

**From:** Rosemary Blemings [rosemary@blemings.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 July 2015 4:15 PM  
**To:** Terrplan  
**Subject:** Draft Variation 351

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Variation 351 regarding the development of land in West Belconnen and to the west of the suburbs of Holt and Macgregor.

The approach taken, over 6-7 years, by the Riverview Group to creating new urban communities in this area is to be commended. All the hallmarks of detailed research, the employment of quality experts, advisers and peer-reviewers and persistence are revealed and accountable.

Uniquely for the ACT, this West Belconnen development responds intimately and sensitively to the ecology and magnificence of the landscape that will host new human communities. Change will occur but not with the style of dominance and landscape-trashing that has marked previous decades of estate development.

Local communities have been consulted and listened-to ever since the basic plans became tangible.

Multiple site tour-visits have ensured that a diversity of interested people have had questions answered, interests piqued and concerns explained in detail by team-members.

The Riverview office at Kippax has also hosted meetings with stakeholder groups as planning for each phase of the initial changes reaches out to landcarers, Indigenous people, Government agencies, suburban residents, welfare and social organisations, faith and sports groups and individuals.

This illustrates community engagement at the most successful level...communities having their say in the communities of their future rather than being dictated to and manipulated.

My vision would be that those who come to West Belconnen will appreciate the effort that has gone into this planning-for-the-long-term. They will also realise, from the outset, that they have the opportunity to cooperatively create world-class low-impact lifestyle suburbs based on appreciation for and nurturing of the natural world.

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