

# YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SURVEY

SEPTEMBER 2020

## YARRALUMLA WETLAND

The ACT Greens have worked hard for over since the 2008 Parliamentary Agreement to increase urban wetlands across Canberra to reduce urban heat, improve amenity, promote biodiversity and improve water quality in the ACT. The 2012 Parliamentary Agreement led to the \$93.5 million investment in the Health Waterway program in the ACT. The success of these constructed wetlands demonstrates the many social and environmental benefits of treating water as part of the urban ecosystem.

Building on this work, the Greens recently launched a [\\$30 million Repairing Waterways package](#) to continue to restore, strengthen and better manage the ACT's unique ecosystems and waterways. The package includes a \$30 million infrastructure program which would continue the successful Healthy Waterways project to continue to slow the flow of water through our suburban creeks, reduce pollutants and provide essential habitat. This would include new wetlands, rain gardens, ponds, swales and restoration projects to benefit Canberra's water catchments, including Lake Tuggeranong, Yarralumla Creek, West Belconnen, and Molonglo. This fund could be used for wetland creation projects like the one you propose in Yarralumla, with projects assessed on their social and environmental outcomes.

## YMCA AUXILIARY HALL

The ACT Greens support improved access to community facilities. We would work to increase the number of community meeting spaces by refurbishing older buildings and building new community spaces where needed. Making the best use of the YMCA Hall to deliver positive outcomes for the community is aligned with this approach.

The Greens have also released an election policy to increase the use of community clubs, by supporting those who wish to go pokie-free to improve their facilities available for community hire, including halls and kitchens. You can see the detailed announcement [here](#).

## PARKING

This is an excellent example of a long-standing local priority that could be addressed through the ACT Greens proposal to establish a Neighbourhood Democracy fund. This fund would give the community the power to decide what their neighbourhood needs. This neighbourhood fund

would allow the members of every suburb to come together to determine how to spend an average annual budget of \$100,000. This could be capital works projects, community gardens, park upgrades, new playground equipment, tree planting, employing people to work on a particular project, or community-building activities and events. For more information see <https://greens.org.au/act/neighbourhood-democracy>.

## TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The ACT Greens believe that these problems are best addressed through investment in walking and cycling infrastructure (e.g. pedestrian crossings, as suggested by the YRA) so that Yarralumla residents can move around their suburb safely and conveniently. We will be releasing a comprehensive walking and cycling package soon which will include funds for exactly these sorts of investments. This will cover issues such as:

- Substantially lifting funding for walking and cycling infrastructure so that more local priorities can be fixed;
- Giving local communities more say on new active transport infrastructure in their area; and
- Improving trunk cycling corridors, with Woden to the City, which is of particular relevance to Yarralumla, as our first priority.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The ACT Greens have long been supporters of community gardens, including establishing the regular community garden grants program in the 2012 Parliamentary Agreement. We are now calling for policies and programs to facilitate increased community access to public land for food production, including stronger government support for city farms, community gardens and community orchards. We believe that community gardens provide a valuable opportunity for residents to connect, build community, learn about and grow their own food.

The proposed community garden in Yarralumla is an example of the type of project that could be supported through the ACT Greens proposed Neighbourhood Democracy fund (explained under 'Parking' section), or the YRA could apply for a community garden grant, which is an annual [ACT Government grant round](#).

## STIRLING PARK

The ACT Greens support the protection of land with high environmental value in Yarralumla, and Canberra more broadly. The ACT Greens are aware of the significant environmental values at Stirling Park, and the work being undertaken to rehabilitate the landscape. The ACT Greens support maintaining this site for its landscape and environmental values. We do note, however, that this is National Capital designated land, and thus the ACT Government has no control over

Federal Government decisions about the site, including if they decided to use the land for embassies.

## ENFORCEMENT OF BUILDING, LEASE AND PLANNING RULES

The Greens [New Plan for Canberra](#) includes a range of commitments to improve outcomes in planning, development and heritage. We believe in improved building regulation and a planning system that delivers better development outcomes for our community.

The ACT Greens agree that traditionally enforcement has not had a strong enough focus. The Greens have been pleased to see stronger enforcement, particularly on building quality, over the last two years. This has included increased funding through ACT Government budgets for Access Canberra's building and planning inspectors. We believe this new stronger approach should continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to expand on our plans on these topics. You can keep up to date with our election initiatives here: <https://greens.org.au/act/better-normal>.

[Our full policy platform is here.](#)

If you have any further questions, our ACT Greens Leader is Shane Rattenbury. You can contact him via email: [rattenbury@act.gov.au](mailto:rattenbury@act.gov.au) or follow him on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/shanerattenburymla/>

And of course, our lead candidate for Murrumbidgee is Emma Davidson.

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On behalf of the ACT Greens

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