

## **ACT Government backs down on six-storey apartment buildings for Red Hill**

The Canberra Times February 18 2016 Kirsten Lawson

The ACT government has backed down on the plan to allow six-storey apartment blocks at the Red Hill shops, setting a maximum of four storeys for the buildings that will replace the public housing flats.

The Red Hill shops proposal, which was to have rezoned the site behind the shops to the high-density RZ5 zone, attracted vehement opposition from the community, with 97 submissions, most against the scale of development.

Planning Minister Mick Gentleman approved an alternative zone change for Red Hill on Thursday to allow four-storey blocks.

He also approved zone changes for the ageing Gowrie Court and Stuart Flats public housing units in Narrabundah and Griffith, which are also to be bulldozed to make way for new apartment blocks.

Mr Gentleman said all of the sites were well placed for high-density housing. But while up to six storeys would be allowed at Griffith and Narrabundah, the Red Hill apartments would be limited to four.

La Perouse Street and Cygnet Crescent in Red Hill are also to be included in the government's "street improvement program" to lessen the impact of the extra residents on local roads.

The Red Hill flats were built in 1960, Stuart Flats near Manuka in 1959, and Gowrie Court in Narrabundah in 1959. Between them, there are 362 units - 144 at Red Hill, 146 in the Stuart Flats, and 72 in Gowrie Court.

[More than 1200 apartments are expected once the three blocks are sold and redeveloped](#), although the government has not confirmed this figures.