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After ACTPLA stuff up, Section 63 totally fails the Griffin Legacy test

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey today called on ACTPLA to ensure that planning in the City takes community needs into account.

“It is not too late to have community discussion about the way our city will be skewed by this large development. Development of Section 63 is a major opportunity to balance the city’s needs, as the first major development since the ACT Government and the NCA signed on to the Griffin Legacy inspired plan for City Hill” Dr Foskey said.

“Is this going to be another developer-led project, where a few large businesses end up with a monopoly on retail in our City, such as we see with the Canberra Centre expansion? Perhaps we need to go back to square one, and examine our needs before we approve plans for unwanted buildings. For the sake of small business in Canberra, we need to ensure that floor sizes for individual businesses are limited.”

“The Government should take control of this process to ensure good outcomes for all – the city, the community and private business. With ACTPLA stuffing up, the current process depends on the good will of the developers to ensure a pedestrian friendly, well treed, lively environment for the heart of our city, which integrates useable and efficient office space and apartments.”

“We want to see visionary design and good social outcomes which calm the centre of Civic, making the City Hill Park more accessible. ACTPLA needs to be integrally involved to ensure that traffic planning around the area works with this concept, otherwise Vernon Circle will remain the main drag for Civic’s north-south traffic.”

“I am concerned that this area, the apex of the parliamentary triangle, which was discussed extensively in the media in 2005 and is a key part of the Griffin Legacy, could end up without any municipal buildings or significant useable public space and increase traffic problems rather than solve them” Dr Foskey said.

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