

GRIFFITH/NARRABUNDAH COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

PO Box 4127 MANUKA ACT 2603

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2

6 December 2000

CONSULTANT'S PROPOSALS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The two presentations conducted at the O'Connell Centre on Tuesday last week by the ACT Government consultants, SKCM, were most disappointing and a real cause for concern about the future of Section 7 Griffith.

Despite the Consultants' own findings that:

- the current area of useable open space available to Griffith/Narrabundah residents is well below the norm for other Canberra suburbs, and
- the vast majority (some 85%) of the local community wants to preserve the area as open space and for community use and is opposed to any residential development on the site;

five of the six options proposed by SKCM involve the development of a minimum of 78, and as many as 215, medium density townhouses on Section 78 - with a significant reduction to the existing area of available open space in every case!

The sixth option is to leave Section 78 as it is. However, the Consultants warned against this - on the basis that the government is unlikely to be prepared to maintain the site to an acceptable standard!

Absolutely no consideration has been given by the Consultants to any options for possible community use of Section 78 other than retaining a library facility.

SKCM's FOCUS APPEARS TO BE ON RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Consultants appear to have narrowed their focus to four options, all involving residential development. From this, we can only conclude that **SKCM will be recommending the development of townhouses on what is now community land - irrespective of the community's objections.** Apart from promising a library facility, none of these four options accord with our agreed community goals. (See Newsletter #1).

WE MUST RESIST THE LOSS OF OUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE

Your Committee has already written to the consultants recommending they prepare another option that:

- increases the area of usable open space available to the community
- preserves the remainder of Section 78 for community facilities

and requested that the feasibility study process be delayed until this has occurred.

Your Committee has also written to the Chief Minister, Gary Humphries, asking that he address the local community on why Section 78 Griffith is one of the only two open space sites singled out for residential infill. We are awaiting his response before organising our next public meeting.

FURTHER ACTION IS ESSENTIAL

The Committee's actions alone will not be enough! Our politicians must be made aware of the depth of public feeling about the potential loss of our community assets and space. They must also be made aware that the most significant findings of the 'consultative process' undertaken by SKCM have been ignored and that the six options proposed by the Consultants for Section 78 thus far are unacceptable.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please write to or fax all of your MLAs as soon as possible expressing your concerns about the future of Section 78 Griffith, in particular, the Consultants' proposals for residential development on the site and the consequent loss of community facilities and available open space. The more mail your politicians receive from their constituents on this issue, the more seriously they will consider their positions in supporting you.

Please copy your letters and faxes to the consultants, SKCM Pty Ltd, so that they receive a formal expression of your objections to their proposals. Alternatively, write separately to the Consultants expressing your views.

To assist you, the members for the Molonglo electorate (other than Kate Carnell) are:

Simon Corbell (Labor)
Phone: 6205 0000
Fax: 6205 0535

Michael Moore (Independent)
Phone: 6205 0166
Fax: 6205 0431

Greg Cornwell (Liberal)
Phone: 6205 0110
Fax: 6205 3002

Ted Quinlan (Labor)
Phone: 6205 0001
Fax: 6205 0135

Gary Humphries (Liberal)
Phone: 6205 0133
Fax: 6205 0427

Kerrie Tucker (ACT Greens)
Phone: 6205 0161
Fax: 6205 0007

The Mailing Addresses are:

(Member's Name)
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Smith Kostyrko Cohen Middleton Pty Ltd
PO Box 3506
Phillip ACT 2606

Western Creek 2611

MORE INFORMATION

If you were unable to attend one of the Consultants' presentations on 28 November 2000, or you would like more information about the Consultants findings and options proposed, please feel free to contact either:

Mr Frank Mestrov — Ph: 6295 1152
Ms Trish Bootes — Ph: 6295 9663