



Communication Link

The Inner South and the ACT Planning Review

Stakeholder forum report

2 August 2019

DRAFT

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1. Introduction

The ACT Government – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate hosted a stakeholder forum for community and business representatives of the Inner South community on Monday 29 July 2019.

The purpose of the forum was two-fold:

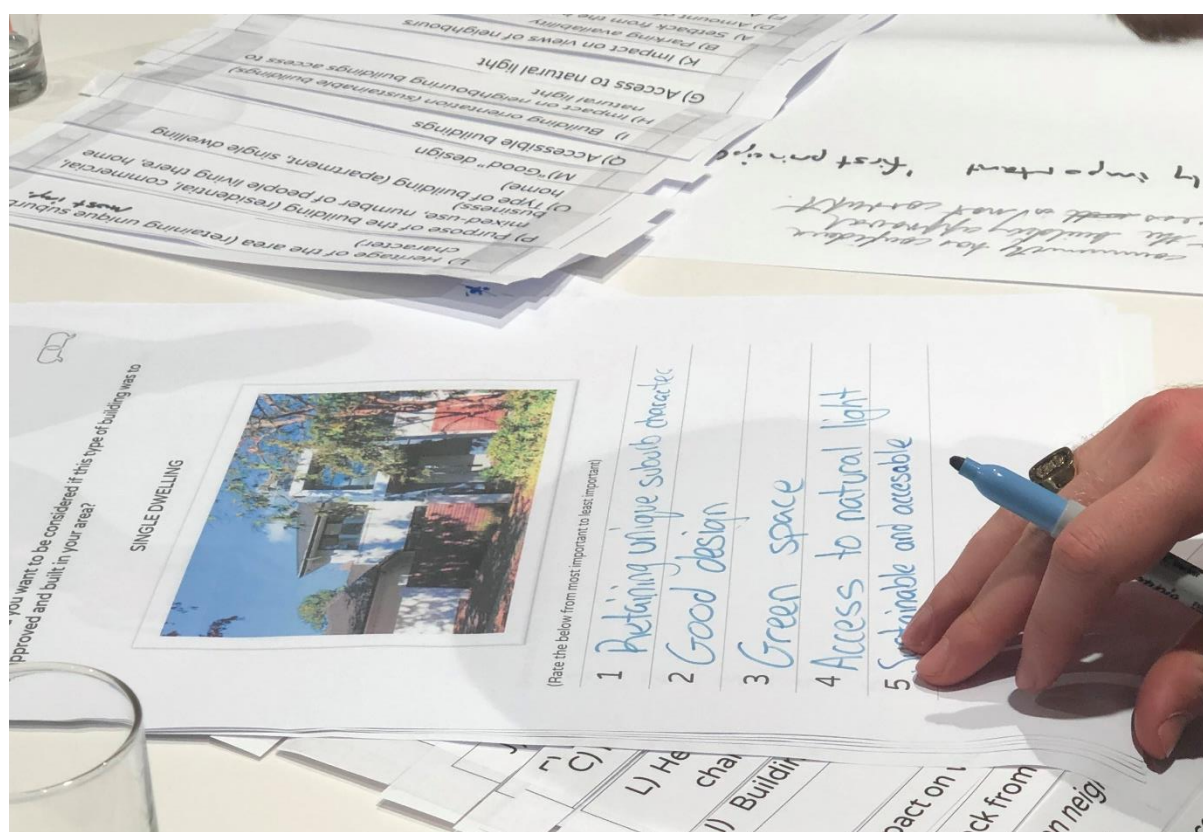
- To gather feedback from the inner south community on their values and aspirations for the district
- To understand from the inner south community some of the best ways to engage about the ACT Planning Review.

15 attendees from local community and business organisations attended the forum.

Helen Leayr, Managing Director, Communication Link facilitated the 4-hour forum. The format of the forum was a workshop as follows:

- Session 1: ACT Planning Review Overview – presentation by the ACT Government
- Session 2: Workshop exercises to understand the inner south district and its values
- Session 3: Draft ACT Planning Review engagement exercises
- Session 4: General discussion to gather ideas and suggestions about how the ACT Government could engage with district-level communities during the ACT Planning Review.

This report provides a written report of what was discussed in each of these sessions and the feedback received.



2. Discussion and feedback received

2.1 Session 1 –ACT Planning Review ACT Government presentation

Following the ACT Government presentation, there was general discussion about the purpose of the forum. Discussion items included:

- A number of participants were unclear about the purpose of the forum believing that it was intended to be a Manuka focussed discussion (referred to as the Manuka Stakeholder Panel) rather than a broad Inner South district discussion.
- Participants asked about the status of the Chief Minister's proposed Manuka Stakeholder Panel.
- It was suggested that the invitation distributed to participants was not clear and that if it was a broader Inner South discussion then some key community representatives were missing. (The ACT Government representatives advised that invitations had been extended to these people).
- Questions were asked about the ACT Government's plans to prepare a master plan for the Manuka area, and participants also asked about the status of the Manuka Oval and the Kingston Arts Precinct Master Plans and Conservation Management Plans. Community representatives noted the importance of these plans and the lack of advice to the community on their status and the interaction and synergies between the two plans.
- ACT Government representatives noted that the directorate-led 2012 master plan program is all but completed, with a few master plans awaiting a Territory Plan variation to finalise them.
- ACT Government representatives also noted that there will not be any further government led master plans for the area, but that planning for Manuka and surrounding areas would be considered within a conversation about district level planning as part of the ACT Planning Review.
- It was suggested that a key challenge was to understand and plan for the pipeline of development and construction in the area, and a suggestion to ACT Government was to map all active and approved development applications for the area.
- It was noted that some areas of Government seem to be able to redefine the zoning (eg for bushfire zones) without reference to the Territory Plan or consultation with the community which created confusion and uncertainty.
- Members of the community formally provided a copy of a document titled *ISCCC Public Forum: Planning Manuka to the Foreshore, 9 April 2019 Draft Record*. A copy of this document has been provided to the ACT Government.
- Attendees noted that there is some confusion with the term Master Plan as various agencies (developers, the Chief Minister, other government directorates) seem to use it for different purposes.

