

<p>GUNG AHLIN ELECTION ISSUES For the 20th October 2001 ACT Election</p> <p>The Gungahlin Community Council Inc. (GCC) is a non political body.</p> <p>This document has been developed to allow voters to gain an overall appreciation of the commitment that parties and candidates have to the Gungahlin area. The summary notes provided are not meant to give advantage to any political party or independent candidate.</p> <p>These notes should be used for Gungahlin residents to compare answers by each party for the issues that they believe are of importance to them and the community. Residents should understand that each of the answers contained on this sheet, is a very condensed version of the policies that the individual parties have produced. If further information is required, it may be necessary to make contact with the party office, or in the case of an independent candidate, contact their representative.</p> <p>It is not our intention to influence voters in the way that they vote, or who they should vote for. However, it is our intent to make politicians accountable for any lack in appreciation of the needs expressed by the Gungahlin community.</p> <p>Each political party has been issued with a copy of these summarised notes for their comment, as it is not our intention to misinterpret statements or create false expectations.</p> <p>Issues not considered to be specific to Gungahlin, or linked to Gungahlin interests have not been addressed. For this reason residents who require information about issues not raised at council meetings, will need to obtain information from other sources.</p> <p>From feedback received at our meetings many residents indicate that they feel Gungahlin may be expected to accept conditions inferior to other areas of the ACT. The GCC believes that politicians should be aware of the issues, and act responsively.</p> <p>Residents of Gungahlin have a reasonable expectation that their living and working environment will be provided with services and facilities comparable to other areas of the ACT.</p> <p>GCC meetings provide a public, non political forum where residents are invited to express their expectations, concerns and ideas for the area. GCC undertakes to promote awareness and action related to matters raised by the community.</p> <p>The residents of Gungahlin and others who work in the area (or have vested interests associated with the Gungahlin area) are invited to attend GCC meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Gungahlin Community Resource Centre. Meetings commence at 7.30pm with information about the meeting posted at the Gungahlin Marketplace prior to the meeting.</p> <p>For more information contact 6242 0672 or info@gcc.asn.au</p>
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THE ISSUE as raised by Gungahlin residents	ACT Liberal Party (17 candidates) Currently 6 members in the ACT Legislature	ACT Labor Party (17 candidates) Currently 6 members in the ACT Legislature	ACT Greens (8 candidates) Currently 1 member in the ACT Legislature	The Kaine Independent Group (4 candidates) Currently 1 in the ACT Legislature	Gungahlin Equality Party (4 candidates) Currently no members in the ACT Legislature
EMPLOYMENT Demonstrate a commitment to plan and establish an employment base in the Gungahlin Town Centre, comparable to other town centres established throughout the ACT. Provide detail of your party's plans to locate a significant government workforce and/ or provide encouragement for private employers to establish employment opportunities in the Gungahlin Town Centre and Mitchell	EMPLOYMENT We have announced plans to establish the Canberra Connect call centre initially employing approximately 48 staff. The Gungahlin Development Authority estimates that, when the proposed Magnet Mart opens, total employment in the Town Centre will be around 1,000 people, employed in businesses and organizations that the Canberra Liberals have attracted to Gungahlin. We will continue to use every opportunity to attract employers to set up in Gungahlin.	EMPLOYMENT In April 2000 Labor reaffirmed its commitment to developing an employment strategy for the Gungahlin Town Centre. This strategy will allow consideration of incentives such as stamp duty concessions to attract employment opportunities. We will relocate the ACTTAB HQ to Gungahlin to provide 30 permanent jobs. ACT Labor will work with a Federal Labor Government to locate a Commonwealth Department in Gungahlin	EMPLOYMENT Very committed to establishing more employment in Gungahlin. Will push for ACT Government agencies to move there when seeking new office accommodation. GENERAL The Greens are committed to shifting the balance in the Assembly towards ecological sustainability and social justice. Further information about the Greens can be obtained from our website www.act.greens.org.au	EMPLOYMENT ACT Government bodies regularly relocate as leases expire and operations change. We believe that annual planning should require that some of these bodies go to Gungahlin when moves become necessary. That will entail building some accommodation. Government incentives should be available to encourage private sector businesses to locate in Gungahlin.	EMPLOYMENT We believe that there is a need for the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for employment that will allow all areas of the ACT to have equitable opportunities and status. There is a need for Gungahlin and Mitchell to be identified as disadvantaged areas requiring urgent actions to overcome the current problems and provide long-term solutions. We will oppose any government which is not committed to strategies that will encourage responsible and equitable employment and development.
