



Mick Gentleman MLA

MINISTER FOR PLANNING
MINISTER FOR ROADS AND PARKING
MINISTER FOR WORKPLACE SAFETY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
MINISTER FOR AGEING

MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 7 May 2015 about E-petition No. 4-15 lodged by Mr Rattenbury MLA on behalf of 123 Australian Capital Territory residents and Petition No. 5-15 lodged by Mr Rattenbury MLA on behalf of 1142 Australian Capital Territory residents.

I understand that both petitions draw to the attention of the Assembly that immediate action needs to be taken to protect the Dickson shopping centre and Dickson library, together with associated health/postal/banking and other services, and halt all planned development activity in the shopping centre's main car park (Block 21 Section 30) and the heritage buffer that surrounds the adjoining library.

The petitioners, therefore, request that the Assembly and members of the ACT Public Service's Environment and Planning Directorate and Economic Development Directorate do not approve any new major site works or the sale of further public land until a full and independent impact assessment has been completed and made publicly available.

The planning and land authority is an independent planning body whose role is to undertake independent assessments of all development applications. As the proposed development is a Merit Track application there is no legislative requirement or obligation to undertake an impact assessment. The planning and land authority rigorously assesses Merit track applications and considers the impacts during the assessment. On this basis the planning and land authority's process is consistent with the petition statement.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Section 120 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* requires the planning and land authority to consider each public representation received, and the probable impact of the proposed development.

Subsequent to the submission of the petition, on 20 May 2015, after extensive assessment and consideration of representations, the planning and land authority refused the development application.

The proponent now has the opportunity to lodge a reconsideration application, or to appeal the decision of the planning and land authority.

I appreciate the concerns raised through this petition, and I trust that the planning and land authority's decision demonstrates to the citizens of the Australian Capital Territory that the concerns of representors, and the probable impacts of a development of this nature, are indeed considered carefully.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MG', is written over a horizontal line.

Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning
4th August 2015