2.2 Session 2 - Understanding the Inner South district and its values

Participants were invited to consider a map of the Inner South district and identify what was physically special or distinct about the Inner South and what was particularly valued in the area. Participants were invited to note down their thoughts on post-it-notes and place on maps of the Inner South.

A full record of what was noted on the post-it notes is included at Appendix A.

General feedback included:

- Participants suggested that the ACT Government review feedback that has already been provided through letters, budget submission and community advocacy activities.
- Comments were made about the importance of improving the planning system and ensuring that the rules are complied with.
- Concerns were expressed about the level of development in the area.
- It was suggested that the south of Canberra does not get the attention it requires from the Government.
- Pialligo has unique requirements which needs to be acknowledged and respected, it is arural environment with large blocks.
- Suggestion that representatives from Pialligo, Oaks Estate Tharwa, Uriarra and Hall are brought together for further conversations on district values specific to these areas, which have similar and distinct values.

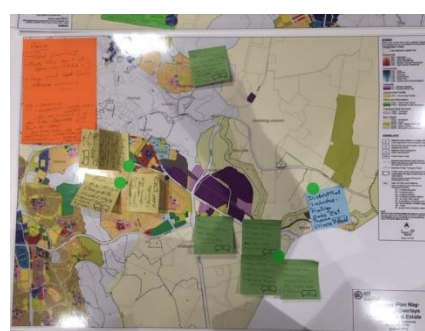
'The most comfortable and diverse district in Australia'

Workshop participant

Specific feedback relating to the unique nature and values of the Inner South is listed in the table below

Unique features and values of the Inner South district

- Green parks and refresh nature park
- Protect Manuka
- Heritage, green space, open space and community space
- Richest and poorest – economic gap
- Lines of sight views and closeness to everything
- District of religious institutions
- Tree canopy – trees that meet above the street
- Sight lines – views to Parliament House, lake, Red Hill, Mount Pleasant
- Lots of introduced species – English Garden city appearance
- Beautiful heritage buildings that tell Canberra's history as the Nation's Capital
- Heritage street furniture – fire hydrants, seats, signs, lights
- Home to Canberra's one and only railway station
- Large open streets, blocks and parks
- Mixed of old and new, single storey and high-rise that gives a certain texture
- Two industrial areas
- Inner South, the most comfortable and diverse district in Australia
- Only district with residential development right on Lake Burley Griffin
- Kingston and Manuka porous connectivity
- Pre-eminent diplomatic precinct in Canberra
- Two group centres within walking distance of each other
- National cultural institutions within walking distance
- Nearby light industrial/mixed used, gentrifying district of Fyshwick
- Socioeconomic diversity/gap – Forrest to Oaks Estates
- Village/local atmosphere (not high rises)
- Sense of community
- Controversy around speed bumps
- Local atmosphere
- Sense of community and belonging
- Schools are part of the community – they attract people to live in the area and help belong to our district
- Garden city streets
- Grammar School – part of the community
- Manuka Shops
- Kingston
- Walking dog at Red Hill
- Protect Manuka
- National, history, stories, individuals
- Give MOCCA* a new building.
- Protect the Aboriginal campsite
- Flinders Way
- Amend map and mark
- Make signage bigger
- Protect MOCCA
- Values and characteristics
- One or two food markets
- Combination of all factors
- We value MOCCA
- Landscape and structure – Inner hills (Red Hill, Lake Burley Griffin, parklands)
- Main avenues – Canberra Avenue, Wentworth Avenue, Adelaide Avenue
- National Triangle – Commonwealth, Kings, Constitution Avenue
- Major parks – Telopea Park, Manuka Oval



2.3 Session 3 - Understanding the Inner South district and its values

Session three of the forum considered the engagement that should be undertaken as part of the ACT Planning Review proposed for later in the 2019. Participants were asked to complete three questions that were proposed for inclusion in an online survey.

2.3.1 What are your priorities for a building to be approved in your neighbourhood?

Participants were asked to rank 17 priorities for approval of a building in their neighborhood.

This task was undertaken on an individual basis with participants ordering the priorities physically by shifting pieces of paper each with a priority on it until they had the highest priority at the top and the lowest at the bottom. The sheets of paper were then taped down to keep the ranking.

The priorities for ranking are listed below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Setback from the boundary | L. Heritage of the area (retaining unique suburb character) |
| B. Parking availability | M. "Good" design |
| C. Height of the building | N. Innovative design |
| D. Amount of green space on the block | O. Type of building (apartment, single dwelling home) |
| E. Type of green space on the block | P. Purpose of the building (residential, commercial, mixed-use, number of people living there, home business) |
| F. Access to parks nearby | Q. Accessible buildings |
| G. Access to natural light | R. Other (blank space) |
| H. Impact on neighbouring buildings access to natural light | |
| I. Building orientation (sustainable buildings) | |
| J. Number of trees on the block | |
| K. Impact on views of neighbours | |

