



Gungahlin Community Council Inc.
PO Box 260 Gungahlin ACT 2912

27 April 2021

Mick Gentleman
Minister for Planning
gentleman@parliament.act.gov.au

CC: Yerrabi MLAs

Call to Suspend the Sale of Land within the Gungahlin Town Centre

Dear Minister Gentleman (Mick)

The Gungahlin Community Council (GCC) was disappointed that you were unable to accept our invitation to attend our public meeting on Wednesday 14 April 2021. We appreciate your office's efforts to secure appropriate representatives from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) to speak in your place, including the Chief Planner Ben Ponton, Leslie Cameron and Bruce Fitzgerald.

The GCC does not believe the questions we provided in our invitation relating to planning have been answered, and in fact raised more concerns about whether the current planning system will deliver a viable town centre for Gungahlin. We therefore ask that you:

- a) **respond in writing** to our letter dated 23 March 2021 as a matter of urgency, and
- b) **suspend the sale of land within the Gungahlin Town Centre** until all the recommendations of the [Gungahlin Town Centre Planning Refresh Community Engagement Report](#) are addressed, Draft Variation 364 has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Planning, and the ACT assembly motion on the Gungahlin Town Centre has been actioned.

You may wish to consider the following concerns arising from our meeting of 14 April:

- Why has DV364 taken so long to progress, and in particular how was it possible that the interim effect lapsed in August 2020 ?
- Why has DV364 not progressed in the months since October 2020 ? Some of the documents now posted online are dated in September and October 2020, but it appears there was no further progress until the GCC wrote to the minister in March 2021.
- Why has the ["new" interim effect](#) been applied differently in the West and East of the town centre and what was the rationale for doing so ?
- Why was there such poor communication through the life of DV364; no updates were provided when the interim effect lapsed or when the update was posted online, even to respondents ?

Following our public meeting, we learned that you have advised Suzanne Orr MLA that you expect to provide an update to the ACT Assembly regarding the Gungahlin Town Centre Motion by the last sitting day in 2021

(understood to be 2 December 2021). The GCC, on behalf of the Gungahlin community, considers this to be an **unacceptably long delay and ask that you prioritise a response to the motion.**

Finally, we would like to extend an invitation to you to attend our 9 June public meeting. If this date is not possible, please advise a date prior to 30 June 2021, Tuesday-Thursday, 6:30pm, when we can specifically schedule a meeting for you to speak to the Gungahlin community about planning issues.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Elford
President, GCC
0401890387
president@gcc.asn.au