**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Caroline Le Couteur MLA, ACT Greens Spokesperson for TAMS**

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**Increased public notification for development proposals**

The Assembly has passed amendments to increase public notification for draft variations to the Territory Plan, deconcessionalisation and new houses in older suburbs.

These amendments were based on the *Planning and Development (Public Notification) Amendment Bill* introduced by the Greens to the Assembly in March.

“These amendments give a better balance to the rights of residents to be informed and have a say in developments that affect them with the need for an efficient planning system,” said Caroline Le Couteur, Greens Planning spokesperson.

The bill improves notification in three key areas:

* Requires deconcessionalisation proposals to have pre DA consultation in the same way that major developments will have to have as a result of PABLAB2 which should come into operation shortly
* Requires written notice of draft variations to the Territory Plan to houses within adjourning sections (section is a piece of land bounded by roads – our houses are on blocks within sections);
* For knock-down rebuilds in older suburbs, it requires the proponent of the development proposal to give a written notice, including the plans, to residents of adjoining properties. It will also explain what codes and regulations the plans have to meet.

“People in Canberra want to be able to have a say on planning issues in their neighbourhood, but all too often, they find out about proposals after the date for feedback has passed. These amendments will improve that in a number of key areas,” said Ms Le Couteur.

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