

Katy Gallagher MLA

Making Canberra Even Stronger



Mr Austin Lynch
President
Old Narrabundah Community Council Inc

austinlynch60@gmail.com

Dear Mr Lynch

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward ACT Labor's responses to the issues presented in 'Narrabundah issues for the ACT Election 2012'. The council has raised important issues and, on behalf of the ACT Labor team, I have responded to these in the order that they were presented.

Please note that I have included additional information under each item as some of the issues need to be considered in their full context and not just with a Yes/No/Undecided response.

1. *Parking at Narrabundah shops is inadequate when the restaurants are busy at lunchtime. Will you advocate for more longtime parking behind the toilets?*

Response: See below

ACT Labor will address the question of parking at the Narrabundah shops. Based on current figures, the total number of parking spaces within the centre and 100 metres from the centre is about 85 spaces. This includes parallel, on-street spaces and spaces in the lane west of the main shopping block.

In relation to the suggested location behind the toilets is not a suitable site for long term parking, as the area is zoned Community Facility in the Territory Plan and a car park is a prohibited use. ACT Labor would not support the removal of community facility zoned land for use as a carpark.

ACT Labor will arrange for Roads ACT to clearly mark the parallel, on-street parking spaces on various parts of streets within 100 metres of the centre to encourage better parking discipline, utilisation and turnover. This will happen within the next couple of months.

6247 4066 Katy.Gallagher@act.alp.org.au GPO Box 3065, Canberra ACT 2601

 [@KatyGMLA](https://www.facebook.com/KatyGMLA) www.katygallagher.net

For Ministerial enquiries contact 6205 0840 gallagher@act.gov.au

Authorised by Katy Gallagher for ACT Labor

2. *Narrabundah Community Oval, Kootara Cres. St Edmunds College has been blocked from renovating the oval, for training, because a lease has not been available to them. The oval will then be available to the community on the weekends. Bureaucratic blocking & inertia, by DET is in place. Will you support the renovation and use of our neglected oval?*

Response: See below

ACT Labor acknowledges the council's concerns and will continue to engage, through the Sport and Recreation group, with all parties to arrive at a solution that meets both the St Edmunds College's and the community's needs.

3. *Will you support maintaining Capitol Golf Course as an 18 hole public golf course?*

Response: Yes

As the council is aware, the Government's position regarding the Capital golf course was stated in December 2010 by Andrew Barr as follows:

I have advised the Vikings Group that its proposal to redevelop the Capital golf course in Narrabundah for residential purposes will not be supported by the Government.

I have written to the Vikings Group to ensure that it avoids unnecessary expense that may be incurred in developing its plans further.

The Vikings acquired this site some years ago for the purpose of operating it as a golf course. The community therefore has an expectation that it will continue to be operated as such.

Additionally it's clear the community does not support the Vikings proposal to convert the Capital golf course into residential development.

I think that it is important that the site should be retained as a recreational and open green space. The Government takes its role of protecting important community assets through the planning system seriously.

4. *Nimbin Street Pre-School Play Centre was the first community building in the Narrabundah prefab area. There is a rumour, that after the current improvements, it will be demolished in 18 months after the lease reverts back to DET. Will you support its continued use as a community facility for pre-schoolers?*

Response: Yes, the centre will continue to be used as a community facility.

The Narrabundah Cottage Childcare Centre is being upgraded and while that work is being progressed Nimbin Street is being used as temporary space for the children who use Narrabundah Cottage.

The Community Services Directorate has been considering the future use of Nimbin Street. No decision has been made as yet, but depending on the outcome of that consideration, some work may be needed to bring it up to standard. The directorate will undertake appropriate consultation on the future use of the facility.

5. *Continued support is needed for valued community organisations such as VOCAL. Will you advocate for these groups?*

Response: Yes.

The ACT Labor Government will continue to support a whole range of community organisations that provide valuable services to our community. VOCAL continues to support victims of crime in the community.

6. *Desirability of allowing developers to radically change plans after consultation, e.g. Crestwood change to 1 bedroom units.*

Response: See below.

The Crestwood example involved an application where the mix of unit sizes altered after pre-application consultation.

The pre-application consultation was not a mandatory part of the process but done voluntarily by the applicant. The application itself still had to be notified and undergo the formal consultation process.

In December 2011 the Assembly passed the Government's legislation mandating pre-development application community consultation for prescribed types of development proposals. Government is currently in the process of developing guidelines as to how this consultation must happen.

7. *Parents of children at Narrabundah Early Childhood School (NECS) need more certainty about which future school their children will be accepted into. Can you give the parents support?*

Response: Yes

The children living in the priority placement area for Red Hill and Forrest this year have all been advised that they will be guaranteed a spot in the school of their choice in 2013.

8. *There are concerns over Draft Planning Strategy allowing 4 – 6 story developments at local shops. The benefits for property owners will over-ride the amenity of tenants and customers. Who will you support?*

Response: See below

The ACT Planning Strategy does not advocate allowing 4 – 6 storey developments at local shops. The strategy focuses on group and town centres, and does not include local centres.

The planning system, as it is structured in the ACT, is not designed to take sides; it deals with land use and is about providing for the orderly and sustainable development of the ACT.

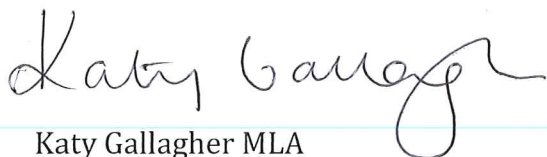
It also provides opportunities for the community to have input into policy proposals (such as variations to the Territory Plan, and other legislative changes) and as noted under point No. 6 the latest changes to the legislation will require pre-development application community consultation for prescribed types of development proposals.

The ACT Labor Government also included provisions in its planning legislation that “provide opportunities for community consultation about, and participation in, planning decisions” and “promote public education and understanding of the planning process, including by providing easily accessible public information and documentation on planning and land use.”

As can be seen planning systems are not simply about supporting tenants and customers over property owners or property owners over tenants and customers. Its a matter of balance that results in a net benefit for the whole community.

Thank you for the opportunity to outline ACT Labor’s position in relation to these important issues and I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Old Narrabundah Community Council and the Inner South Canberra Community Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katy Gallagher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Katy Gallagher MLA

3 OCT 2012