



Mr Gary Samuels
President CNRG

Via: samuels1@tpg.com.au

2020 ACT Legislative Election

Dear Mr Samuels

Thank you for your correspondence requesting ACT Labor's position on matters important to Community of Nicholls Residents Group and the wider community. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The ACT Labor Government's focus now and through the coming term, if we are fortunate enough to be returned to government, is to protect Canberrans' jobs, keep Canberrans healthy and safe, and help the local economy recover from the devastating global impact of COVID-19.

A range of groups have recently made contact with MLAs and candidates seeking information on our policies ahead of the election on 17 October 2020. As the ACT Labor Party Secretary and Campaign Director, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Labor Party, its MLAs and candidates.

If re-elected, ACT Labor's planning strategy will continue to protect the ACT's green spaces and surrounding natural bushland, by reducing urban sprawl and limiting growth to our town and group centres, and along major transport corridors. This will allow our suburbs to retain their low-density, tree-lined character.

ACT Labor plans to continue the ACT Planning Review and Reform Project to make the ACT's planning and development system easier to navigate, and generate better design outcomes. ACT Labor can guarantee that our proposed planning system reforms will make it more responsive to community needs and views.

ACT Labor will also preserve our existing nature reserves and continue to set aside land to protect our native plants and animals. For example, since 2016 the ACT Labor Government has expanded the Molonglo River Reserve and created the Franklin Grasslands Reserve. We have recently committed an additional 450,000 trees to meet our target of 30% tree canopy cover across Canberra.

I note the ongoing concerns you have outlined in your email regarding the proposed redevelopment of Gold Creek Golf Course. Given the community opposition to this redevelopment as put forward by the proponents, ACT Labor cannot support this proposal as it was presented to the community in April 2018.

ACT Labor's comprehensive Policy Position Statement will be released in the near future. We will provide you a copy of the policy platform when it is released for the information of CNRG members. This statement will contain important policies and I encourage you to share and discuss this document with your members, and other interested community members.

ACT Labor will be providing it to all interested organisations and publishing it on our website (actlabor.org.au), because we believe it is important for this active, informed electorate to be able to easily read and compare parties' positions ahead of an election. In addition to the Policy Position Statement ACT Labor will continue to make detailed policy announcements throughout the election campaign on issues that matter to Canberrans.

ACT Labor MLAs and candidates look forward to continuing to serve the community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa James

ACT Labor Campaign Director