



## Yvette Berry MLA

MINISTER FOR HOUSING  
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES  
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTER FOR WOMEN  
MINISTER ASSISTING THE CHIEF MINISTER ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

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MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2015 regarding Petition No. 11-15 lodged by Mr Doszpot, MLA on behalf of 333 Australian Capital Territory residents.

I understand the petition brings to the attention of the Assembly that the Community Services Directorate has submitted a Development Application which proposes the demolition of 4 dwellings in Narrabundah (Blocks 22, 23, 24 and 25 Section 39) and the construction of 8 units and an additional dwelling on an adjoining block (block 20 Section 39).

The redevelopment of these properties in Mindarie Street and Boolimba Crescent is part of Housing ACT's ongoing capital works program which supports the renewal of the public housing portfolio. The old buildings will be replaced with new more accessible and energy efficient dwellings that better suit the needs of public housing tenants now and into the future.

The blocks are all located within the Residential RZ2 Suburban Core zone which has, as one of its objectives, the provision of development that is low to medium density in character, particularly in areas close to facilities and services in commercial centres.

Housing ACT has complied with all the necessary development and planning requirements in relation to this proposal. The Development Application has been approved by the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) and this decision is being appealed to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) by the Old Narrabundah Community Council Inc (ONCC).

Following the approval of the Development Application, and the lodgement of the appeal by the ONCC, the ACT Heritage Council (the Heritage Council) received an application from the ONCC that nominated Blocks 22, 23, 24 and 25 Section 39 Narrabundah for provisional registration on the ACT Heritage Register.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body which is charged with making decisions about the registration of heritage places in accordance with the provisions under the *Heritage Act 2004* (the Heritage Act).

As the Heritage Council has not yet made a decision on provisional registration in accordance with section 32 of the Heritage Act the Heritage Council was requested by the ACT Government Solicitor representing ACTPLA in the appeal to provide advice, under Section 60 of the Heritage Act, on whether the buildings are likely to have significance and, if likely to have significance, whether the proposed development would impact on such significance.

In providing advice under Section 60 of the Heritage Act, the Heritage Council considered the Development Application; the ACT Heritage Register nomination submitted by the ONCC, including all plans submitted; the ACAT documents related to the appeal (AT 15/34); a condition and preliminary assessment by ACT Heritage as well as its own independent research. Based on that information, the Heritage Council formed the view that sufficient evidence was not established at that time to indicate that the place was likely to have heritage significance.

However, the Heritage Council, in accordance with section 32 of the Heritage Act, must still decide whether or not to provisionally register the place.

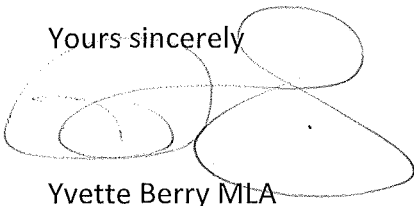
There are public housing properties in most suburbs of Canberra. Some suburbs, such as Narrabundah, have a higher percentage of public housing properties than other areas, especially the new suburbs. This dispersal of public housing is considered to be one of the strengths of the portfolio.

By locating public housing properties throughout suburbs people on low incomes have improved access to shops, schools, public transport and other community facilities. Dispersing public housing properties, referred to as 'salt and peppering', provides the opportunity to create inclusive communities that allow individuals to build stable and productive links to their community.

The Development Application was subject to public notification in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*. There was no statutory requirement for consultation with the community before submitting the Development Application.

The Executive Director, Housing and Community Services, Mr David Matthews, has agreed to meet with the ONCC following the appeal process on the Development Application. The meeting will provide an opportunity to talk about policy issues such as 'salt and pepper' of public housing properties and consulting with the community on redevelopment of public housing properties.

Yours sincerely



Yvette Berry MLA  
Minister for Housing

5 NOV 2015