



Ms Christine Lawrence
President
ACT Equestrian Association

Via: cflawrence@homemail.com.au

2020 ACT Legislative Election

Dear Ms Lawrence

Thank you for your 2020 election letter to ACT Labor candidates. Our party appreciates the hard work that goes into maintaining and running the Equestrian Association. As the ACT Labor Party Secretary and Campaign Director, I am pleased to respond to you on behalf of the Labor Party, its MLAs and candidates.

This election poses a clear choice for Canberrans. ACT Labor is committed to protecting the bush capital. We do not support urban sprawl and have committed to enhancing our green spaces. In contrast, the Canberra Liberals support endless expansion into greenfield spaces for single storey residences, endangering many of our parks and reserves.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will protect what Canberrans love most about the bush capital – trees, open spaces and easy access to parks and 37 nature reserves, spanning almost 11,000 hectares across our city. ACT Labor is committed to developing and implementing a Canberra-wide landscape strategy and action plan that guides our urban and non-urban environment policy and management, so that we continue to balance our city's growth with our wish to remain the bush capital.

ACT Labor is committed to working with all community organisations in improving and enhancing Canberra. This includes facilities such as Equestrian Park at Curtin. If re-elected, ACT Labor will work with the Equestrian Association to provide further maintenance. We are also committed to maintaining and managing the Bicentennial National Trail for all users.

Your suggestion of a concept plan is best facilitated through the planning review. The key driver of this review is transforming our rules-based system into one driven by outcomes. The review and reform project aims to deliver a planning system that is clear, easy to use and that facilitates long-term aspirations for the growth and development of Canberra while maintaining its valued character.

Canberrans will be at the heart of this reform. We will listen to what our residents say, as we did during this term in preparing the Planning Strategy.

ACT Labor is also committed to exploring all options to enable access to government land, where it is suitable for horses. For example, through ACT Labor's Covid-19 economic stimulus response, funding was provided for the establishment of a new agistment area in Pialligo. Work is underway to upgrade infrastructure on the site.

Unlike the Canberra Liberals, ACT Labor wants a vibrant, inclusive Canberra; a city that protects and grows jobs, delivers for all Canberrans and is sustainable and prepared for climate change.

We want Canberra to keep providing high quality of living, while protecting the landscape setting and creating accessible and friendly spaces that connect people and promote healthy communities.

Managing the outward spread of our urban footprint limits our impact on the environment and better connects people to their jobs and each other. It's vital that we support growth and development in and around key centres and along major transport routes. This allows our suburbs to keep their low-rise character and prevents urban sprawl.

I draw your members' attention to ACT Labor's comprehensive Policy Position Statement, which covers the ACT Labor Government's achievements and the continuing direction a re-elected Labor Government would take across a broad range of policy areas and issues facing our community. Many sections of this Statement go directly to issues of interest to your organisation's members.

ACT Labor has published the Policy Statement on our website (actlabor.org.au), because we believe it is important for this active, informed electorate to be able to easily read and compare parties' positions ahead of an election.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa James

ACT Labor Campaign Director