

### **Aged services and facilities**

Q: Plan and implement policies that will provide suitable support services, access corridors, accommodation and recreational facilities for Gungahlin's older community members, including health and palliative care facilities

A: Helen Cross Independents advocate advance planning for age care accommodation, and support for any initiative, community based or otherwise, that helps the aged of our community stay integrated into and active in our society. The big problem is that, as in the case of upper secondary schooling facilities, the likelihood is for lots of talk until a point is reached where funds have not been allocated early enough and we are caught short.

### **Bus services**

Q: Expand and improve the provision of public transport services in the Gungahlin district, including the planning and implementation of quality park-and-ride facilities at EPIC and express bus services utilising local area gathering points (central location bus stops).

A: The Helen Cross Independents strongly support increased express bus services to and from Gungahlin. This is a fundamental requirement in encouraging greater use of bus services, which in turn has other obvious benefits. We also support the frequent use of shuttle buses in Gungahlin's residential areas to pickup and drop/off commuters at the central location bus stops. In short, you can't, or shouldn't, have one without the other, otherwise you defeat the purpose of creating smoother and more efficient bus services.

### **Child care facilities**

Q: Provide suitable resources to implement quality community consultation, planning and construction of adequate childcare facilities in the Gungahlin/ Mitchell districts.

A: The work/family balance is extremely hard to manage, and the people of Gungahlin should not be disadvantaged by having no child care facilities. This, like most of the concerns of the people of Gungahlin, is a matter of priority.

### **Children's and Youth services and facilities**

Q: Plan and implement policies that will provide suitable support services, recreational open spaces and facilities to accommodate children's and teenage recreational activities; including the expansion of facilities at Yerribi Park and the provision of a suitable shade structure at the park's skate board area and the children's play area.

A: Gungahlin has only 1 skate park, no enclosed ovals, only 4 neighbourhood ovals and only 2 district playing fields. This is obviously not enough, given the population. Gungahlin needs more outdoor facilities for youths such as cricket practice nets, BMX bike trails, etcetera, as well as improved funding for the Gungahlin Youth Centre.

### **Community consultation**

Q: Implement policies that will provide local area communities (including Gungahlin and Mitchell) with opportunities for structured consultation and ongoing input into planning and development processes. Policies should provide for appropriate support for community councils and local area representatives.

A: Community consultation is an essential, even crucial, part of the planning & development process that must occur more often and more thoroughly than we have so frustratingly witnessed in so many instances over the last few years. In this regard, the attitude of the authorities, both political and administrative, has been arrogant. The Helen Cross Independents are strongly supportive of community councils and believe they must have not just a greater role in the community consultation process, but a genuine role, instead of the ersatz and piecemeal and marginal one they have had tossed their way so often over the past few years. So haphazard are things at present that there is likely a need for legislation which lays down the extent to which affected community organisations must be consulted over all building and development works in their respective areas. Otherwise we will continue to suffer platitudinous claims that “exhaustive and widespread community consultation has been undertaken”, when we know for a fact that a brief letter has been sent to less than a dozen of the thousands of people likely to be affected by some development. It just can't go on this way because it's driving people mad.

### **Community facilities**

- Q: Provide suitable resources to implement quality community consultation, planning and construction of appropriate community facilities 1) In the Amaroo district 2) At the Gold Creek Homestead site; and 3) Completion of the Palmerston Community Hall replacement initiative.
- A: The Helen Cross Independents strongly support the provision of these resources, with, for a change, a sense of some urgency.

### **Education**

- Q: Provide funding to plan and develop a local facility for Year 11 and 12 students in the Gungahlin Government school system i.e. construct a college, or an alternative facility, to provide quality Year 11/ 12 education in the Gungahlin district. This facility should be completed by the start of the 2007 school year.
- A: The Helen Cross Independents strongly support this issue. A residential area of the significance of Gungahlin should not be left to languish over such a core community facility as a senior high school. Furthermore, the Helen Cross Independents dismiss positions on this matter that propose that work on such a facility not begin until the appropriate minimum number of students has been reached. That attitude is a recipe for having to “play catch-up” yet again, as a neglected Gungahlin has always had to do. That sort of hedging carries little assurance for the people of Gungahlin, and we reject it as wishy-washy.

### **Electoral boundaries**

- Q: Provide suitable resources to implement quality community consultation, in an effort to review and resolve the current electoral boundaries model, which splits the Gungahlin community into two electorates
- A: The Helen Cross Independents strongly support a single, unified Gungahlin electorate. The present fragmentation does not make good sense and clearly runs counter to the principle of proper, balanced and integrated development of Gungahlin as a whole.

