



Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY GENERAL
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Ms Shirley Lithgow

Dear Ms Lithgow

I refer to your email dated 16 August 2011 and attached copy of a letter from Dr Jenny Stewart, President of the Woden Valley Community Council, dated 15 August 2011. Dr Stewart's correspondence relates to the outcome of a public meeting about the development application (DA) to vary the Crown lease over Block 4, Section 79 Phillip, for the Woden pitch and putt golf course.

I acknowledge the concerns of the Woden Valley community in relation to the DA and, in particular, the potential loss of a community facility in the area. Whilst I recognise the importance of maintaining community facilities in the Woden area and Canberra in general, the block is zoned for commercial, rather than community purposes, under the Territory Plan. At the present time, I do not support a variation to the Territory Plan that would mandate a pitch and putt golf course on the site. I also note that full market value was paid for the lease.

As you may be aware, in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (Act) I requested the Planning and Land Authority (Authority) to refer the DA to me for consideration. Following discussions with the Southern Cross Club, the Club provided me with details of a revised proposal which results in a reduction in the proposed uses for the site and increases the area of "green space" available for public use. As part of its future development proposal, the Club has undertaken to maintain this publicly accessible space.

Having carefully considered the development application documents, the additional information provided by the Club and the formal advice from the Authority, I decided to remit the DA to the Authority for a decision. I formed the view that the application for a lease variation did not satisfy the criteria in section 159(2) of the Act for the exercise of my call-in powers. I am advised that the DA was partially refused and partially approved with conditions on 30 September 2011 and that, as a representor, you have been advised of the decision.

I believe that the approval achieves a balanced outcome for both members of the broader community and the lessee. Importantly, it seeks to maintain community and recreational facilities provision in the Woden area. It also worth noting that at this stage a DA has not been lodged for redevelopment of the site.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Any additional development, in the form of building works, will require the submission of a separate development application. In this event, a further opportunity would be provided for you to comment on any proposal received.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Corbell', with a large, stylized initial 'S' and 'C'.

Simon Corbell MLA
Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

7.10.11