What we heard

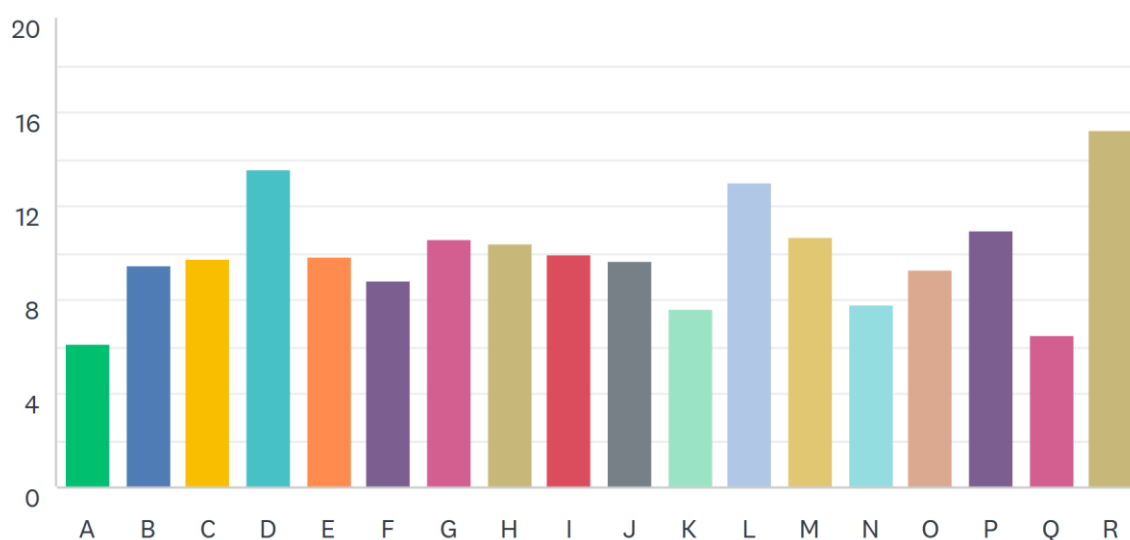
The following was heard as a result of this exercise:

- Important to be clear when asking the question about where the building is to be located and perhaps provide some guidance about the type of building. Although it was noted that questions about the type of building would be asked separately, it was felt that without more context this question was hard to answer.
- It was suggested that the option "good" design was unclear and that the word "good" needed to be explained or defined. It was also suggested that many of the priorities provided for the exercise could all contribute to "good" design - therefore grouping items could be beneficial.
- It was suggested that "*number of trees on the block*" and "*type of green space on the block*" could be merged into one option.
- It was suggested that "*purpose of the building*" and "*type of building*" could be merged into one option.
- Five people selected "*other*" as their top priority. Their suggested alternatives were:
 - Make sure the context for the development is clear. Non-corrupt DA process
 - Compliance
 - Access to renewable energy
 - Obey Territory Plan - no retrospective approval

- Obey Territory Plan
- Other items that were selected as top priority were:
 - Type of green space on the block (by two people)
 - Number of trees on the block
 - Heritage of the area (by two people)
 - “good” design (by two people)
 - Accessible buildings (by two people)
- When considering the weighted average, the following options were most highly rated:
 - “other”
 - Amount of green space on the block
 - Heritage of the area (retaining unique suburb character)

Figure 1 below shows the weighted average responses across all options. Appendix B has a complete record of the feedback provided by all participants,

Figure 1. Weighted average responses to each of the rankings (A-R)



2.3.2 What are your priorities for a building to be approved as it relates to a specific type of building?

Participants were then asked to rank the same 17 priorities for approval of a building when considering a specific building type.

The building types assessed were:

- Single dwelling
- Townhouse
- Apartment
- Mixed-used development, and
- Commercial

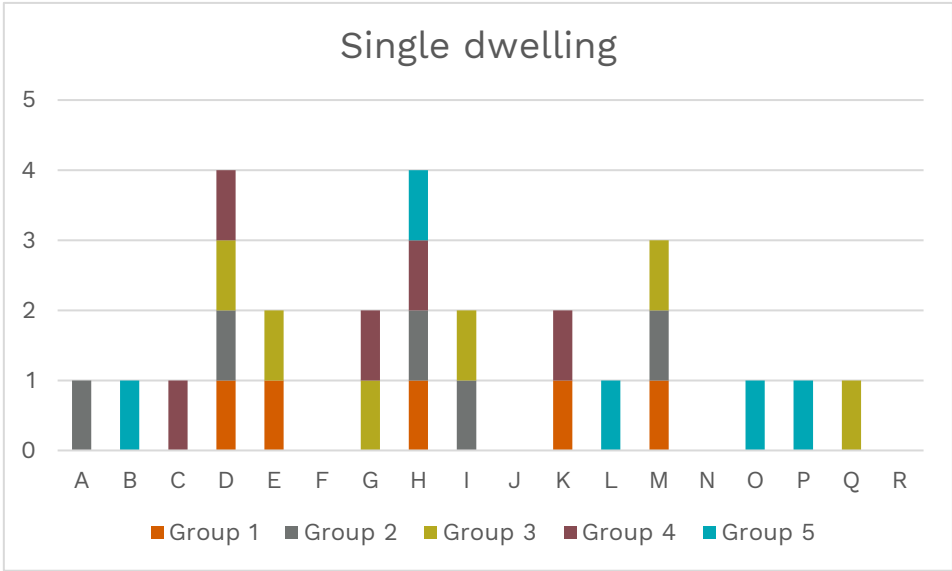
Participants worked in five groups and were asked to identify their top five priorities for assessing approval of a building, the top five did not need to be in order. Figures 2 - 6 below capture the outcomes of this exercise.

