

## Election is October 20

### **Please help save the Griffith Library, Throsby Park, and Our Community Facilities and Land**

Our group, now with nearly 1000 members, has asked all 41 candidates in the Molonglo Electorate for their positions on several issues, including the proposed residential and commercial development on public land known as Griffith Section 78. Section 78 includes the former Griffith Primary School (now housing the Griffith Library and some government offices); the O'Connell Education Centre; the adjacent oval area; and Throsby Park (the area behind the Griffith Shops, including a children's playground).

**Before you vote, please take a moment to review our summary of the candidates' positions on the next page.**

### **Background on proposed residential and commercial development of Section 78**

#### **The Government's Proposal**

The ACT Government released a draft plan in April 2001 that proposed selling off large portions of the public land in Section 78 for development of 55 dwellings, some including commercial uses. A *Variation to the Territory Plan* would be required to change such public land to "Residential Land" or "Commercial Land". The draft plan proposed to:

**DEMOLISH** the former Griffith Primary School, (including the Griffith Library) for 23 two-storey townhouses and 6 houses.

**TAKE AWAY** more than **HALF** of Throsby Park for 26 two-storey, small "terraced houses". Commercial uses would be permitted in the row closest to the shops.

**Retain "Community Facility Land" designation on the O'Connell Education Centre (OEC) site.** The educational functions of the OEC will soon be moved elsewhere. But the future of the existing building is uncertain and the government will not say what will happen to the building.

**Leave a possible location for a smaller Library on the O'Connell Centre site** (where the existing OEC meeting hall is). But the government has not put their verbal commitment in writing despite a number of requests from the community.

**Designate the oval as "Urban Open Space" Land.**

#### **The Public's Reaction**

The government received 351 written submissions on the draft plan, and on 6 September they released a *Report of the Consultation Process*. The report showed that the vast majority of respondents were opposed to residential and commercial development on Section 78. Our group told the government that we thought there were significant defects in the report. Most importantly, we considered that there was a serious lack of balance in part of the report because it contained only minimal discussion and analysis of the issues raised by the community, yet it gives considerable weight to the defence of the draft plan.

### **The Government is ignoring the public and pushing forward with development plans**

ACT Urban Services Minister Brendan Smyth announced on 19 July his intention to push forward with a draft *Variation to the Territory Plan* for the redevelopment of Griffith Section 78. He said "The next stage will involve a more detailed assessment of needs for community facilities in Griffith and other areas within South Canberra", and "Following this, a design forum involving key urban designers and community members will be held to identify the best design and planning outcome for this site. The results will form the basis of a Preliminary Assessment (PA) and a draft *Variation to the Territory Plan*."

The announcement shows that the Government's position is ignoring the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the community, and our group's goals.

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### **Boys-only School on Section 78?**

In a meeting with Education Minister Bill Stefaniak on 21 September, he said he could not provide any definite information about a Boys-only school. He said one or both of the former schools or school sites on Section 78 are being considered. The fact that the Government is considering those facilities certainly undermines their previous argument that the school buildings and school sites would never be needed for schools in the future.

## **Planning the ACT Together (PACTT) Rally**

Saturday, 13 October, 10:30am

Civic Square in front of the ACT Legislative Assembly  
Speakers will include some of your elected representatives and spokespersons of community groups concerned with planning issues, urban infill, preservation of open spaces etc.

## **Griffith Spring Fair**

Saturday, 20 October, 10am to 3pm

At the Griffith Shops

Our group will be participating in the Fair. Please show up and support our local community. Music, food, games, entertainment for kids etc.

### **Visit Our New Website**

Our new website should be up and running very soon.

[www.savethegreen.org.au](http://www.savethegreen.org.au)

### **Please Join Us**

If you would like to join our group, please contact our Vice President, Trish Bootes, at 6295 9663 or our Treasurer, Frank Mestrov, at 6295 1152.



# How do your Molonglo candidates rate on our community's issues?

Questions put to each candidate by the Griffith/ Narrabundah Community Action Group	What is your position on the ACT Government's proposals to develop commercial medium density housing on Section 78 Griffith? Do you support the proposal?	If elected, will you vote to retain existing community facilities/land on Section 78 Griffith for current and future use by existing and future generations, and to prevent their expropriation for commercial development?	If elected, will you vote to ensure the 1977, reconfirmed in 1985, NCDC Agreement with the Griffith/ Narrabundah community which guaranteed to retain 2/3rds of Throsby Park as undeveloped parkland, is honoured in full by the ACT Government?	Do you support, and if elected, will you vote for the retention of a full library service on Section 78, Griffith?	If elected, will you vote to ensure the area of designated "urban open space land", including the valued stand of trees on Section 78 Griffith is retained and not, as the ACT Government has stated it is considering, made available for development?	If elected, will you vote to ensure the former playing fields/oval on Sec 78 Griffith are protected from any proposal which is inconsistent with retaining this land for active and passive recreational activities for current and future generations?
Responses by Candidates for the Electorate of Molonglo:						
A. Australian Democrats – Eric Bray, Jane Errey, Stella Jones, Isabel Walters						
All candidates	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
B. Liberal Party - Jacqui Burke, Greg Cornwell, Helen Cross, Gary Humphries, Amalia Matheson, Mark Spill, Manuel Xyrakis						
Response provided by Chief Minister's office for all candidates.	Position same as present ACT Government. Dependent on outcome of ongoing consultation, we support some residential development.	Non-committal, dependent on outcome of ongoing consultation.	Did not answer the question.	Dependent on outcome of consultation, we support retention of a library, although not necessarily in the same building.	Non-committal, dependent on outcome of ongoing consultation.	Non-committal, dependent on outcome of ongoing consultation.
C. Liberal Democratic Party - Brett Graham, John Purnell-Webb, Duncan Spender						
Brett Graham	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
John Purnell-Webb	"Position... is one of trepidation".	Will vote for land usage which best supports living standards.	Government must uphold agreements.	Should remain if it provides "a necessary amenity".	Use of "Urban Open Space land" should be looked at on its merits.	If oval is necessary for current needs, then it should be maintained.
Duncan Spender – No response received.						
D. Gungahlin Equality Party - Jonathon Reynolds, Ian Ruecroft						
Both candidates	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
E. Nurses Good Government Party - Phillip Hickox, Robyn Staniforth						
Both candidates	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
F. Canberra First Party - Claire James, Nancy Louise McCullough, Joel Pasternak, Lucinda Spier						
All candidates	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
G. Pamela Ayson, Tania Gelonesi						
Both candidates	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
H. Australian Labor Party - Simon Corbell, Katy Gallagher, Fred Leftwich, John O'Keefe, Ted Quinlan, Marion Reilly, Christina Ryan						
All candidates	Opposed to Liberals' proposal	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
I. Hilary Back, Melanie Marshall						
No response received from either candidate.						
J. Kaine Independent Group - Colin Cartwright, Alan Parker						
Both candidates	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
K. The Act Greens - Deb Foskey, Michael Nolan, Kerrie Tucker, Victoria Young						
All candidates	NO	YES	Will vote to keep Throsby Park for contemporary value of open space rather than on NCDC agreement.	YES	YES	YES
L. Ian Black, Marnie Black						
Both candidates	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

The order of parties, groups and candidates on this chart is based on information provided by Elections ACT.  
Responses received as at COB 4/10/01. Candidates' full responses can be provided on request to Trish Bootes, 6295 9663.  
Authored and authorised by Trish Bootes, 44 Stuart Street, Griffith ACT 2603