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22 July 08

Where is the social mix?

Deb Foskey, Greens MLA, today expressed concern that the Fraser Court site is to be redeveloped entirely as apartments for the top end of the market.

"It seems to be a firm trend that each time a multi-residential government housing site is redeveloped, social housing misses out," said Dr Foskey.

"We know that the real need for housing is at the lower end of the market, but most new housing is aimed firmly at wealthier tenants."

"This is especially the case in inner suburbs like Kingston where windfall profits are to be made on ex-government housing sites."

"While we now know that concentrating large numbers of disadvantaged people in multi-residential complexes can have adverse social impacts, we don't seem to consider the social capital that is lost when we concentrate wealthy people in the same way."

"The Greens tried to have inclusionary zoning mandated for all new developments, but the Government and Opposition rejected it. This requirement, that 5-10% of all new developments include social and affordable housing, is a major way that other jurisdictions such as South Australia and Ireland have increased their supply of public housing."

"It is a policy which ensures that we maintain a social mix in our streets and suburbs, which has been a sensible longstanding policy of Canberra's planners."

"The policy of relocating social housing away from the services and amenities of the inner city doesn't make sense - public housing tenants often lack transport options and pushing them to the margins of our city, including to many of the new estates which lack shopping and other facilities, indicates more concern about the financial bottom line than the social impact of turning our inner suburbs into elitist enclaves and leaving the outer suburbs struggling for services," said Deb Foskey.

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