Single dwelling

The most frequent priorities for approval when considering a single dwelling were:

- Impact on neighbouring buildings, access to natural light
- Amount of green space on the block
- “Good” design

Figure 2. Priorities selected for single dwelling by each group

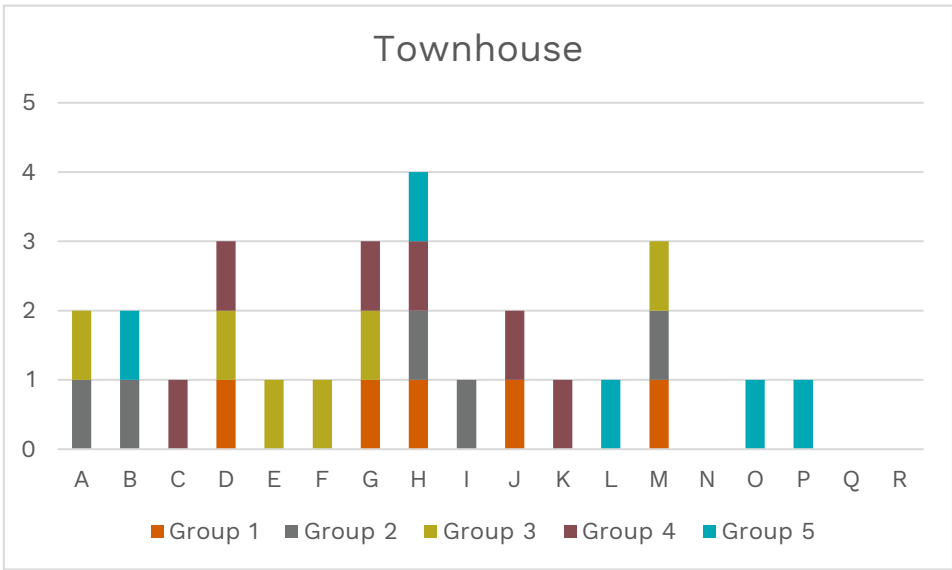


Townhouse

The most frequent priorities for approval when considering a townhouse were:

- Amount of green space on the block
- Impact on neighbouring buildings, access to natural light
- Access to natural light
- “Good” design

Figure 3. Priorities selected for townhouse by each group

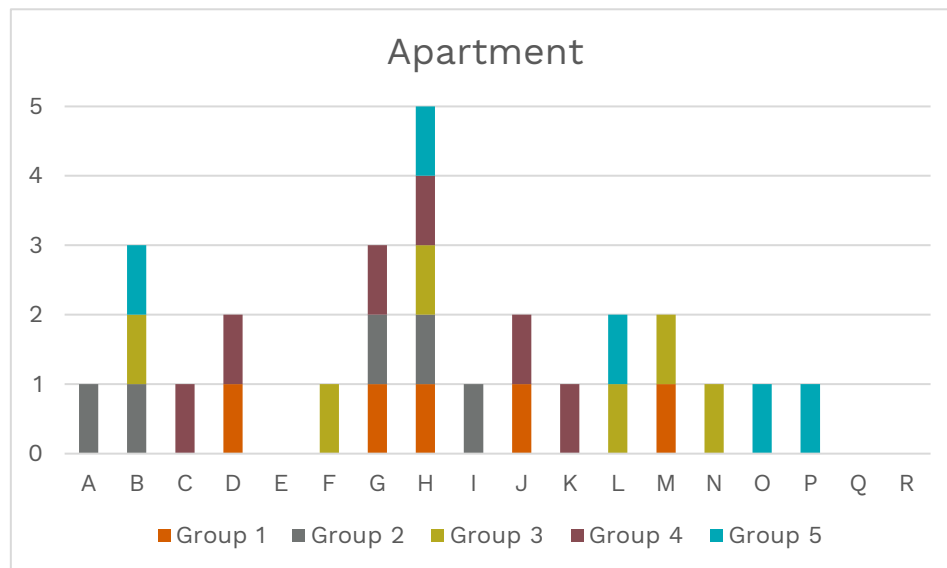


Apartment

The most frequent priorities for approval when considering an apartment were:

- Impact on neighbouring buildings, access to natural light – this was selected by all groups
- Access to natural light
- Parking availability

Figure 4. Priorities selected for apartment by each group



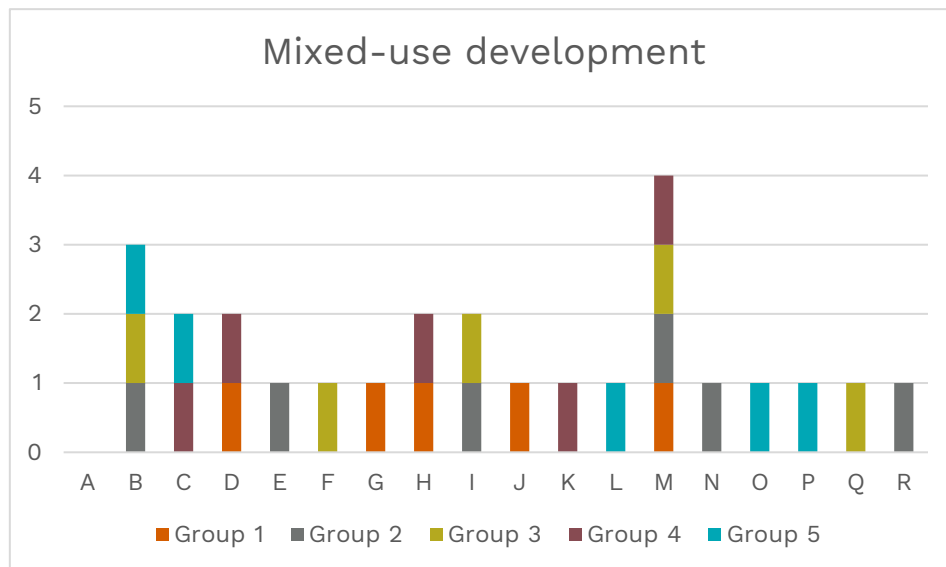
Mixed-use development

The most frequent priorities for approval when considering an apartment were:

