



Deakin Residents Association Inc.

P.O Box 3110, Manuka, ACT 2603

Email: secretary@deakinresidents.asn.au Web: www.deakinresidents.asn.au

Mr Matt Clowry
Chief Operating Officer
Canberra Girls Grammar School

cc. Mr Dan Stewart

Dear Mr Clowry,

On 5 February your assistant, Nicole Hoytink, asked for an update on the Deakin Residents' Association response to CGGS request for a letter of support for the school's proposals for development of sports facilities in Latrobe Park. The matter had been discussed at a meeting on 8 December 2015, which neither Ms Hoytink nor you had attended, so let me clarify where DRA stood then.

DRA's position at the end of the December meeting was that we would not be able to offer any form of support for the proposal, until

- a) we had received sufficient information about the terms of a lease or licence arrangement that CGGS seeks to enter with the ACT Government, with regard to a number of issues including
 - any restriction of public access; and
 - any proposed usages that might be inconsistent with Latrobe Park's status as a public recreational facility; and
- b) we had had sufficient time to consult with our broader membership, with this additional information to hand, to identify any further community concerns.

We understood that CGGS would provide us with this further information so that our consultation could proceed. In early January, having heard nothing further, our Secretary contacted Mr Dan Stewart, who provided an electronic copy of the presentation from the 8 December meeting, but no additional information on the issues we had raised.

In the mean time, discussions within DRA and with some stakeholders have identified a particular concern regarding the proposed fencing of the renovated oval. These concerns relate to

- the real and practical issues of 24-hour public access to the oval (e.g. people with mobility restrictions or using the facility in the evenings), and also
- that fencing the oval has the in-principle effect of alienating the area from the public realm, and thereby takes a step toward incremental privatisation (of which there have been several regrettable instances in Canberra over recent years).

We therefore need to make clear that DRA can not at this stage offer any statement of support, but remains willing to explore, with CGGS and with the ACT Government, whether a mutually satisfactory arrangement can be agreed upon.

DRA looks forward to receiving more detail on the CGGS proposal in these regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Bell". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'J' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Bell
President
Deakin Residents' Association Inc.

13 February 2016