



Andrew Barr MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER

MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER FOR URBAN RENEWAL

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND EVENTS

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan ^{Tom}

I refer to your letter of 4 June 2015 regarding petition number 6-15 lodged by Mr Steve Doszpot MLA and received by the Legislative Assembly on 2 June 2015.

My response to this petition for tabling is at Attachment A.

Yours sincerely


Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

10 SEP 2015

*Rec'd 10/9/15
AK*

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6205 0011 Fax: (02) 6205 0157 Email: barr@act.gov.au
Facebook: Andrew.Barr.MLA Twitter: @ABarrMLA



Petition to the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory No 6-15 ledged by Mr Steve Doszpot MLA on 1 June 2015.

Regarding: Petition to

- **Cease all actions pertaining to the Block 5 Section 36 Division of Forrest, on which the Telopea Park School Tennis Courts reside;**
- **Reserve the decision to rezone and redevelop the land; and**
- **Issue a new lease to the Education and Training Directorate for the express use of the Telopea Park School**

Petition: To the speaker and Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

This petition of certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory draws the attention of the Assembly that:

In February of this year, the ACT Government made the decision to acquire approximately one third (1/3) of Telopea Park School's sporting fields as part of the land swap deal undertaken for urban renewal initiatives (Block 5 Section 36, Division of Forrest). The Canberra Times reported this decision as having been made on February 13th, 2015. The Telopea Park School Parents and Citizens Association sought confirmation of this decision by writing to the ACT Government that same month. However, the association was only informed officially of the ACT Government's decision and the impact it would have on the school community on 9th April, 2015. In these communications, it has been clearly stated that due diligence on the block and traffic assessments were not performed prior to this decision being made, nor were they done before the lease was transferred to the LDA. Not only was this decision taken without prior public consultation, it has also removed the community's right to respond to planning and decision making that directly affects their lives.

The Telopea Park School Playing Fields, Block 5, Section 36, is currently utilised by the school to deliver its curriculum and promote the sporting development of its more than 1200 students. The loss of this land will result in reduced open space for sporting facilities as well as both structured and unstructured active play. In an increasing "screen-based" world, these outdoor physical activities, and the space for which to do them, are vital for healthy growth and development; improving movement, balance, coordination; and promoting the teamwork and social skills of our youth.

Your petitioners therefore request the Assembly to:

- Cease all actions pertaining to the Block 5 Section 36 Division of Forrest, on which the Telopea Park School Tennis Courts reside;
- Reserve the decision to rezone and redevelop the land; and
- Issue a new lease to the Education and Training Directorate for the express use of the Telopea Park School.

Response:

The Canberra Services Club, which is adjacent to Manuka Oval (Block 1, Section 15 Griffith), burned down in 2011. Since this time, the ACT Government has been working with the Club to find a suitable location for the club to rebuild.

The Canberra Services Club has entered into a partnership with the Canberra Club and a Memorandum of Understanding with Defence Housing Australia (DHA) to develop a mixed use precinct that would include the Club, other commercial development and residential development.

The Land Development Agency (LDA) identified Block 2 and 5, Section 41 Griffith, part of which currently houses a building rented by the Manuka Occasional Childcare Association (MOCCA), as a suitable location for the new Services Club development. The land is owned by the ACT Government and the childcare centre currently pays a peppercorn rent of five (5) cents a year. The site is ideal for a mixed use development which would add to the commercial centre of Manuka.

MOCCA was informed by the Education and Training Directorate (ETD) in September 2014 that, in order to facilitate the proposal, they would need to relocate and that a new site would be identified for them. The LDA identified the tennis courts on Montgomery Oval as the most suitable site near to Manuka. At the time, MOCCA welcomed the site and indicated they were comfortable with the location.

Montgomery Oval is owned by the ACT Government, and Telopea Park School currently uses the site for sporting lessons. ETD agreed to its transfer to the LDA on 28 January 2015, and the school was informed on 17 February 2015. MOCCA was informed of the new site in February 2015 and greeted the announcement positively.

The Office of the Coordinator General, responsible for delivering the project, has investigated alternative locations for MOCCA. The Office identified Blocks 33, 39 and part of Block 34, Section 78, Griffith, behind the Griffith Shops on Throsby Lane, as an alternative site. Investigations will continue to facilitate MOCCA's relocation to this site.

As the tennis courts at Montgomery Oval are no longer required for MOCCA, the lease will be granted to ETD. In the spirit of maintaining access to open space in the inner south, the tennis courts will be available for use by the whole community.