



Forrest Residents Group

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Member for Kurrajong

stephen-smith@act.gov.au

Dear Ms Stephen-Smith,

I am writing to advise that Forrest residents held a General Meeting on Monday 13 February 2017 with a view to forming a Forrest Residents Group (FRG) and electing an Executive Committee.

A Forrest Residents Group, with an agreed Charter and an Executive Committee, to represent the interests of the community has now been established.

According to residents' wishes, the Executive Committee seeks to be involved in future community consultations by the Government on any issues affecting the suburb of Forrest and its surrounding area, including the Parliamentary Triangle and the Manuka Precinct (shops, oval and pool).

Particular interests indicated by our members include development applications for the suburb, maintenance of NCA land boundaries, development height creep and movement from single to multi-unit developments. Our members are also keenly interested in improving the maintenance of trees and any proposals to remove or replace trees in the area and any changes to the designation of green spaces. Traffic management, maintenance of roads and footpaths, parking and heritage present additional concerns for large numbers of residents. Over time we shall seek consultation on all of these matters.

Recently we also have heard concerns about ongoing security in the area with increased parking in our streets and proposals for infill between the suburb and Parliament House. Our proximity to Parliament House increases the vulnerability of the suburb should there be large demonstrations or any attack on the House. Increased numbers of units and hotels compound this problem. At the present time many children in the suburb walk to and from school in relative safety because residents know who uses the streets and who parks in the area. This safety is severely undermined by increased development, redevelopment and associated activities. Having a green buffer between Parliament House and the suburb has benefitted the security of both up until this time. We are concerned about moves to change the status quo without consultation or appropriate measures to protect our residents.

A copy of our Charter, as agreed at our meeting, may be viewed at www.forrestresidents.org

We may be contacted through our email address mail@forrestresidents.org.au

Sincerely,

Margaret Atcherley

Chair