

# Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc.

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Mr Andrew Barr, MLA

Chief Minister

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Mr Shane Rattenbury, MLA

Member for Molonglo

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Mr Steve Doszpot, MLA

Member for Molonglo

[Doszpot@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:Doszpot@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Chief Minister and MLAs,

## **REJECTION OF MANUKA OVAL REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

The Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) is aware that on 18 August 2016 the Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) wrote to Chief Minister Barr seeking release of the letter to Greater Western Sydney and Grocon, the proponents of the redevelopment proposal for Manuka Oval, advising them of the Government's decision to reject their proposal, as announced on Friday 5 August 2016.

As the ISCCC letter stated

*"We presume that the Government has written to the proponents to formally advise of the Government's decision, and the reasons for it. We believe that it would be in the public interest for this letter to be released to the public. In particular, we would like to learn with which of the "Guiding Principles" did the proposal in its final version not comply? This would enable us and others to better understand the Government's thinking give us a better understanding of how the Unsolicited Proposals process works. This improved understanding might permit the saving of much time and effort on the part of the Government, the proponents and the community sector in relation to future unsolicited proposals."*

The GNCA endorses these views and supports the ISCCC request. On 13 September 2016 Mr David Dawes, Director General, Economic Development in the Chief Minister's Directorate, replied to the ISCCC, advising that *"The GWS Giants has (sic) been consulted and verbally briefed of the decision not to progress its Stage 2 Business Case. The government has confirmed the decision in writing following the completion of the consultation process with the Giants about the reasons for the proposal not being successful."*

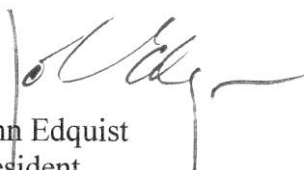
We are somewhat surprised that Mr Dawes has failed to provide a copy of the letter requested or even acknowledge that such a request had been made. Mr Dawes advises that he is replying because the ACT Government is currently under caretaker arrangements. Given the requirement for good governance and transparency in Government, the GNCA does not see this as justification for this failure to make public a letter relating to the implementation of administrative procedures.

The GNCA believes that there would be substantial public benefit from the letter being immediately released, as was requested by the ISCCC on 5 August, some two months ago.

Importantly, GNCA asks each of the addressees of this letter to publicly advise how they will address this issue, including what actions they will take and within what timeframe, following the election.

We look forward to your advice on this matter.

Yours sincerely



John Edquist  
President

9 October 2016