- Improve vehicular access between Canberra Avenue and Monaro Highway to address traffic problems, such as congestion on Ipswich and Newcastle Streets in Fyshwick.

- Improve pedestrian comfort, safety and amenity of local streets by reduced speed limits, more tree planting, upgraded footways, cycleways, street and pathway lighting and seats.
- Prioritise the assessment of the long-standing heritage nominations, including the Manuka Shopping Precinct, Kingston Shops, Kingston Post Office and Jardine Street Commercial Row.
- Identify those significant heritage places in Inner South Canberra that have not yet been nominated for inclusion on the ACT Heritage Register.
- Exclude heritage places and heritage precincts from inclusion in possible urban intensification areas.

## 2. LEADING PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

As Mr Johnston has also pointed out, the proposed new planning system departs radically, and apparently without any clear justification, from the 'Development Assessment Forum' (DAF)'s ***'A Leading Practice Model for Development Assessment in Australia'***, which was a nationally agreed benchmark document.

Under this Model there are ten *'leading practices'* that a development assessment system should exhibit. The current ACT planning system tried to follow these as closely as possible, except that a rigorous process of continuous evaluation and improvement was not instituted. **Problems with the current system should be fixed, rather than this misguided and unjustified attempt to reinvent the wheel!**

## 3. DRAFT TERRITORY PLAN 2022

The KBRG Committee also agrees that this draft plan is unjustifiably complex, voluminous and potentially difficult to apply and administer. The proliferation of 'outcomes' statements is likely to produce confusion, conflict and uncertainty because of the difficulty of assessing compliance and this will **substantially further reduce** the already low levels of confidence and trust of the community in the planning system.

It is also of great concern that most of the 'rules' and 'criteria', which are critical for the community (and ACAT) to use in assessing compliance with planning policies, are to be moved out of the Territory Plan and into non-statutory 'supporting materials', where they can be changed at will without scrutiny by the community and Legislative Assembly and ignored as desired by the non-transparent planning authority, which appears to just doing the bidding of the government and the development industry.

**The KBRG Committee believes this is entirely unacceptable!**