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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO KBRG AGM - 3 NOVEMBER 2022

2021/22 has been extremely busy for the KBRG Committee. Areas of activity have included:

**The Inner South Canberra District Planning Strategy.** We initiated this in response to the ACTPLA 'consultation' on the Planning System Review and Reform Project and assisted in finalising it in December 2021. It is on the Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC)'s web site and we now await the release of the Government's own draft District Strategy, along with the draft (new) Territory Plan (supposed to happen in November 2022).

**The Planning Bill 2022.** We made submissions earlier this year and the Bill has now been somewhat revised and presented to the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly's Transport, Planning and City Services (PTCS) Committee is to hold an Inquiry into this Bill – submissions are due by 16 November and the Committee is to report by 22 December. ISCCC and others have agitated to have the draft (new) Territory Plan available for scrutiny before the Bill is finalised, because of the lack of prescription in the Bill about the content of the Plan. It appears there is going to be very little time for this to happen.

**The Urban Forest Bill.** Janet Hughes did a KBRG submission on this one and I attended the PTCS Committee's Inquiry on 6 October and made a short presentation, together with Marea Fatseas, Chair of the ISCCC, and Jochen Ziel, Chair of North Canberra Community Council. We were allocated a total of 20 minutes for the three of us. Marea and I subsequently sent our 'talking points' to the RiotACT, as they are interested in doing further articles on this and the Planning Bill. (There are significant overlaps between the two Bills.)

**84&86 Giles Street Kingston appeal to ACAT.** KBRG lodged its submission and four witness statements as required by ACAT on 5 September. On 21 September the ACAT set aside the planning authority's conditional approval decision and remitted the matter to the planning authority for "**reconsideration according to law**". The ACT Government Solicitor has advised that the planning authority will be making a 'fresh decision' on the DA. It appears the whole appeal process may have to restart, depending on what this 'fresh decision' is, hopefully improved! Great thanks to all who contributed to the KBRG 'fighting kitty', specially set up for this appeal. We may need more help depending on what happens next!

**East Lake urban renewal project.** KBRG has put in a submission to the ‘place plan’ consultant, Canberra-based Tait Network. The response was “your KBRG email submission was received and passed through to the team collating the engagement summary...An East Lake Listening Report about the engagement will be available to read on ‘yoursay’ over the coming months.” I will talk more at the AGM about our submission and some recent advice from EPSDD on where all this is at.

**Kingston Arts Precinct.** A ‘Creative Panel Workshop’ (mainly Arts groups) was held on 19 August, for the development of a ‘Public Art Plan’. The Community Panel met on 25 August – the ‘Place Brief’ is to be completed in September, a Community Event is to be held in November and ‘Place-led community design engagement’ is to proceed next year. A further meeting of the Community Panel is to be held on 20 October.

**52-56 Leichhardt St.** We put in a critical submission last December, following pre-DA consultation on a 76 unit, 4-storey residential proposal. Nothing further to date.

**10 Brisbane Avenue redevelopment.** Proposal to replace the Charles Sturt Uni building with a new 8-storey office building. KBRG has expressed concerns about it exceeding the height limits under the National Capital Plan and has written to EPSDD and the NCA noting there are several developments in this area requiring good coordination.

**Kennedy Street redevelopment (Block 16 Section 20 Kingston).** Purdons gave KBRG Committee members a very early pre-DA briefing with a 4-storey building envelope over the whole site which might yield 180 or so apartments. They are proposing a ‘drop-in centre’ for people to view a concept proposal when available.

**Active Travel Plan.** KBRG made a submission re upgrading pathways etc.

**Manuka Oval video screen.** Proposed design being finalised.

**Floriade Celebration.** KBRG was given a grant to hold an event in Green Square on Saturday 17 September. This was delayed due to bad weather and held on 1 October. We had excellent musical entertainment by the Wiradjuri Echoes and Mitch Canas. The Kingston Organic Community Gardeners had a large stall and sold lots of their own produce. Great thanks to Robby McGarvey and Nick Swain and to all the other helpers.

**Public Housing.** Committee members are supporting public housing tenants in Kingston who have been given eviction notices. We are intending to have a discussion on social and affordable housing at the AGM.

**Griffith Flats.** KBRG’s Heritage nomination for these significant, early public housing flats, drafted by Nick Swain has been accepted for consideration by the Heritage Council.

**Teloopa Park.** We are still wanting to set up a Friends of Teloopa (and Bowen?) Park group and hold an inaugural event in Teloopa Park. We are waiting for TCCS to approve a Park Care Plan before the group can become active.

Richard Johnston  
President KBRG

17 October 2022