EDUCATION Currently Gungahlin does not have facilities to provide Years 11 and 12 education for Gungahlin students. What is your party's commitment for establishing a college in Gungahlin.	EDUCATION We will establish a college in Gungahlin as soon as the population is large enough. In the interim, Gungahlin students are among the major beneficiaries of the Government's free School Student Travel Scheme.	EDUCATION Labor will redirect the \$27M allocated for free school buses back into education to benefit all ACT students. We are committed to continuity of education in Gungahlin and establishing a college as indicated by student numbers.	EDUCATION Will support the building of a college in an accessible location in Gungahlin to be ready in time for when student numbers are sufficient.	EDUCATION Planning should be in place to ensure the establishment of year 11/12 facilities in Gungahlin as increasing student numbers justify them. We will seek to have financial provision made for this in the Capital Works Program and Budgets.	EDUCATION GEP recognise the need for education in Gungahlin to include facilities for Years 11 and 12 at this time. We can not accept the continuing delays in providing local options for students and we will agitate for immediate construction of facilities.
ROADS and INFRASTRUCTURE The current road network to take Gungahlin residents to their places of work is sub-standard to other areas of the ACT. What are your party's plans for overcoming these problems. The current cycle of "construction - demolition - reconstruction" of road and infrastructure can not be either efficient or cost effective. What commitment will your party give to correct this waste of resources and providing adequate roads and infrastructure for the Gungahlin area.	ROADS and INFRASTRUCTURE The Canberra Liberals have developed a five year roads plan to improve roads across Canberra. We recently persuaded the Assembly to approve a route for the Gungahlin Drive extension. Other parts of the roads plan relevant to Gungahlin include the Gungahlin Drive duplication, Flemington Road extension and building Horsepark Drive.	ROADS and INFRASTRUCTURE Labor will urgently construct the community (western) option for Gungahlin Drive and will complete the extension of Horsepark Drive.	ROADS and INFRASTRUCTURE Will push for initiatives that widen transport options, eg Horse Park Drive and Majura Road, widening of Barton Highway and Northbourne Avenue, but do not support the Gungahlin Drive Extension because of its negative impact on Bruce and O'Connor Ridges The ACT Greens will push for the duplication of William Slim Drive and the installation of bus lanes on Northbourne Avenue.	ROADS and INFRASTRUCTURE The planning and construction of roads and associated infrastructure requires long-term rather than ad hoc decision making. We will pressure Government to prepare and publicise their plans, with a timetable to achieve them. This again requires commitment in the Capital Works Program and Budgets.	ROADS and INFRASTRUCTURE The current waste of resources associated with roads and infrastructure is an issue for all ACT communities. The GEP will not support a government without sound policies that will prevent the waste of resources and the short-term planning attitudes which currently exist. We support the view that Gungahlin road networks are inadequate and shifting the bottle-neck is not a solution. We support the extension of Gungahlin Drive along the western route but we are aware that this road, in isolation, has limited benefit.
PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT The current planning and development processes have not produced quality results for Gungahlin residents. What policies does your party have that will improve planning and development standards and outcomes - including improved community consultation.	PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT The planning of the former ALP Government let to outcomes in Gungahlin well below that expected in Canberra. We have developed ACTCode which provides wide streets, wide street verges and abundant street trees. The planning for the six new suburbs of North Gungahlin reflects this new approach.	PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT Labor will establish an independent planning and land management authority that will deliver improved planning outcomes. We will restore land development to the public sector and introduce an independent Planning Appeals Commission. Labor will introduce a Suburbs Master plans and Neighbourhood Planning Groups.	PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT Will push for review of the design and siting controls in ACTCode2, expanded appeal rights, and strong tree protection laws to ensure high quality, ecologically sustainable housing. Will consider establishment of a LAPAC for Gungahlin.	PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT We believe that existing legislation is generally adequate, as are the standards and processes for development. The problem appears to lie mostly in the Government's failure to consult widely and then respond to the community's views. We will, therefore, seek to strengthen the processes of community consultation.	PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT The outcomes from current development strategies have proved to be of limited value for any one other than developers. GEP will undertake to promote policies that encourage community consultation and response to reflect community values. Quality outcomes can be achieved if policies are not focused on \$ return only.
PUBLIC TRANSPORT Bus fares for Gungahlin residents are the highest (per kilometer) in the ACT. What policy does your party have that will correct this situation and achieve improvements in the current bus service. What other public transport initiatives does your party propose.	PUBLIC TRANSPORT School bus services, for those eligible, are now free and it is cheaper for children to travel using other bus services. Ticket prices for other low income earners such as students, apprentices and pensioners are also cheaper.	PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACT Labor will ensure that public transport is equitable, sustainable and affordable. Details of the policy will be released closer to the election. Labor will introduce a single zone bus fare for school students.	PUBLIC TRANSPORT Will drop the zonal bus fare system and replace with a single time-based fare. Will push for increased services to Gungahlin and bus-only lanes between Gungahlin town centre, Civic and Belconnen, and for a feasibility study of an eventual light-rail system to link all town centres.	PUBLIC TRANSPORT A continued reliance on buses in Canberra will condemn us indefinitely to inefficiency and dissatisfaction. We favor a light rail network, with buses providing a feeder system to that network. Planning for such a system is long overdue. Gungahlin should be the first town centre to be served.	PUBLIC TRANSPORT GEP supports public transport as an important part of any transport strategy for the ACT community. We propose changing the current 3 zones to 2 (being north and south of Lake Burley Griffin). The area including Civic, Russell, Barton and Fyshwick should be a shared zone. The bus fare structure must be attractive.