- “Good” design
- Parking availability

Group 2 provided an ‘other’ response which was ‘appeal rights that are currently not available in CZ5. Clear delineation of lease holdings

Figure 5. Priorities selected for mixed-used development by each group



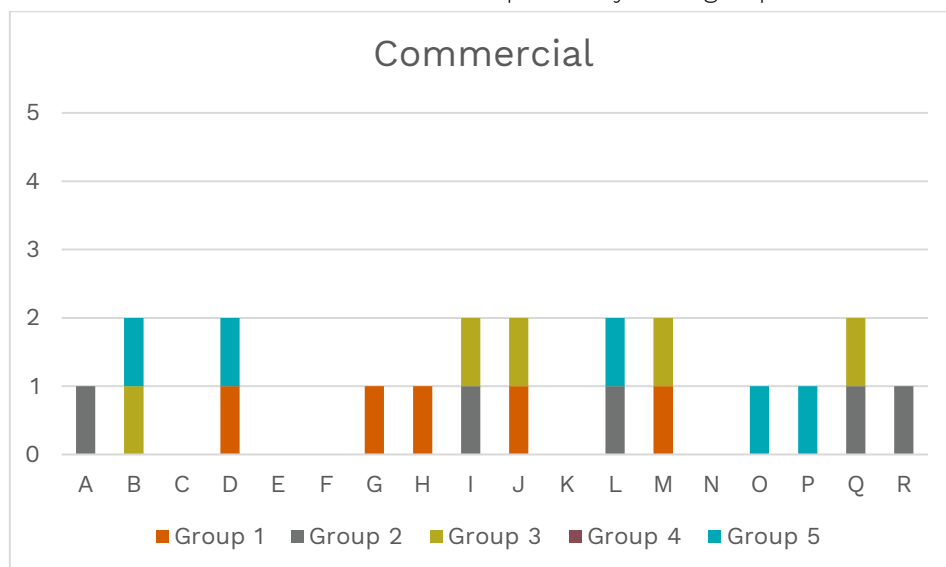
Commercial development

Only three groups completed this worksheet. The most frequent priorities for approval when considering a commercial development were:

- Parking availability
- Amount of green space on the block
- Building orientation (sustainable buildings)
- Number of trees on the block
- Heritage of the area (retaining unique suburb character)
- “Good” design
- Accessible buildings

Group 2 suggested noise abatement as a priority.

Figure 6. Priorities selected for commercial development by each group



Industrial development

Although not identified in the exercise, one group also provided suggestions on what was important when assessing building approval of an industrial development, noting that Fyshwick was in the Inner South. The following priorities were identified by this group:

- Parking availability
- Impact on neighbouring buildings, access to natural light
- Building orientation (sustainable buildings)
- Innovative design
- Purpose of building

2.3.3 How important is it for Canberra to have uniform values across all of its districts?

During a whole-group discussion the participants provided feedback on how important it was for Canberra to have consistent values across the city.

General feedback from the group was that there are likely to be values that exist across Canberra, (such as social equity, access to nature, transport and health) but also that each district was unique, and that uniqueness can be a strength.

It was suggested that there could be two levels of values – overarching ones as well as district, or place-specific ones.

2.4 Session 4 – Local area engagement

This session of the forum sought feedback and ideas on ways to engage with communities during the ACT Planning Review, specifically as part of the district level planning conversation. The following themes were raised during the discussion:

- The Government should review previous community submissions and feedback including budget submissions and calls to Access Canberra and through Fix-my-street. It was suggested that an analysis of what people are opposed to during the planning approval process would also provide useful information on areas of community concern
- Work through existing community organisation and groups. (the Inner South Community Council Newsletter and survey was suggested as an example)
- Reaching out to various communities by going to where they are, including schools, aged facilities, multi-cultural centres etc
- Avoid natural biases by stratifying surveys on clear grounds (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity etc.) so that the sample is representative of the characteristics of community.
- Doorknock the small business community as they don't have time to come out to meetings; do face-to-face engagement
- Work through professional organisations such as the Planning Institute of Australia, Australian Institute of Landscape architects etc.
- Build trust by replying to all letters received by the Government and providing feedback on what has been heard and how it has been responded to. A community audit gap analysis example from Vancouver was offered.
- Make the consultation activities more interesting through using 'hooks' such as:
 - Guest speakers and MCs that have a profile/interesting
 - Marketing as helping to shape the future of Canberra
 - For young families, provide childcare, suggest better place to raise your children
 - Community garden parties like at MOCCA

- Reach out to people who have already engaged in the discussion, eg young people protesting developments in the city
- Use examples and scenarios to make the content interesting and relevant.

Appendices

Appendix A – Inner South values

Data from participant post-it-notes

- Rural environment
- Master Plan says it all isolated
- Value are included in it
- Large rural blocks
- Stressed community
- Government ignores small centres
- Government has to decide if we are rural or broadacre or burnt up urban
- Government directories are changing classification within consultation and communication
- Ignoring Territory Plan
- Already submitted in letters, budget submission and by ISCCC after public meeting
- ISCCC, GNCA, KBRG and FOMP already called for a precinct to be from Manuka shops to the Foreshore
- Characteristics and values have already been submitted numerous times for this Manuka Shops to Foreshore precinct
- District that includes Pialligo, Oaks Estate, Tharwa, Uriarra and Hall
- No cups provided for tea and coffee and instead cups that have all gone to landfill and coffee pods also bad for environment**
- Green parks and refresh nature park
- Protect Manuka
- Heritage, green space, open space and community space
- Richest and poorest – economic gap
- Lines of sights views and closeness to everything
- District of religious institutions
- Tree canopy – trees that meet above the street

