

# Oaks Estate Progress Association Inc.

**Minutes of a special meeting of the OEPA Committee held at the Community Hall,  
Oaks Estate, 7.00pm, Wednesday 26 February 2014,  
to determine points for discussion with Senator Kate Lundy.**

**Present.** Karen Williams (Chair), Alex Saeck, Dan Heldon, Michel Starling, Ewan Maidment.

**Apologies:** Judith Saeck.

## **Background documents required:**

- Map of Oaks Estate and surrounds showing the village in its landscape and cross-border contexts.
- Time-line of the incomplete ACTPLA/ESDD Oaks Estate Master Planning process since 2011 showing repeated postponements and loss of consultation outcomes.

## **Requests to Kate Lundy:**

1. Facilitate cross-border discussions addressing use of the Railway lands and improvements to Railway Street.
2. Lobby ACT government to draft Precinct Codes in conjunction with the finalisation of the Oaks Estate Master Plan.
3. Lobby for completion of Oaks Estate heritage registrations in conjunction with the finalisation of the Master Plan.
4. Participate in a meeting of the whole Oaks Estate community.

## **Cross border issues**

- The Cross Boarder Commission deals with policy matters. It is not set up for ground level matters such as use of the Oaks Estate Railway lands and traffic management of Railway Street. Senator Lundy may be able to persuade the ACT Cross Border Coordinating Facilitator to take up our concerns.

## **Faults arising from of continual postponement and disruption of the Oaks Estate master plan project:**

- Loss of consultation outcomes.
- Loss of ground since the project was not completed during the ACT Heritage Year, 2013.
- Incomplete Heritage Registrations.
- Separate drafting of Precinct Code. This leaves Oaks Estate at the mercy of the Territory Plan and consequent risk of inappropriate development.
- The Oaks Estate Master Plan will have no legally binding outcome. It will not be part of the Territory Plan. It will only define characteristics of the village and suggest broad building zones. In effect, it will be meaningless and will be shelved.

## **Oaks Estate surrounds and buffer zones:**

- Recognition of distinct development criteria for ACT villages
- Recognition of the heritage and environmental values of the adjacent landscape, from Beard to Sutton Road, including the junction of the rivers, vista toward the Limestone Plains, remnant Yellow Box grass land, Aboriginal and early European tracks – an original gateway to the district.
- Threat of adjacent broadacre development – expansion of Beard industrial area into the Honeysuckle paddocks – land about to be released.

## **Master plan process:**

- Whole of government approach to master planning needed, including involvement of Housing ACT.
- Possibility of collaboration between the Oaks Estate community and University of Canberra Architecture students, providing residency, based in the Community Hall, and prize, for production of alternate broad vision land use proposals and/or specific projects for Oaks Estate,

addressing for example, best practice social housing, transport linkages between Queanbeyan and Canberra.

**Possible sympathetic developments of surrounding open lands:**

- Walking track Lake Burley Griffin to Queanbeyan.
- Keeping place for Nugunwal people and education facility.
- Light rail connection between Queanbeyan and Canberra City.

**Communication:**

- Committee to improve its contacts with the Oaks Estate community by using blackboards to invite residents to committee meetings, distribution of leaflets and using social media and internet to report on committee decisions and negotiations, such as this meeting with Kate Lundy, working more closely with business people in Oaks Estate.

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