

JERRABOMBERRA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

JERRABOMBERRA SAYS SCHOOLS, NOT FACTORIES!

At a public meeting last night, the Jerrabomberra community gave a resounding 'NO' to industrial and commercial development around their suburb, saying they want schools, not factories, on their doorstep.

Jerrabomberra Residents' Association (JRA) President Margot Sachse said the JRA called the meeting after the release of the Queanbeyan Land Release Inquiry's report into future land use around Queanbeyan.

The report gave the go ahead for residential development at Googong, but recommended the land adjacent to Jerrabomberra – the Poplars, Environa and North and South Tralee – be zoned for industrial and commercial use.

"The JRA was outraged that the Inquiry seemed to disregard the evidence of 53 submissions, and take heed of only two," Ms Sachse said.

"Unfortunately those two were the submissions from the Canberra Airport and the ACT Government who said the land around Jerrabomberra should not be used for residential development.

"The NSW Planning Minister has not signed off on the Inquiry's recommendations, and we are very pleased that the Jerrabomberra community came out in droves last night to say they wouldn't have our suburb surrounded by warehouses and factories.

"The Jerrabomberra Community Centre was packed with over 200 people who unanimously supported a motion calling on the NSW Government to reject the proposal, and instead support compatible residential development that would deliver things like the proposed Anglican High School, parks, and other recreational facilities."

Ms Sachse chaired the meeting, which also heard from Queanbeyan Mayor Frank Pangallo and State MP for Monaro Steve Whan.

Other speakers included Queanbeyan Councillor Sue Jarvis, Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra Secondary School Committee member David Hope, and JRA Committee member Kel Watt who put the motion to the meeting.

"Frank Pangallo and Steve Whan are supportive of our cause, and have said they will support the JRA's efforts to get a better deal for our area.

"While we are happy for Googong to go ahead, road infrastructure must be built to cater for it.

"Our objections come largely from the Inquiry's failure to consider our community's concerns, and their recommendation to zone the land next to us for industrial use.

"Not only would that ruin the beauty and feel of the area, it is also a ridiculous proposal, because it would mean the Queanbeyan area would have residential land for around twenty years, but enough industrial for the next thousand years.

“Our message last night to the NSW Government and the Queanbeyan Council was clear – make sure the Planning Minister rejects the Inquiry recommendations to re-zone the land adjacent to the Queanbeyan suburb of Jerrabomberra for industrial and commercial use.

“It’s about time the Jerrabomberra and Queanbeyan communities were placed first, and were not ridden roughshod over by the ACT Government and the Airport,” Ms Sachse said.

ENDS

Media contact: JRA President Margot Sachse 0419 189 211 available for interview/photo opportunity

Attached: Copy of the motion unanimously passed by over 200 Jerrabomberra residents at last night’s public meeting.

Motion

Having considered the processes and report of the Queanbeyan Land Release Inquiry, this meeting resolves as follows:

- The Report failed to take into account the written submissions of the JRA and the oral evidence of the JRA President;
- In recommending Googong as the sole greenfield site for residential development the Report failed to take into account the detrimental traffic impacts on Edwin Land Parkway;
- In recommending industrial and commercial development on Poplars, Tralee and Environa, the Report failed to consider the impacts on existing residential amenity and the loss to existing residents of the proposed High School and other community facilities.

AND calls on the NSW Government and the Queanbeyan City Council to:

1. Ensure that if Googong proceeds, Edwin Land Parkway is preserved as a local suburban road, and that Dunns Creek Road is constructed as a development condition;
2. Commit that Jerrabomberra will not be surrounded by industrial development on Poplars and Tralee;
3. Ensure that any development on Poplars, Tralee and Environa is compatible with the existing residential development at Jerrabomberra;
4. Commit to supporting and facilitating the construction of the Anglican High School, and the provision of recreational and community facilities (including the indoor swimming centre) in a new development on Poplars, Tralee and Environa.