



Minister Meegan FitzHarris MLA  
Minister for Transport Canberra and City Services  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

The Council is writing to inform you of our recent consideration of the Anketell Street master plan and community concerns regarding its stage 1 implementation programmed to begin this month..

Having met with the TCCS project managers we were advised that with a limited budget the projected scale of revitalising the town square (containing two laneways and a gazebo) and public realm improvements on Anketell Street, will only address the Anketell Street pavement and the smaller Anketell St entry to the town square.

In regard to Anketell Street the single biggest adverse impact on the amenity of the area is the use of Anketell Street by the ACTION buses. The Council has discussed re-routing the buses to Cowlshaw Street with Tuggeranong College and they are supportive of this solution and a separate letter on this matter will be sent to Minister FitzHarris. Currently there is no plan at any stage by either Directorate to fix this problem and the stage 1 works on Anketell St will only exacerbate the problem.

The Stage 1 intention to remove the existing raised planter beds, replace trees and regrade the pavement is not without merit, but these tree replacements, structural and level changes should be considered as a cohesive overall precinct design which focuses on the strong visual and physical links between the Mall and the Lake.

Mindful of the recent University of Canberra Tuggeranong town centre study we are very concerned that planning for this significant public space has proceeded to a construction phase with no overall vision or plan for the lane way precinct from the Hyperdome to the lake foreshore. Furthermore, we were advised that TCCS is only addressing the Government commitment to Anketell Street and while this is important they are not looking at or planning for the overall picture which we regard as important when looking at the overall revitalisation of the Tuggeranong Town centre and consider the main thrust of the Government election commitment.

The Council is concerned that by TCCS only looking at Anketell Street and excluding any revitalising of the town square, Stage 1 of the project is not a cohesive plan that responds to the other areas within the precinct, (the central square and linkage to Cowlshaw St and the northern and southern carparks). As a consequence the opportunity to revitalise the town centre may become much more difficult to achieve and instead fail at this first stage. This is very much at odds with the community expectations resulting from the consultation process and understanding of the scope of the project, albeit this work is described as Stage 1 of a broader (but as yet unplanned) project. To proceed with stage 1 of this project is rather like putting a roof on a house before the walls are built and there is no floor plan for how many rooms. The risk to the



overall project success is simply too great to proceed without stage 1 being revised to consider critical basic needs.

A number of submissions raised concerns about the laneway and town square and in general there was an understanding amongst community members that this area would be addressed in this project but has since appeared to have been dropped off the planned works. There was wide spread concern from the community attending the Council meeting that the laneway was not being addressed. Best practise planning hardly occurs from misinforming the community while raising expectations, failing to establish a vision for the area or overall plan and then under delivering.

We urgently seek your support to our proposal to put stage 1 construction on hold while the stage 1 is extended to include a visioning exercise and overall plan developed for the laneway and town square that connects Anketell St to the lake foreshore. Implementation could then naturally proceed as part of an integrated plan for the town.

Our own planning and development subcommittee has evaluated the opportunities this space provides and identified a number of positive social, economic and environmental outcomes that could be arrived at for both TCCS and the community with scoping of an extended design inclusive of stage 1. Some of which could include:

- keeping some of the existing trees along the Eastern side of Anketell St to provide shade whilst those on the western side are replaced.
- Reducing the double row of tree planting along the laneway to a single row
- creating the shared space zone to better connect with egress points from the northern and southern carparks behind and at the northern end of Anketell Street, and along Cowlshaw Street where the laneway connects to the lake foreshore.
- delivering contemporary quality urban designed spaces which incorporate level changes and spatial arrangements required to activate and safely traverse the entire precinct and which would transform the laneway and town square.
- Utilising the Anketell St Precinct for street festivals and night markets
- establishing the laneway as an arts precinct in cooperation with the Community arts centre and public library.
- Reframing the entry to the laneway and identify positions for public art and trees that do not obscure the visual connection to the lake.

At the TCC meeting on last night, it was resolved unanimously that the community wants the buses removed from using Anketell Street. Secondly, the community wants a more comprehensive planning processes to drive and inform the TCCS implementation beginning with exploration of a vision for the town square and activation based on best practice planning examples such as connecting the outdoor dining area to the lake and examples of which underpin government thinking in the city to the lake project for civic and have already been carried out at Belconnen.



We request an urgent meeting with yourself and Minister Fitzharris and your respective advisors to intervene in Stage 1 Anketell street upgrade with a view to seeking the governments agreement to temporarily put a hold on the Stage 1 construction while an extended planning and design process is undertaken to develop a vision, design and plan for the Town square and adjoining lane ways. We think this is essential to really revitalise the Tuggeranong Town Centre.

We recognise the limited funds available for the implementation of the Governments election commitments in Tuggeranong and are keen to reshape stage 1 to better fit the needs of the local community before the funds are expended on incidental works that won't achieve the stated goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenys Patulny".

Glenys Patulny  
President  
Tuggeranong Community Council

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