

27 June 2017
Minister for Planning, Mick Gentleman MLA
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister,

Re: Request to delay the sale of the former Water Police site (Block 29, Section 149) in the Belconnen Town Centre

Earlier this year the Land Development Agency (LDA) sought Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Block 29, Section 149, the former Water Police building site in the Belconnen Town Centre. This process was not successful, with the proposals received not meeting the EOI criteria. Following this disappointing result, the BCC were advised that there were several ways forward. One was to simply sell the site and await a Development Application, another was to wait until Emu Bank was further developed and offer the site for sale at that (unspecified) time.

We note that with the release of the recent budget, that LDA forward land sales in the Belconnen Town Centre have also been released. The Water Police site is listed as being for sale in the 2017/18 financial year. This decision has been made without consultation with significant community stakeholders.

The precinct codes for the Belconnen Town Centre, and especially for Emu Bank, are yet to be finalised. Emu Bank has been identified as an area of significance in the future economic and cultural development of Belconnen. By proceeding to sale ahead of these processes concluding, the best outcome for this site may not be realised.

The BCC request that the sale of this site be delayed until the precinct codes for the Belconnen Town centre have been formally mandated.

In the interim, we recommend remediating the site and placing temporary street furniture and lighting on this site, ensuring public access to the jetty and boat ramp. We do not want this site to forever remain vacant, but believe that the best outcome for government, community and any business that may be established on that site, would not be best served by a sale until other processes have concluded.

The BCC Committee is available to discuss this request.

Regards

Dr. Elizabeth Hirst

Chair, Belconnen Community Council