- Sight lines – views to Parliament House, lake, Red Hill, Mount Pleasant
- Lots of introduced species – English Garden city appearance
- Beautiful heritage buildings that tell Canberra's history as the Nation's Capital
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- Socioeconomic diversity/gap – Forrest to Oaks Estates
- Village/local atmosphere (not high rises)
- Sense of community
- Controversy around speed bumps
- Local atmosphere
- Sense of community and belonging
- Nothing that needs to be changed drastically
- Schools are part of the community – they attract people to live in the area and help belong to our district
- Garden city streets
- Grammar School – part of the community
- Manuka Shops
- Kingston
- Walking dog at Red Hill

- Protect Manuka
- National, history, stories, individuals
- Give MOCCA* a new building. 1963 – 2019 Time for “New”
- Protect the Aboriginal campsite
- Flinders Way
- Amend map and mark
- Make signage bigger
- Protect MOCCA 30 Flinders Way Education and Care Services for Families, Children 6 months – 5 years old
- Values and characteristics
- One or two food markets
- Combination of all factors
- We value MOCCA
- Landscape and structure – Inner hills (Red Hill, Lake Burley Griffin, parklands)
- Main avenues – Canberra Avenue, Wentworth Avenue, Adelaide Avenue
- National Triangle – Commonwealth, Kings, Constitution Avenue
- Major parks – Telopea Park, Manuka Oval
- Planning is complex – we are looking at the whole of Canberra, down to where my neighbour is going to build. Therefore:
 - The planning rules should be complied with – so that people have certainty
 - Get rid of criteria – stick to good rules
 - Maintain planning zone
 - Get rid of knock-down rebuild without DAs
- Enforce the planning rules – eliminate criteria
- South is ignored by government – developers are rampant
- Stop trying to make South into uniformity with other areas
- Not every area needs to be compact – choice is good

* Manuka Occasional Childcare Association

Appendix B – Data from priorities for approval of a building in your neighbourhood question

	Participant	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13	
A	Setback from the boundary	11		15		9	What boundary? How defined?	17		17		8		17		17		16		5		6	Obey Territory Plan/ Eg. Abode Kingston	3		18	In your area
B	Parking availability	10		7		5		16		5		13		10		5		7		14		8		NR		3	All residents for childcare centre (priority)
C	Height of the building	14		11		3	Relative to the others in the vicinity	11		2		9		15		13		12		8		3		4		9	Protect local childcare centres
D	Amount of green space	12		5		7		4		8		4		1		6		2	Whether existing trees retained	1		5	Adjacent green space	5		5	Priority
E	Type of green space on the block	15		17		3		8		9		10		9		5		15		6		4	Trees - stop approving removal	11		6	A mix of low, middle, tall trees
F	Access to parks nearby	13		10		6		14		12		16		3		3		9		10		10	Need equitable access for all Canberrans	14		7	Connection to nature
G	Access to natural light	8		6		3		2	All below follows if design is "good"	11		5		11		10		8		12		7	Actual enforcement of solar access rules rather than consumption	13		11	
H	Impact on neighbouring buildings access to natural light	7		16		3		3		15		7		14		8		3		7		8	(G) and (H) should be treated as one	9		8	Don't shadow childcare centres
I	Building orientation (sustainable buildings)	6		13		3		6		13		12		4		4		10		9		9		10		14	
J	Number of trees on the block	16		9		7	Not necessary government	5		7		15		2		1		14		2		14	Same question as (E)	12		4	Priority
K	Impact on views of neighbours	9		14		8	Not necessary government	12		16		6		16		14		4		4		12		16		10	Privacy
L	Heritage of the area (retaining unique suburb character)	1		12		4		9		1		14		6		12		5		3		2	Individual heritage listing	2	Natural and cultural heritage listings!!	2	

	Participant	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13	
M	"Good" design	4		1		9	Meaning what? Define!	1	Most important	10		11		5		7		6		11		17	What does this even mean?	6	Whatever that is? Does not seem to count at present.	13	Best design ask the users/ comments
N	Innovative design	17		2		8	Not necessary government	10		6		18		8		9		17		15		11		7		12	Priority
O	Type of building (apartment, single dwelling home)	3		4		2	Given the context as retail space, public facility, personal, private dwelling spaces	13		4		3		12		16		13		16		16	Don't know what you are asking? Many above are relevant regardless.	8		16	
P	Purpose of the building (residential, commercial, mixed-use, number of people living there, home business)	2		8		2		15		3		2		7		15		1		17		15	No appeal rights in C25. Mute argument	1		15	
Q	Accessible buildings	5		18		3		7		14		17		13		11		11		13		13	Where does this apply as legal requirement for some and not others	15		17	
R	Other (blank space)			3		1	Make sure the context for the development is clear. Non-corrupt DA process	18				1	Compliance	18		1	Access to renewable energy	18		18	Compliance and eliminate criteria	1	Obey Territory Plan - no retrospective approval	NR		1	Obey Territory Plan

Note: Participant 14 selected P, purpose of the building (residential, commercial, mixed-use, number of people living there, home business), as the only priority.

Appendix C – Manuka Stakeholder Panel – Invitation List

Organisation	Invited	RSVP'd	Attended
Inner South Canberra Community Council			2
Kingston and Barton Residents Association			3
Forrest Residents Group			1
Deakin Residents Group			
Oaks Estate Residents Group			
Pialligo Residents Association			1
Griffith Narrabundah Community Association			1
Friends of Manuka Pool			1
Narrabundah College			
Canberra Grammar School			3
St Edmunds College			
Canberra Girls Grammar School			
St Clare's College			
Telopea Park School			
Youth Coalition of ACT			
Young Planners Association			
Owners Corporation Network			
Canberra Business Chamber			
Inner-South Canberra Business Council			1
Kingston Traders Group			
Property Council			
Planning Institute of Australia (ACT Branch)			1
Manuka Occasional Child Care Association			1

Appendix D – ISCCC Public Forum: Planning Manuka to the Foreshore, 9 April 2019

7-9pm, Eastlake Football Club, 3 Oxley Street, Griffith Draft record

The ISCCC's public forum on 9 April was very successful, with about 60 participants providing their ideas, after discussion in breakout groups, about what they value about the area from Manuka to the Foreshore (loosely defined), and what opportunities and challenges they see ahead.

