

2020 ACT elections: YRA priority issues
Response from Fiona Carrick

Yarralumla Wetland

In 2009 as part of the Yarralumla Bay Recreation Hub Master Plan, the National Capital Authority proposed converting the stormwater drains emptying into Lake Burley Griffin into a wetland. This would not only add to the aesthetics of the area but improve the water quality of Lake Burley Griffin, potentially provide irrigation water for Yarralumla Bay Oval and/or the Yarralumla School Oval and link with the existing ACT Conservation area. The wetland could also be used as a teaching resource for the Yarralumla Primary School. The drains could also be naturalised which would reduce maintenance costs and improve safety.

YRA is seeking support for the project and funding for planning and design.

Answer – I support the Yarralumla wetlands and have included it in my environmental policy

YMCA Auxiliary Hall

There is no Community Hall in Yarralumla at present for use by community groups such as yoga, table tennis, garden groups etc. There is, however, a community hall leased to the YMCA which has been unused and derelict for some time. We understand YMCA are not in a financial position to repair the Hall and would like to return it to the ACT government.

This would seem to be an opportune time to return the Hall to the community for the community to use.

Answer – I support the development of community facilities in our suburbs and will investigate the options to bring this facility back to the people.

Parking

A perennial issue in Yarralumla has been the lack of sufficient parking at the Shops. It is estimated that by the ACT Government's own standards for required public parking for shops, the Yarralumla shops fall short by at least 75 spaces.

YRA would like a commitment to address the parking problem.

Answer – parking is an issue at all our local shops so I will investigate all options to increase supply and turnover of cars to enable access to the shops.

Traffic and pedestrian safety

There are a limited number of entry and exit roads to Yarralumla but much of Yarralumla's traffic is generated from outside the suburb. As a consequence, Yarralumla roads are carrying a much larger volume of traffic than they were designed to carry. This results in vehicle and pedestrian safety issues and creates major choke points at the various entry points to Yarralumla and subsequent traffic flows throughout the suburb.

The development of the Old Brickworks site and the CSIRO site has the potential to increase the population of the suburb by some 50% further adding to the traffic and safety pressures.

To address these concerns, YRA is seeking support for the construction of the Mint Interchange at the intersection of Adelaide Avenue and the Cotter Road and the introduction of a number of traffic calming measures including pedestrian crossings, in Yarralumla.

Answer – I support the construction of the mint interchange with access to Canberra's south and traffic calming measures. The increasing population requires traffic modelling and planning to ensure vehicles on the road network flow.

Community Garden

A group of local residents, supported by YRA, are planning to develop a community garden in Yarralumla near the school. Such a garden will have a number of social, environmental and economic benefits for the community.

YRA is seeking support for this initiative.

Answer – I support community gardens – great for wellbeing and social capital.

Protect Stirling Park from Development

In 2012 the National Capital Authority proposed the construction of a Diplomatic Estate in Stirling Park, Yarralumla. Following community objections, the NCA subsequently decided to build the Estate on the Curtin Horse Paddocks.

Given the overwhelming environmental and community values inherent in Stirling Park, YRA is seeking an assurance that, should embassy development on the Curtin Horse Paddocks not proceed, Stirling Park will be protected from embassy or other development.

Answer – Stirling Park is special and I do not support its development.

Enforce building, lease and planning rules

There have been numerous examples in Yarralumla (and elsewhere) of the Government's failure to enforce building, lease and planning rules and regulations.

YRA is seeking a commitment that sufficient resources will be made available to the relevant government agencies to enforce the rules and regulations and a clear directive given to agencies that enforcement is to have a much higher priority than has been the case in the past.

Answer – I believe the planning and compliance in Canberra does not adequately support the community. While I welcome development, it needs to be done well. We need to ensure we have adequate resources with the right skills in the Directorate with rules and regulations that are underpinned by planning that meets the communities expectations of a bush capital.

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