

Deb Foskey MLA

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Local Shops

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey today moved a motion on the importance of retail and community services in suburbs.

“Our shops and community facilities are really important to the quality of life in our suburbs” Dr Foskey said today.

“Recent changes to the Territory plan have seen increased development close to group and local centres. In some cases, that is despite the fact that the local centres themselves have closed down.”

“My motion asked the government to support a planning regime that strengthens the viability of local shops, and to rule out core development in suburbs without local centres altogether.”

“The ACT Government’s general support for my motion is appreciated.”

“However, Canberra people should remember it has abandoned its commitment to neighbourhood planning (and it seems community involvement in local planning over all). Now it has embarked on a planning system review that threatens to wipe out any capacity for individuals and community groups to influence development in their suburbs.”

“That is why I was disappointed today when the Government chose to amend the motion in order to avoid an analysis of the impact on local centres of the changes in the Territory plan” Dr Foskey said.

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