



Office of the Chief Executive

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

27 February 2008

The current Tralee application is for the rezoning of 800 residential blocks and 57 hectares of employment land located 10 kilometres from Canberra Airport. It conforms with every planning guideline including the 1998 ACT Sub-Region Planning Strategy signed after eight years of public consultation and study by the NSW, ACT and Federal Governments as well as Queanbeyan City Council. It also conforms with the NSW Government's Canberra Sydney Corridor Strategy and the Queanbeyan Planning Strategy. The Tralee rezoning application was lodged in 2002.

This project has been strongly supported by the local community because it will provide

- Queanbeyan's only non-government secondary school
- A new Aquatic Centre
- A regional playground
- Land for a scout hall and a community sporting club.

The report of the Independent Panel was flawed. It totally ignored the existing planning framework. Minister Sartor has also indicated that report ignored the need for well located affordable housing in Queanbeyan. The report also recommended approval of only one major site in the more remote Googong area, thereby creating a monopoly land supply situation in Queanbeyan.

In relation to political donations, the Village Building Co. (VBC) has adopted the philosophy of donating to both sides of politics. We also donate to community groups and sporting organisations that develop the skills of young people. We have never sought nor received any benefits from political donations.

In pursuit of affordable housing, VBC engages with State and Local Governments on policies that affect housing affordability for the whole community. When it comes to its individual rezoning and development applications, these go through the same rigorous processes via Councils and State Department agencies as do all development and rezoning applications.

In relation to aircraft noise, the Commonwealth, and every State and Territory Government in Australia has endorsed an Australian Standard (AS2021) to govern land use planning decisions in the vicinity of airports. Tralee complies in every respect with the Australian Standard.

Following the purchase of Canberra Airport in 1998 by Canberra's largest property developer Terry Snow, he has incessantly attacked Tralee attempting to sanitise 200 km² of land for his own benefit. He has sought to have Tralee treated differently to every other development application in Australia, making frequent unsubstantiated allegations of impropriety against VBC. He has also spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in a political campaign against Tralee and any politician who has supported it. None of this expenditure has been declared as required under the Electoral Act.

-ENDS-

For media inquiries please contact Tania Kalogianis on 0421 374 287.