ISCCC Chair, Marea Fatseas, began with an acknowledgement to country and welcomed participants, including MLAs Rachel Stephen-Smith and Elizabeth Lee, and conveyed apologies, including from MLAs Candice Burch and Gordon Ramsay, Manuka Business Association and Kingston Traders Group. With rapid change in the area from Manuka to the Kingston Foreshore, a holistic view of what's going on is important, as is seeking community views, in line with the ISCCC's strategic priorities to:

"Engage with inner south residents (including through an online survey) to identify what they value and would like to see protected or else what they would like to change in the inner south."

It is also valuable in the context of the ACT Government's pre-election commitment in 2016 to set up a community panel to develop a master plan for the Manuka Oval precinct. It means we will be better prepared if / when that master planning process occurs.

Prior to discussion in break-out groups, three speakers addressed the meeting.

Heritage

Nick Swain, President, Canberra and District Historical Society, co-Author of *Manuka: History and People 1924-2014*, and committee member of Kingston and Barton Residents Group, spoke about the area's heritage, including:

- The broad range of heritage buildings in the area
- The street pattern based on Walter Burley Griffin's initial design
- The trees in the area planted by Charles Weston.
- The value of green heritage goes also to cooling and biodiversity
- The only houses left in the area are in heritage-protected areas. Heritage is protecting detached dwellings
- Participants were asked to think about how important heritage was to them.

Development

David Denham, a committee member of the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association, provided an update on the developments "on the boil" in the area (see separate presentation). The main areas focused on were:

- Kingston Arts Precinct on the foreshore
- Atria at Kingston
- Stuart Flats

The Territory Plan is key to the future of the area. This has been and can be changed. The trend is relentless intensification within the area.

Transport

Ben Hubbard, Senior Manager Traffic Management and Safety, Roads ACT, spoke about transport and parking issues in the area. The emphasis in Manuka is on providing parking for shopping close to the shops. Workers have to park in the fringe areas near residential areas. Development is creating parking pressure, with tradies wanting to park somewhere. The way to enforce appropriate parking in the area is through paid parking. Data on current traffic volumes indicate no reason for major concern, with traffic totals at only about half of available capacity. However, future development will increase traffic

volumes. Public transport, walking and cycling are important parts of the mix.

Following these presentations, participants broke into groups around tables to discuss:

- Things they value in the area
- Opportunities in the area
- Challenges in the area

Below are the issues raised during discussion:

THE THINGS VALUED

- Connectivity/interconnectedness-Manuka through to the Lake
- Streetscape, treescape, neighbourhoods
- Birdlife
- Environmental protection - recognition of area, including bird habitat/sanctuaries
- Greenspaces-Telopea and Bowen Park, Norgrove Park, Belmore Gardens, Manuka Lawns, Green Square, Jerrabomberra Wetlands
- Sight lines/vistas to mountains, lake and lake views, lake walking track
- Heritage streetscapes, architecture and remnant heritage infrastructure, detached heritage homes, Glassworks Museum, Fitters' Workshop, Old Bus Depot Markets, Fire Station Precinct, Megalo/Artsound, PhotoAccess, Wesley Music Centre, Manuka churches
- Village feel of Manuka and Kingston: strip shopping rather than large malls
- Community facilities/public amenities: Manuka Pool, Manuka Oval, Kingston Oval, Tennis Courts, Kingston Library, cinema, old Canberra Services Club, Eastlake Football Club, railway
- Good food, cafes, restaurants, Kingston Hotel (Kingo)
- Accessible parking

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve connectivity between suburbs - widen and improve footpaths, safer street crossings, shared zone between Manuka Pool and Telopea Park
- Improve water quality, appearance of creek through Telopea Park, including adapting for climate change, improved signage eg in the case of major rainfall events
- Signage through Telopea with a heritage theme eg settler's cottage site
- More bench seating
- Recreation/Wetlands/walking trails
- Improvements to existing playgrounds and new playground/s including for older children/teenagers - on Foreshore eg basketball courts
- More public toilets
- "Adopt a Tree"
- Improved landscaping Manuka Oval (the Bollards)
- Police Academy-improve appearance of fences
- Beach on the Lakeshore
- Arts Precinct to be respectful of heritage and geared to diverse population
- Refresh of (once beautiful) Bougainville Street and Flinders Way etc
- Purpose built library with meeting rooms, relocate library to larger, easily accessible site in Manuka
- Small outdoor theatre/amphitheatre
- Spontaneous cultural events and pop-ups in key spots, street art
- Community and/or native garden
- Partnerships with local commercial precincts

CHALLENGES

- How to value the unique charm and character of the area
- Emphasis on creating a strong community through developing shared values based (in part) on nationally significant heritage and unique local environment