COMMUNITY FACILITIES The following items have been identified as issues that require resources. What is your party's policy on each of these items: 1. Additional facilities at Yerribi Park; 2. Child care facilities in Gungahlin; 3. Replacement of Palmerston hall (this temporary building was shifted there for 2 years - this was 8 years ago); 4. Additional local area facilities for teenagers in areas where there is limited open areas, or an identified need. 5. Development of the Gold Creek Homestead and the surrounding property to retain community ownership and public use.	COMMUNITY FACILITIES 1. Currently there is an adventure playground and skate park at Yerribi Park. 2. We are building a nsw 90 place childcare centre in the Gungahlin Town Centre, which should be ready in October 2002. 3. The Gungahlin Community and Youth Centre and Library opened in May to replace temporary facilities such as Palmerston Hall. 4. We opened a new Youth Centre in May and we are helping community groups such as the Scouts and Eagles Rugby Club to set up facilities. 5. The Liberals will not support any proposal which does not protect the homestead's heritage values or amenity of residents.	COMMUNITY FACILITIES Labor is aware of the chronic shortage of childcare facilities in Gungahlin. We will establish new sites for facilities as a priority. Labor will provide demountable facilities as a stop gap measure at existing child care centres. We will consult with the community to develop plans for a permanent hall at Palmerston and facilities at Yerribi Park. Labor will work with the community to provide additional open space and identify other issues to be addressed. Labor will preserve Gold Creek Homestead as a community asset, free from residential development.	COMMUNITY FACILITIES Will support the establishment of all the facilities identified in order to assist the growing Gungahlin population, with the long-awaited Palmerston Hall to be a priority The Greens have supported campaigns against "sell off" of the Gold Creek Homestead and wish to retain the site as a community facility eg a City Farm.	COMMUNITY FACILITIES Community facilities of all kinds (including those mentioned) should be provided to a plan as the community grows, and hopefully, in time to meet the need. There is no excuse for failure to do this, and proper planning would ensure that communities do not wait years for such essential services. We will seek to have specific provision made immediately in budgets and works programs for the facilities specifically mentioned.	COMMUNITY FACILITIES Community facilities throughout the ACT must reflect community needs and be provided before crisis situations occur. Gungahlin has not been provided with facilities that have been taken for granted in other areas of the ACT. The GEP is aware of the urgent need for additional childcare facilities in the Gungahlin area and will actively promote solutions for this situation. We also support the additional facilities at Yerribi Park, replacement of Palmerston Hall and facilities for teenagers. The GEP strongly supports community ownership, management and development of the Gold Creek Homestead site.
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Gungahlin is the only area in the ACT where the community is split into two electorates. This situation restricts Gungahlin residents' ability to obtain reasonable representation on issues affecting the area. What is your party's policy on this position, and what can be done to correct this situation?	ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES The electoral boundaries for the ACT's three electorates are drawn up by the ACT Electoral Commission according to a range of criteria including community of interest. Its most important criteria is to ensure that each electorate is within a population range. As the Electoral Commission is rightly independent, we can make no comment on this issue.	ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES The division of Gungahlin into two electorates was determined by the Electoral Commission. With ALP representatives in both the Ginninderra and Molonglo electorates Gungahlin residents will achieve double representation. However, in future redistributions, wishes of the residents and the integrity of Gungahlin will be promoted as a major consideration.	ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Have pushed for increasing the size of the Assembly to 3 electorates of 7 members each to enable the Assembly to act more effectively. Agree that the electoral boundaries should not divide particular towns wherever possible.	ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Electoral boundaries are determined by the Electoral Commission and are drawn to maintain the appropriate balance of electors in the three ACT electorates. Boundaries change as demographics change. We do not see an alternative to this. Similar disparities do occur elsewhere, eg, Torrens, Pearce and Chifley have long been part of the Brindabella Electorate.	ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES GEP will support any changes to electoral boundaries that will improve representation for the ACT community. We believe that Gungahlin has been poorly represented by the major political parties and members of the Legislature of Assembly. The current electoral boundaries have no logical purpose and divide a community with many common issues. This situation must be corrected.
MORE INFORMATION Where can we get more information?	For more information contact or www .	For more information contact Michael Kerrisk (tel: 6247 4066) or www.act.alp.org.au	For more information contact 6247 6305 or www.act.greens.org.au	For more information contact or www .	For more information contact 6253 8027 or www.GungahlinEquality.org