



## Inner South Canberra Community Council

**26 APRIL 2024**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **An election platform for Canberra's Inner South**

The Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) today released its election platform for the Inner South. (see attachment).

Launching the document, ISCCC Chair Colin Walters said “Our platform gives parties and candidates a guide to priorities for the new Government from community organisations in Canberra’s historic heart. The platform contains a trove of good ideas for candidates to consider. Parties and candidates are invited to send us their responses, which we will commit to posting on our website.”

Main features of our platform include:

- reversal of the most damaging of recent changes to the planning laws, with restoration of compulsory rules around key features such as solar access, plot ratio and tree cover. Knock down rebuilds should go through the normal planning laws, so that for example people are not suddenly faced with deep excavations against their boundary. Genuine consultation and continuous evaluation should be foundation principles in the new system.
- New developments in areas such as Eastlake should include public housing built to national standards, plus features such as green walls and EV charging, to counter the effects of global warming. We do not want to see holus bolus high rise redevelopment in our cherished local centres, Kingston, Manuka, Griffith, Red Hill, Deakin and Yarralumla.

Early planning is needed to expand Inner South school capacity and other public facilities to cope with a doubling of our population by the 2060s.

- We ask candidates to explain their plans for public transport in the inner south, with reference to the recent report by John Bell and associates which exposes deep concerns about the light rail project and sets out the alternative case for electric buses. Costings and cost/benefit analyses should be thorough and transparent.
- A Task Force should be established to devise holistic solutions to the many problems experienced by residents of the Oaks Estate, including poor transport links and substandard housing.
- A more vigorous approach is needed to fixing mundane problems such as broken pavers, poor street lighting and dogs off leads, which create obstacles to the mobility of the elderly, people with a disability, and young families.
- The incoming Government must take urgent action to remedy the shortcomings inherited from the current Government in financial management, including the loss of the Territory's three star credit rating, growing debt levels and a string of highly critical audit reports. Rate increases should be limited to CPI. We call for a mandatory risk assessment and management process for every major initiative, including rigorous cost benefit analysis.
- The Government needs frank and independent financial advice. The incoming Government should separate the roles of Chief Minister and Treasurer.
- The new Government should commit sincerely to consultation with the community. "Fix my street" and "Your Say" need to be fixed. Community councils should be fully funded to operate dual in-person and online.

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