- Identify, secure, maintain heritage values long term while enabling densification sensitively
- Recognition by politicians that one size does not fit all in planning and development
- Commercial-in-confidence should NOT apply to Freedom of Information (FOI) applications relating to government funded projects
- Professional valuation of urban forest (including in economic terms), professional pruning and replanting, “adopt a tree”, take into account climate change
- Connectivity between suburbs by all means including public transport
- Old Narrabundah request to re-instate No.5 bus service
- Broken footpaths, intruding hedges - widen footpaths
- Pedestrian access across Telopea Park, and to Kings Avenue
- Maintain/improve public amenity eg improve street lighting in dark streets
- Traffic capacity, with substantial increase in dwellings, rat-running in side streets
- Pedestrian hazards near units for children going to school, especially crossing Canberra Avenue to St Edmunds school
- Parking next to Telopea Park is a traffic hazard
- Rubbish dumping in parklands
- Water quality of “Black Spring” Creek through Telopea in particular
- Maintaining heritage including enforcing heritage laws/funding the maintenance of ageing heritage buildings
- Community land disappearing
- Need for improved library access, including size/hours of opening
- Vacant shops--- delay more shopping facilities until current ones are used
- Rents are too high
- New building quality is poor
- Foreshore almost completely lost to development at expense of environment and community
- Kingston arts precinct - ensure guiding principles for design and construction respect heritage (eg switching room), target a diversity of groups, enable access to community, embrace and celebrate inclusion
- Greed amongst developers
- “Walled” police academy

Forum participants’ additional comments on specific topics were:

PARKS, TREES AND OPEN SPACES

Opportunities:

- The parks, trees and birdlife - Telopea Park, Bowen Park, Collins Park
- Public transport to national parks please!
- Preserve all current green open spaces, maintain open space
- Water quality assessment of Telopea Park Creek
- Get ponds? as recreational hub
- Meeting places eg Lawns, lake edge

Challenges:

- Odours/smells from drains in the Kingston suburb
- More seating, and more gathering points in park
- Broken footpaths, blocked stormwater drains, rubbish dumped in parkland areas, including Telopea Park creek
- Telopea Park - drain, water refill station
- Bikes on shared paths disregarding pedestrians
- Creating awareness amongst newcomers to the area of the heritage value and environmental benefits of native trees
- Trimming and pruning trees to maintain their health, tree replacement plans

- No further development on Foreshore

HERITAGE

Opportunities:

- Heritages houses around Manuka
- Bronze statue of Charles Cameron Kingston
- Signage to name the Telopea Park creek, and to mark original settler's cottage site
- Continuity, memories, symbols
- Preservation of all registered heritage areas. No development to be considered in areas nominated for heritage listing
- Create indigenous history trail in Kingston/Wetlands area

Challenges:

- Ensure the mature tree canopy is retained and not replaced with cement and paving
- How do developers get away with destroying, or almost destroying, heritage houses?
- Heritage list ALL buildings in the Manuka Arts precinct, and the Kingston shops
- Preserve green space and community space
- Conflict in preserving formal style of Telopea Park and modifying the creek

TRAFFIC, PARKING, TRANSPORT

Opportunities:

- Improve walkability between inner south suburbs, including to Kingston from Griffith
- Seating on streets near footpaths for tired, aged or disabled
- Safer walking at night. Lighting?!
- Make Jardine Street between Giles Street and Eyre Street into a pedestrian precinct. At present it is used as a parking street with little through traffic.

Challenges:

- Safety - lighting, footpaths, Narrabundah to Woden bus
- Pedestrian crossings from Griffith to Kingston
- Currently changing bus shelters in Griffith/Narrabundah
- No bus to Woden from Old Narrabundah. Bus to Civic takes forever!
- Uncoordinated traffic lights on Wentworth Avenue
- No seats to enable people to rest when tired from walking
- Pedestrian access to Kings Avenue Bridge - awful!!
- Current parking on roads adjacent to Telopea Park is a traffic hazard!!
- Telopea Park's swale drain - make it a creek!
- Traffic noise at night-trucks using compression brakes-Canberra & Wentworth Avenue
- Wentworth Avenue road surface from Dawes Street to Brisbane Avenue
- Rat running - count ALL cars, not just ones on main through roads
- Extreme noise from "souped up" cars and motorbikes - is there a noise limit law?
- The steel wall around the Police Academy - plant hedges!!!

MANUKA OVAL

- Opportunities: Landscape grounds around Manuka Oval
- Challenges: No further expansion of capacity of the Oval

ENTERTAINMENT AND LIVEABILITY

Opportunities:

- Good variety of restaurants and cafes
- Late night eating venues

- Close off Franklin Street to cars and make it a walk-only area
- Community use of Causeway hall
- Use small pockets of green space as community spaces focused on building social cohesion and sense of belonging to our area.

Challenges:

- Poor safety for walkers – footpaths, lighting, seating and pedestrian crossings
- Public transport to and from events at night

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

- A plan that links the aspirational clean green Canberra with the expedient territory plan.
- Focus on building communities, not ghettos.
- What is happening with the Canberra Services Club site?
- What is happening with the switching station?
- Retaining and improving public amenity
- Meeting sites
- Highgate Lane – street art, and better rubbish management
- Funding like Braddon gets for cultural events
- Festivals and pop-ups
- What is a reasonable time for ACT Government agencies to reply to letters or emails?
- Ensuring businesses have a steady supply of customers

MOTIONS

The following motions were voted on and were supported overwhelmingly:

1. That the ACT Government honour its 2016 undertaking and commence the production of a Manuka Precinct Master Plan with inputs from a panel from the community as well as other stakeholders and experts including the Design Review Panel.
2. That the ACT Government recognise that the Manuka to the Lake area comprises a unique heritage district within the National Capital. It is much more than the sum of individual heritage places and also includes the heritage streetscape and trees.
3. That the ACT Government and successful tenderer engage, and incorporate, meaningful community consultation (with the arts, local residents and businesses) on the Kingston Arts Precinct to ensure that this unique development opportunity is world class, supports the arts, is respectful of heritage, embraces diversity and looks to the future.