

Ref. ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project – Canberra Planning Action Group (CPAG) Submission part 2: Part 1 of the CPAG submission has been submitted separately.

The proposed new draft ACT Planning Act in its present state appears to CPAG to have fundamental flaws. The Canberra Planning Action Group (CPAG) has committed considerable effort towards assessing, sharing and producing articles concerning this draft new ACT Planning Act.

Whilst we have asserted there has not been sufficient time for the wider community to be engaged in this process of reviewing the Draft Planning Act, nevertheless, many areas have been investigated by independent experts in their fields — see the list below. Their reports have shown this Draft Act to be severely wanting. There are many issues in this draft Planning Act that need closer consideration for example social equity, intergenerational equity, heritage and so on, and given our concerns about areas already identified in the draft new ACT Planning Act, we feel the draft new act will also prove to be wanting in these areas.

The attached two newsletters are entirely dedicated to the dissemination of the proposed Planning Act. The articles referred to are published on the CPAG website and are listed here with links:

1. THE ACT DRAFT PLANNING BILL – Comments by Richard Johnston
<https://www.canberraplanningactiongroup.com/post/the-act-draft-planning-bill-comments-by-richard-johnston>
2. OUTCOMES-FOCUSSED PLANNING—The Spurious Foundations of ACT Planning Reform — by Bruin Christensen
<https://www.canberraplanningactiongroup.com/post/outcomes-focussed-planning-the-spurious-foundations-of-act-planning-reform>
3. DRAFT PLANNING BILL: Limiting the Planning Authority's Power by Tim Field
<https://www.canberraplanningactiongroup.com/post/draft-planning-bill-limiting-the-planning-authority-s-power>
4. CITIES' RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE by Geoffrey Pryor
<https://www.canberraplanningactiongroup.com/post/cities-relationship-with-nature>
5. THE ACT DRAFT PLANNING BILL: AN ABERRATION by Albert Oberdorf
<https://www.canberraplanningactiongroup.com/post/the-act-draft-planning-bill-an-aberration>
6. PLANNING AND CLIMATE CHANGE: TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES NOW by Richard Johnston
<https://www.canberraplanningactiongroup.com/post/planning-and-climate-change-tackling-the-big-issues-now>
7. SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF PLANNING IN THE ACT: THE CANBERRA PARADOX by Nicholas Brown
<https://www.canberraplanningactiongroup.com/post/some-notes-on-the-history-of-planning-in-the-act-the-canberra-paradox>

8. The Significance of the Current ACT Government Planning Review by Bruin Christensen
<https://www.canberraplanningactiongroup.com/post/the-significance-of-the-current-act-government-planning-review>

The ACT Government's "Have your Say" webpage states that: "...the new Planning Act will set the foundation of our reformed planning system." Given these "foundations" are shown through the available research to be so flawed, so limited and ill-defined, whatever is to be built on these foundations certainly runs the risk of being unsound. CPAG believes, as far as the proposed Planning Bill is concerned, that the draft will need to be radically reworked and the process restarted so as to engage properly with the wider community. *The Draft new Territory Plan and the proposed District Strategies must also be in the public arena as exposure drafts in order to properly evaluate the new legislative instruments.*

Yours sincerely,
Geoff Pryor - Convenor
CPAG — Canberra Planning Action Group