## **Employment**

Q: Develop and implement policies that will stimulate, expand and diversify sustainable employment opportunities in the Gungahlin Town Centre and Mitchell region, including the implementation of strategies to reverse the stagnation of the Mitchell commercial district. Offices and office jobs are required to provide stimulation to the Gungahlin Town Centre, with the relocation of Federal or Local Government Departments, to Gungahlin, seen as the most favoured outcome for providing stability and endorsement of Town Centre status.

A: The Helen Cross Independent Group understands the need to promote employment in the Gungahlin region and thus will fight for more Government departments to re-locate to Gungahlin. The Cross Independents also believe, and will fight for, incentives such as grants or rate concessions to be given to private sector companies to entice them to set-up in Gungahlin and Mitchell. The Government cannot sit by and watch steady decline in Mitchell.

## **GTC square and common**

Q: Provide suitable resources to implement quality community consultation, planning and construction of an appropriate "Town Centre public space". Namely the Gungahlin Town Centre's "Square and Common" areas.

A: The Helen Cross Independents strongly support a more positive approach by Government to realise this concept.

## **Gungahlin Town Centre issues**

Q: 1) Take appropriate actions to prevent ground floor residential developments within the Gungahlin Town Centre retail core area, i.e. the Big W and Coles development's ground floor residential proposals. 2) Provide an ACT shopfront facility in the Gungahlin Town Centre.

A: The Helen Cross Independents believe there should be no overlap between residential and retail developments in Gungahlin. Constructive planning is vital now for future sustainability and growth. The Cross Independents also fully

support the opening of a shopfront in the Gungahlin, as every region should have a Government shopfront.

### **Light rail and public transport**

Q: Commit resources to establishing an ACT light rail network, with the construction of the link Civic to Gungahlin Town Centre as the first stage of construction (construction to be commenced by 2007)

A: The Helen Cross Independents have all along strongly supported an ACT Light Rail network with the first stage being the Civic-Gungahlin route. Helen Cross has held forums on this issue and The Cross Independents will continue their fight for early committal of resources to the development of this Light Rail network.

### **Medical services and facilities**

Q: Provide suitable resources to implement quality community consultation, planning and provision of a local area medical centre. This centre should have the capacity to provide a range of medical services (24 X 7) including selected services identified as appropriate for relieving pressure on the Emergency facilities at Calgary and Canberra Hospitals.

A: Strongly support early allocation of resources for the implementation of this basic community project.

### **Planning and Development**

Q: Implement planning policies that provide quality development and construction outcomes. This needs to include structured consideration of issues associated with the increase of population density in newly developed areas of Gungahlin. Note: Issues like 1) the external appearance of homes and town houses; 2) road widths, parking and laneways; 3) provision and maintenance of open space, trees and street scapes; 4) yard sizes and children's and teenage recreational areas; 5) provision of access paths for the

increasing use of motorised scooters etc (by older people and the disabled); 6) telecommunication infrastructure and the provision of "grey water" services, at development stages; 7) environmental issues and the appropriate retention of existing trees, including the need to balance these issues with quality development, long-term safety and residential amenity; 8) the provision of affordable housing and public housing initiatives; 9) development and implementation policies associated with the installation and ownership of services infrastructure, i.e. telecommunications and power; 10) development and implementation of policies to revitalise and focus the Mitchell commercial district, including the provision of incentives for retail development

A: All of these proposals are strongly, and a number of them have been touched on/addressed in earlier paragraphs. These are all those things that are confirmatory of the completeness and comprehensiveness of development that Gungahlin has been missing out on. There is a great deal of work in dragging attention to give some focus to this wide bange of basic issues, and Helen Cross Independents will be putting as much effort into that as is practicable.

### **Police services**

Q: Provide suitable resources to implement quality community consultation and provision of full-time services at the Gungahlin police station. Police services must include provisions for suitable transport and back-up manning strategies.

A: Helen Cross Independents is committed to improving the safety of Gungahlin residents by the provision of an adequate, well resourced, active, and visible police presence in Gungahlin itself.

### **Road and transport Infrastructure**

Q: Develop policies that will minimize (or eliminate) waste associated with the construction of infrastructure within the Gungahlin region, e.g. install conduits for traffic lights at appropriate intersections at the initial construction stage; improve road design techniques to eliminate the butchering

of single lane roads and intersections when road duplication/upgrade is required.

