

RESPONSE TO HALL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Peter Toet
President, Village of Hall District Progress Association
via: Secretary - robert.yallop.care@gmail.com

15 July 2020

Dear Hall Progress Association,

Thank you for seeking the views of the ACT Greens on issues relating to Hall.

The Greens are very supportive of the ACT's rural villages, including Hall, and we recognise their unique history and the special characteristics they bring to the ACT. Through our role as a minor party in the Assembly we have long advocated that these villages are better recognised in the planning and policy framework, as we feel they can be overlooked in favour of the urban areas of the ACT. We believe villages play an important role in contributing to the fabric and character of the ACT, and there should be a focus in working with local communities to support and enhance each village separately.

As strong advocates for improving consultation processes - particularly in our planning system, the ACT Greens support close engagement with the Hall community, including the Progress Association, on all relevant Government processes. We also support protecting Hall's unique environmental and indigenous heritage.

Hall's buffer zone and future development: the Greens are committed to protecting Hall's village character. The buffer zone around Hall is an important part of limiting inappropriate development and allowing the bush and rural setting to remain. The buffer zone around Hall is a heritage buffer zone, and as such, has permanent status, which may be of particular importance in the context of the CSIRO's plans to develop their experimental farm site along the Barton Highway. The Greens will work hard to ensure that any development proposals are appropriate for the site, and achieve biodiversity and sustainability outcomes. We note

that there are still many steps to be taken over the coming years in relation to the CSIRO proposal, but we would welcome your feedback if you have any specific concerns relating to Hall.

We agree overall that Hall should have a sufficient range of services and infrastructure, such as appropriate bush fire hazard reduction, stormwater services, and safe walking and cycling infrastructure, our detailed response to your questions is below.

Ongoing security of tenure of the former Hall School site and the Hall Pavilion by the Progress Association

The Greens are strong supporters of community facilities, and opposed the 2006-07 round of school closures that included the Hall School, because a local public school is a vital centre of the community. Now that the school site has been converted into a popular community facility, it is important that it remains accessible for locals. The ACT Greens have been concerned about the lack of ACT Government commitment to community organisations having long-term security of tenure or ability to manage local halls.

In 2017 the ACT Government sort to change the management arrangements of a number of ACT government buildings, often Heritage listed ones, which were managed by community associations for the benefit of the community. Greens MLA Caroline Le Couteur advocated for a number of these groups, in particular Downer, and the government changed its mind and continued the existing peppercorn rental agreements. What is needed now is long term secure arrangements that respect the community's needs and the heritage issues were they are present.

Ensuring timely approval and implementation of bush fire hazard reduction and fuel management measures in areas bordering Hall village as requested by the Hall Rural Fire Brigade

The ACT Greens back the ACT's Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, and the Bushfire Operation Plans for regions across the ACT. In general, the Greens support employing the full range of fuel reduction measures, including mowing, slashing, grazing, and burning where necessary. We also support these decisions being made in partnership with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service where these areas connect to Canberra Nature Park. Our full bushfire management policy is here:

<https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2020-06/2020%20ACT%20Greens%20Policy%20Platform.pdf>

Assessment, design and completion of appropriate works on stormwater infrastructure, particularly in the laneways of Hall village

The Greens are strong advocates of improving our stormwater and retention pond systems across the ACT, including incorporating water sensitive urban design wherever possible. These works have a high capacity to improve the water quality of our lakes, ponds and wetlands, and well as liveability in our suburbs. We are unaware of the detail of the Hall laneways issue, but as water management is a high priority for us, we would be interested to hear more, for follow up next Assembly term.

Developing in consultation with the Association appropriate measures to ensure pedestrian, cyclist and motor vehicle safety including remediation of pedestrian paving, lighting, vehicle speed control and parking in Victoria Street, safety of the school bus interchange, and sealing of the Centenary Trail cycle path from Gladstone St to the Barton Highway

The ACT Greens have long been advocates of infrastructure works to improve safety for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. You will be interested to know that as part of the upcoming election campaign the Greens will be advocating strongly for 'better neighbourhoods', asking that all areas of Canberra - including Hall - are allocated new capital funding to spend on local improvements, with the priorities to be decided in close cooperation with the local residents. We will have more information on this initiative soon. The detail will be found here once announced:

<https://greens.org.au/act/buildingourneighbourhoods>

Full implementation of the Adventure Trail and Nature Play Space Gladstone Street hall Design (TCCS November 2019), Bush Tucker Garden and installation of "all abilities" playground equipment

The ACT Greens have been key advocates for reintroducing nature play into the ACT's playgrounds. As Minister for TAMS and also Minister for Sport and Recreation, Greens Minister Shane Rattenbury was able to ensure that the work was undertaken within agencies to prove the concept of nature play as an important educational and recreational activity, and also prove the cost effectiveness of these spaces from a government perspective. As a result, we are very pleased that these nature play spaces are being rolled out across Canberra. We support the proposal for Hall to have a Nature Play Space as well as an Adventure Trail. In terms of an 'all abilities' playground - we have not seen the proposal, but we do know that this can sometimes be very specific and sometimes expensive equipment, so it is important to ensure that full all abilities playgrounds are well dispersed across Canberra to provide adequate access for all.

Whilst this election period has thus far occurred in the face of COVID restrictions, we have been unable to undertake our usual range of campaign and outreach activities. However,

before the 2016 ACT election, we were able to doorknock Hall residents, and we know that as well as the issues you raised above, Hall residents were also concerned about issues such as public transport, bus network infrastructure, street and laneway maintenance, water quality and community facilities.

Our elected members and election candidates are always happy to hear from Hall residents and to discuss these issues.

You can keep up to date with our election initiatives here:

<https://greens.org.au/act/better-normal>

[Our policy platform is here:](#)

And of course, Andrew Braddock is our lead candidate for Yerrabi and can be contacted on 0412 890 625 or andrew.braddock@act.greens.org.au. You can see more detail here: <https://greens.org.au/act/person/andrew-braddock>, or follow him on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BraddockAndrew>