



BELCONNEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Building a stronger community

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Belconnen Community Council Welcomes Consultation on the Draft Missing Middle Design Guide

The Belconnen Community Council (BCC) welcomes the ACT Government's consultation on the draft Missing Middle Design Guide, which provides Belconnen residents with greater clarity about future housing development in established suburbs.

This new Design Guide outlines how townhouses, duplexes, and other low-scale housing options could be integrated within Canberra's existing footprint, proposing standards for design quality, liveability, and neighbourhood compatibility.

"We have heard the term 'gentle urbanism' discussed for years with residents consistently expressing uncertainty about what this actually means, and how our suburbs are expected to change" said Lachlan Butler, Chair of the BCC. "This process and final guide should clarify future development while ensuring our community retains input in shaping our suburbs."

Mr Butler noted that these reforms address a key concern previously raised by the BCC regarding the restrictive 120m² limitation on second dwellings.

"We previously cautioned that strict size limitations on secondary dwellings wouldn't result in the new housing the government expected, and further reform was inevitable, creating additional uncertainty" Mr Butler said. "This revised approach attempts to address those limitations and create opportunities for practical, well-designed infill housing that meets the needs of families, downsizers, and first home buyers."

The BCC supports a design-led planning system and sees this guide as a potential framework for ensuring that new housing development enhances streetscapes, neighbourhood character, and community needs.

"This potential can only be realised through proper consultation. We encourage all Belconnen residents to review and comment on these proposals to ensure their perspectives shape how our city evolves, and we call on the ACT Government to demonstrate genuine community engagement throughout this process" added Mr. Butler.



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As Canberra grows, Belconnen will benefit from planning reforms that prioritise responsiveness, inclusivity, and sustainability. The BCC stands ready to work with the ACT Government and residents to ensure the finalisation and implementation of these guidelines reflects local values and priorities.

About the Belconnen Community Council

- The Belconnen Community Council (BCC) operates as a non-partisan, volunteer-driven organisation committed to advocating for our region and enhancing its appeal as a place to live, study, work, buy and sell goods and services, and enjoy life.
- The BCC represents member and community interests to the ACT Government and other stakeholders regarding matters that shape and impact the people and businesses of the Belconnen District.
- The Belconnen Community Council receives support and funding from the ACT Government.

Media Contact

Lachlan Butler

Chair, Belconnen Community Council

Phone: 0438 458 220 | Email: chair@belconnen.org.au