



Communication Link

Inner South District Planning Workshop

ACT Planning Review and Reform Project

11 June 2021

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Ask.
Listen.
Understand.
Achieve.



Introduction

The ACT Government is currently reviewing the ACT planning system. The ACT Planning Review and Reform Project is considering the introduction of district level planning to provide more planning guidance at a district level and allow for the distinctive character of each district to be reflected in the planning system.

The ACT Government has identified eight urban districts and a district planning workshop is being conducted in each of these districts.

Communication Link has been engaged by the ACT Government to facilitate these workshops and report to the Government on what was heard. This report summarises the key feedback gathered from the Inner South community

The Inner South District Planning Workshop was held on Thursday 3 June and was attended by 30 people. The workshop was also offered online with participation conducted through Zoom and an interactive collaboration platform called Mural. Three people attended online.

Of the 30 people that attended, there was a broad range of ages represented with the most common age bracket represented being 60-64 years old. In terms of suburbs represented, participants from Griffith and Narrabundah greatly outnumbered those from other suburbs in the Inner South.

What we heard

The District Planning workshop gathered community feedback related to each of the themes identified in the ACT Planning Strategy 2018.

The most common areas of feedback provided by the community of Inner South are identified against these themes in the following sections.

Liveable

The following questions were asked about liveability:

- What suggestions do you have for how the type of housing and where it is located could be different in your District in the future?
- Are there changes needed to recreational areas, outdoor public spaces and/or community facilities to cater for future needs of people in your District? Where should this occur?
- What community facilities (including schools) are needed to cater for the future needs of the people in your District? Where could they be located?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 1.



Table 1. Community suggestions on future planning for a liveable district

 <p>Urban infill Concern about the level of urban infill occurring in the District and the impacts on character and amenity of the District including, open space and infrastructure</p>	 <p>Open space and playgrounds Enhanced playgrounds and open spaced for recreation</p>	 <p>Footpaths and lighting Improved footpaths, pedestrian crossings and lighting</p>	 <p>Preserve local heritage Protection of heritage sites and existing character of the District</p>
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Provide more affordable housing in the District including community housing.
- Existing established trees to be maintained and more planted
- Increase capacity at schools in the District

Diverse

The following questions were asked about being diverse:

- How might future changes impact the commercial or retail areas within your District? What changes might impact on the town centre, group centres and local centres?
- Are there places that are considered significant to the community in your District that should be considered differently in the future? Where are they located?
- What characteristics and features are unique to your District that should be considered when planning the future?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. Community suggestions on future planning for a diverse district

 <p>Diversity of housing Ensure diversity of housing in the District to cater for aging in place, affordable housing as well as family homes with large blocks</p>	 <p>Local shops Foster successful and diverse local shops. Concerned about the number of empty retail premises in the District</p>
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Protect the heritage and special places in the District such as Telopea Park, Red Hill, Collins Park, and the Manuka Present
- Celebrate indigenous heritage in the area.
- Red Hill Nature Reserve to be protected and not developed.



Accessible

The following questions were asked about accessibility:

- What areas in your District should be considered to improve peoples' ability to walk and cycle?
- What are the long-term travel needs for public transport and cars for your District?
- Are there road connections to other ACT districts or regional NSW that should be considered in your District?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3. Community suggestions on future planning for an accessible district

 <p>Cycle paths</p> <p>Suggestions for improved and additional cycle paths throughout the District</p>	 <p>Footpaths</p> <p>Calls for improved footpath maintenance and the development of better shared facilities for pedestrians and cyclists</p>	 <p>Parking</p> <p>Increase parking at retail centres, in particular Manuka and Kingston</p>
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Improve transport connections within the District and surrounding areas, such as to Fyshwick and Dairy Flat.
- Improve safety associated with traffic flows near schools.

Compact and efficient

The following questions were asked about a compact and efficient city:

- When considering the additional residents that will live in your District in the future, what aspects of your District need to be considered to make sure it is a pleasant place to live?
- What areas should be priorities for open spaces and public places in your District?
- What views from outdoor public places are special in your District and should be considered in future planning?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4. Community suggestions on future planning for a compact and efficient district

 <p>Urban infill</p> <p>Concern expressed about the level of infill occurring in the District. Development that occurs should be in keeping with existing character.</p>	 <p>Access to sunlight</p> <p>Ensure access to sunlight for liveability and energy efficiency of homes, in particular associated with apartment developments.</p>
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Maintain shady trees across the District.
- Enhance existing open spaces with more playgrounds and outdoor furniture.
- A need for increased capacity at local schools.

Sustainable and resilient

The following questions were asked about sustainability and resilience:

- Consider the following areas in your District and describe what elements should be prioritised as these areas change in the future:
- Investigation areas for potential future suburbs
- Government land identified for sale and private development
- Urban intensification areas within existing suburbs
- Major sites in important areas identified for development by the government.

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 5.

Table 5. Community suggestions on future planning for a sustainable and resilient district

 <p>Trees</p> <p>Encourage growth of large trees across the District, including in new developments</p>	 <p>Urban intensification</p> <p>Concern about the impact of increased population and intensification on existing infrastructure</p>	 <p>Urban green space</p> <p>Retain existing urban open space</p>	 <p>Urban density</p> <p>Focus higher density housing close to the shops, Parliament House and along corridors such as Canberra Avenue</p>
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Encourage high energy ratings on all new buildings
- Provision of electric charging stations including in new developments
- Encourage green roofs on new buildings



Next steps

The Inner South district planning workshop is one of eight workshops being held across Canberra during June 2020.

This report has been drafted based on a preliminary analysis of the data gathered from participants. An overarching consultation report will be prepared at the conclusion of all district planning workshops. Reporting back to the community on what was heard in the district planning workshops and how that input is informing proposed policy changes will occur later in 2021.



Figure 1. Community members from Inner South during the District Planning Workshop.