



Inner South Canberra Community Council

Mr Ian Govey AM
Independent Reviewer, Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development
GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Your ref: CM23/59637
By email: ICActReviewSecretariat@act.gov.au

Submission on review of Public Interest Disclosure legislation

The Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) is a voluntary, community-based association operating in the inner south of Canberra. The ISCCC's objects are:

- To protect and enhance the amenity and environmental well-being of Inner South Canberra residents and the broader community.
- To engage, inform, listen to, and represent Inner South Canberra residents, including the vulnerable.
- To actively promote communication and cooperation among residents, local community groups and other stakeholders.
- To contribute to high quality, sustainable planning and design of Inner South Canberra.

The ISCCC is the peak body for eight inner south residents' groups, including the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association, which has lodged an excellent and comprehensive submission in response to the review of the Public Interest Disclosure legislation.¹ The ISCCC supports the GNCA submission.

As the planning system transitions to an outcomes-based approach, involving higher levels of discretion, there need to be protections to avoid an increase in integrity issues.

In addition, it is important that the PID Act review take into account lessons learnt from the Robodebt Royal Commission, the report of which has just been released. In particular, in response to the PID Act review's Question 18 about whether any provisions should be put in place to protect individuals from the risk of reputational damage if a public disclosure is made to a journalist or an MLA before the matter is investigated, the public interest should be

¹ Old Narrabundah Community Council, Griffith Narrabundah Community Association, Yarralumla Residents Association Inc, Deakin Residents Association, Red Hill Residents Group, Kingston and Barton Residents Group, Oaks Estate Residents Association and Forrest Residents Group

the uppermost consideration. Investigations may take years, during which time there could be significant damage to the public interest. The approach to this issue needs to take into account what will best protect the public interest.

Yours sincerely



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Chair

7 July 2023