A: Helen Cross Independents recognise that the Gungahlin region is a booming area, and that there needs to be careful and thorough long-term planning of roads and transport infrastructure in order to avoid costly later modifications or re-workings. In the interests of cost-saving over the longer term and the minimisation of disruption and future chaos, we strongly support taking account of longer term needs in the early stages of construction.

## Roads

Q: Roads and transport corridors: 1) Provide a suitable solution to the Barton Hwy/ Gundaroo Rd/ William Slim Dr roundabout; 2) Duplicate Gundaroo Road; 3) Duplicate William Slim Drive; 4) Construct the Gungahlin Drive Extension to a dual carriage way at the initial stages of construction; 5) Extend Phillip Ave to Ainslie Ave as an express public transport corridor; 6) Extend Horsepark/ Clarrie Hermes Drive to the Barton Hwy; 7) Leave Monash Drive corridor on the Territory Plan, as a transport corridor.

A: 1) We believe a roundabout on a highway has a high accident potential, as well as other shortcomings, particularly in an increasingly built-up area. (Compare junction points on the Federal Highway as it passes through built-up Canberra on its way out of the city.) Helen Cross Independents support a study to be undertaken as soon as practicable (i.e. before the roundabout develops into a serious problem and then we have to play a tardy catch-up game again) to determine the most efficient and safest solution to the traffic convergence problem at this roads junction. 2) Gundaroo Drive is patently too narrow for the volume of traffic it carries, particularly at peak times, and it is axiomatic that it must be widened: frustration at the inadequacy of this outlet from the Gungahlin area at busiest times must be close to boiling point. Helen Cross Independents want to see the (ever-increasing) problem resolved before frustration wins out and people start to go mad. 3) Duplication of William Slim Drive would be tied to the resolution of the problem caused at the convergence of William Slim/Barton Highway/Gundaroo Drive. None of these should be looked at in isolation, but as part of the comprehensive review of the efficacy of this pestilent confluence of roads. 4) The GDE should have from the

outset been a dual carriageway road, simply because inevitably that is what it was/is ultimately to be. So the fact that it was not begun in that way means that the Territory, in the long run, will incur much greater costs in building the road than it would have if it had bitten the bullet and set about building the road that needed to be built. Its not to late to address this timidity/anomaly, and Helen Cross Independents strongly support a demand for this to happen instead of racking up greater long-term costs. 5) The extension of Phillip Avenue to Ainslie Avenue makes good sense as it serves to reduce concentration of traffic on other over-burdened routes and so enhance swifter movement in general. It has the full support of the Helen Cross Independents. 6) In the same way, the proposed extension of Horse Park Drive will provide alternative egress and ease congestion on other routes, particularly at times of peak usage. 7) The suggestion re Monash Drive is also fully supported. In sum, all these proposals are strongly supported by Helen Cross independents because they make such good sense, and good sense has not always been the basis on which Gungahlin's development has proceeded.

### **Sporting facilities**

Q: Provide funding for quality community consultation, design and construction of a suitable sporting complex in the Gungahlin Town Centre. This complex should incorporate facilities for basketball, tennis and bowling activities along with a gym and a swimming complex, comparable to the Belconnen Swimming facility (CISAC).

A: Gungahlin has no major indoor or outdoor sporting complexes, no swimming pools and only 1 skate park. There are also no enclosed ovals; only 4 neighbourhood ovals and only 2 district playing fields. The Helen Cross Independent Group readily acknowledges the inadequacy of sporting facilities in Gungahlin and will be strongly advocating the establishment in Gungahlin of a significant sporting complex of appropriate scale and comprehensive capacity.

### **Tele-communication infrastructure**

Q: Provide suitable resources to implement provision of quality telecommunication services for all Gungahlin and Mitchell

residential and commercial telecommunication users,  
including high speed internet capacity

A: The Helen Cross Independents are disappointed at the lack of progress in establishing appropriate, quality telecommunications throughout the Gungahlin/Mitchell area and fully understand the frustration of the residents of Gungahlin at the situation they still find themselves in after all this time. This situation reinforces the sense of neglect felt by residents, and rectifying that situation will be a priority for the Helen Cross Independents.

### **Other**

Q: Implement initiatives to get the Gungahlin district included in the "Yellow Pages" Canberra Street Directory maps (This action is required because of the constantly changing suburb development, in the Gungahlin district)

A: That the Gungahlin district remains on the outer as far as Canberra Street Directory maps are concerned is not only a reflection of neglect of the area but is close to being an insult. This should be the simplest of matters to put right, and Helen Cross Independents will vigorously pursue this goal.

### **Gungahlin & Mitchell Community Involvement**

A.