



Mick Gentleman MLA

Manager of Government Business

Minister for Planning and Land Management

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

Member for Brindabella

21/36884

Mr Peter Elford

President

Gungahlin Community Council Inc.

president@gcc.asn.au

Dear Mr Elford 

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Gungahlin Town Centre.

The Government was pleased to support Mr Andrew Braddock MLA's amended motion in the ACT Legislative Assembly, particularly the aspects involving greater community consultation in land sales and ongoing planning for the Gungahlin Town Centre.

I have been advised by the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) that it responded to you on 6 May 2021 regarding the Gungahlin Community Council's call to suspend land sales in the town centre.

The SLA also advised me that it will provide you with an opportunity to collaborate on the place planning of future land releases in the town centre. This would include engagement on how the sale of these blocks are brought to the market, the provision of open space and interface with the linear park area and future public realm, to provide the opportunity to give direction to future developers and address community needs and commercial options available on future sites.

I referred Draft Variation 364 (DV364) to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services for consideration on 31 March 2021. On 8 April 2021 the Committee agreed to conduct an inquiry into the draft variation. The Committee is currently taking submissions and has six months to report. I look forward to receiving the Committee's report in due course, following its public inquiry.

Details about the inquiry are available at: www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees/inquiries.

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As Minister I must consider any recommendations of the committee, prior to taking action under section 76 of the Act. This action may include approval of the draft variation or returning it to EPSDD to undertake any number of actions, including undertaking further consultation, consideration of any revision I suggest, revision in a stated way or withdrawing the draft variation.

Interim effect for DV364 has been re-applied but only to the mixed-use North-West precinct, in the vicinity of Gribble and Swain Streets. The proposed changes in the draft variation applying to the mixed-use East precinct, including reducing the amount of land for commercial offices and permitting residential in the central part of the area, does not have interim effect and, therefore, does not apply.

On 11 May 2021, I made a Ministerial Statement to the Legislative Assembly where I put on the public record that the Government will formally respond to the Assembly resolution of 10 February 2021 by the last sitting day in 2021. This timeframe is to permit the Standing Committee an opportunity to conduct its inquiry into the Draft Variation. The Government will respond to any recommendations made by the Standing Committee. The Government's response to the resolution will, in part, be informed by the Standing Committee's report into the Draft Variation and the submissions it receives.

As representatives of the directorate advised the Community Council on 14 April 2021, the directorate has already commenced considering the resolution in its work, including in relation to the ACT Planning System Review and Reform project.

The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly has committed to increasing community facilities and building a new community centre in Gungahlin. Later this year, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) will engage with the community to determine the scope of the new facilities, the preferred site or sites and the priorities for possible project staging.

As part of the Community and Recreational Facilities Assessment for the Gungahlin District, EPSDD is also working with several community organisations to understand their specific needs and identify opportunities for improved facilities. More community engagement activities are scheduled and I trust Gungahlin Community Council will encourage people to participate.

I look forward to seeing you at the Environment and Planning Forum meeting on 28 June 2021.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Mick Gentleman MLA
4/6/2021