

Residents say public discussion a farce

HACKETT residents claim ACTPLA has steamrolled the community into toeing the Authority's line during neighbourhood consultations.

In an attempt to slow up the ensuing planning proposals residents raised objections to development plans at their monthly LAPAC meeting on Wednesday night.

The Hackett Residents Association went into battle with the Planning Authority as spokesman Terry de Luca questioned how developments around north Canberra would impact on already worsening traffic conditions as well as the local environment.

"It was a pretty emotional meeting," Mr de Luca said.

Association member Laura Turnbull told the Government Hackett residents were sceptical of the community consultation component of the Hackett Neighbourhood plan.

"We were basically told we had upwards of 130 dwellings to go up in Hackett so where would you want them," Mr de Luca said.

"We are not saying people are not welcome here, we're just concerned that things are not being done to cater for any new development."

Although admitting it was not likely to stop

The big issues

- The possible complete redevelopment of the Hackett shopping centre
- The redevelopment of the National Capital Village into upwards of 130 home sites
- Removal of proposed Monash Drive from the planning books altogether
- A review of present traffic conditions

further development, Mr de Luca said Hackett residents could successfully work along with government planners to uphold a high quality sustainable development for their neighbourhood.

Mr de Luca used the LAPAC meeting to raise concerns about the proposed, but unmade, Monash Drive that cuts through Hackett.

"Basically we don't want the road to be built, so it's important for Monash Drive to be taken off the books altogether," he said.

The spokesman said the objections would now give the ACT Government time to look at traffic conditions — especially at peak times — around Hackett, Watson and Dickson before approving any new development.

The Government will give a written response to the objections raise on August 29.