



Inner South Canberra Community Council

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Leader of the ACT Greens

Email: rattenbury@act.gov.au

Dear Mr Rattenbury

We write to seek clarification of the Greens' attitude to further changes to Canberra planning zones.

Your national housing spokesman appeared to make your policy clear on ABC Insiders on 18 February. Asked by David Speers about his attitude to the NSW Premier's proposals for changing zoning laws, Mr Max Chandler-Mather indicated that changing zoning laws "won't change a thing...The planning system is not the barrier to fixing the housing crisis....When you rezone land, it drives up the price of that land and puts more money in the pocket of developers." We agree with Mr Chandler-Mather.

We were therefore taken aback by Ms Jo Clay's minority comments in the report of the recent Assembly Committee considering the Territory Plan*, where she recommended permitting residential development in RZ1 zones consistent with the requirement for multi-unit developments in RZ2 zones, and promoting residential development in RZ1 Zones consistent with RZ 2 settings on block consolidation.

You will appreciate that the effect of Ms Clay's proposals, contrary to the national policy announced by Mr Max Chandler-Mather, is effectively to eliminate RZ1 status. This would cause a dramatic loss of tree cover and other vegetation across the city, greatly exacerbating the heat island effect which will become a major problem in Canberra as a result of global warming. It would also have a disastrous effect on the garden city design which is a highly valued feature of our unique city landscape.

We therefore hope you will be able to correct the public record and make clear that the Canberra Greens' policies are in fact those announced by your national housing spokesman.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Forrest
Deputy Chair, Inner South Canberra Community Council
on behalf of the ISCCC
info@isccc.org.au

* https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/2414657/Ms-Jo-Clay-MLA-Additional-Comments.pdf