

MEDIA RELEASE

Amanda Bresnan MLA, Housing Spokesperson, ACT Greens

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Northbourne Flats redevelopment must retain public housing

ACT Greens Housing spokesperson, Amanda Bresnan MLA, has again welcomed the design competition for redeveloping the Northbourne Flats, and called for a guarantee there would be no net loss of public housing dwellings on those blocks.

“This is a great opportunity to reinvigorate public housing and increase density along a key transit route, Northbourne Avenue,” Ms Bresnan said.

“A design competition is a good approach. The Greens advocated for a design competition to reinvigorate public housing in the Inner-North in a 2009 motion in the Assembly.

“I do however want the Government to guarantee that the number of public housing dwellings there will remain, and that it is integrated with the new housing constructed.

“The proposed redevelopment of the Allawah, Bega and Currong flats, will see a diminished number of public housing dwellings on that site.* The community will lose out further if the same happens with Northbourne Flats.

“It’s important as we develop and increase density around the city, and that the Government continues to own inner-city public housing stock.

“The Government must use this opportunity to reinvigorate the area and design a mixed community which incorporates social inclusion and sustainability.

“This means creating density and having a mix of private and public housing, as well as green spaces for recreation, including parks, playgrounds and community gardens.” Ms Bresnan said.

* The ABC flats had about 400 public housing dwellings located there in previous years. The ACT Government is proposing that in the future redevelopment, only 135 of the total 1350 units will be public housing.