

Ms Bec Cody MLA  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services  
LACommitteeHACS@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Ms Cody

**RE Request for an Inquiry into the site for the SPIRE building and a delay to the demolition of the Woden Valley High School (former CIT) until the Inquiry is complete**

We are writing to request that you agree to undertake an Inquiry into the proposed site of the SPIRE building and delay the demolition of the Woden Valley High School (former CIT) until the Inquiry and the Precinct Plan for the hospital campus are complete.

The ACT Treasury forecasts (*Population Projections 2018 to 2058 - released January 2019*) Canberra's population to reach 581,000 by 2040 and 703,000 by 2058 (with the regional population also growing). While our population is growing and the demand for health and recreation facilities is increasing, the former CIT will be demolished without considering the opportunity the buildings provide to meet the future needs of the community.

The Canberra Hospital (TCH) is the largest public hospital in our region, it currently provides acute care to more than 500,000 people. To invest \$500 million in SPIRE before determining the future requirements for TCH campus and the former CIT site is placing the 'cart before the horse' and potentially compromising the future health outcomes of the regions residents.

While the majority of the community supports the SPIRE building and the additional capacity it will bring to the regions acute care hospital, we are not clear about the challenges and opportunities that have been considered for building 3 (2008-09 Budget Measure *Your Health – Our Priority*), the helipad site (2016 election Labor policy) and the corner of Palmer Street and Gilmore Crescent (December 2018). A multi criteria analysis is at **Attachment A**.

We note that the northside scoping study will explore service and infrastructure options that will ensure efficient, high quality health care services are available to residents across Canberra's north and the surrounding region. We would appreciate access to the business case, including the options analysis and evidence base for the proposed SPIRE site.

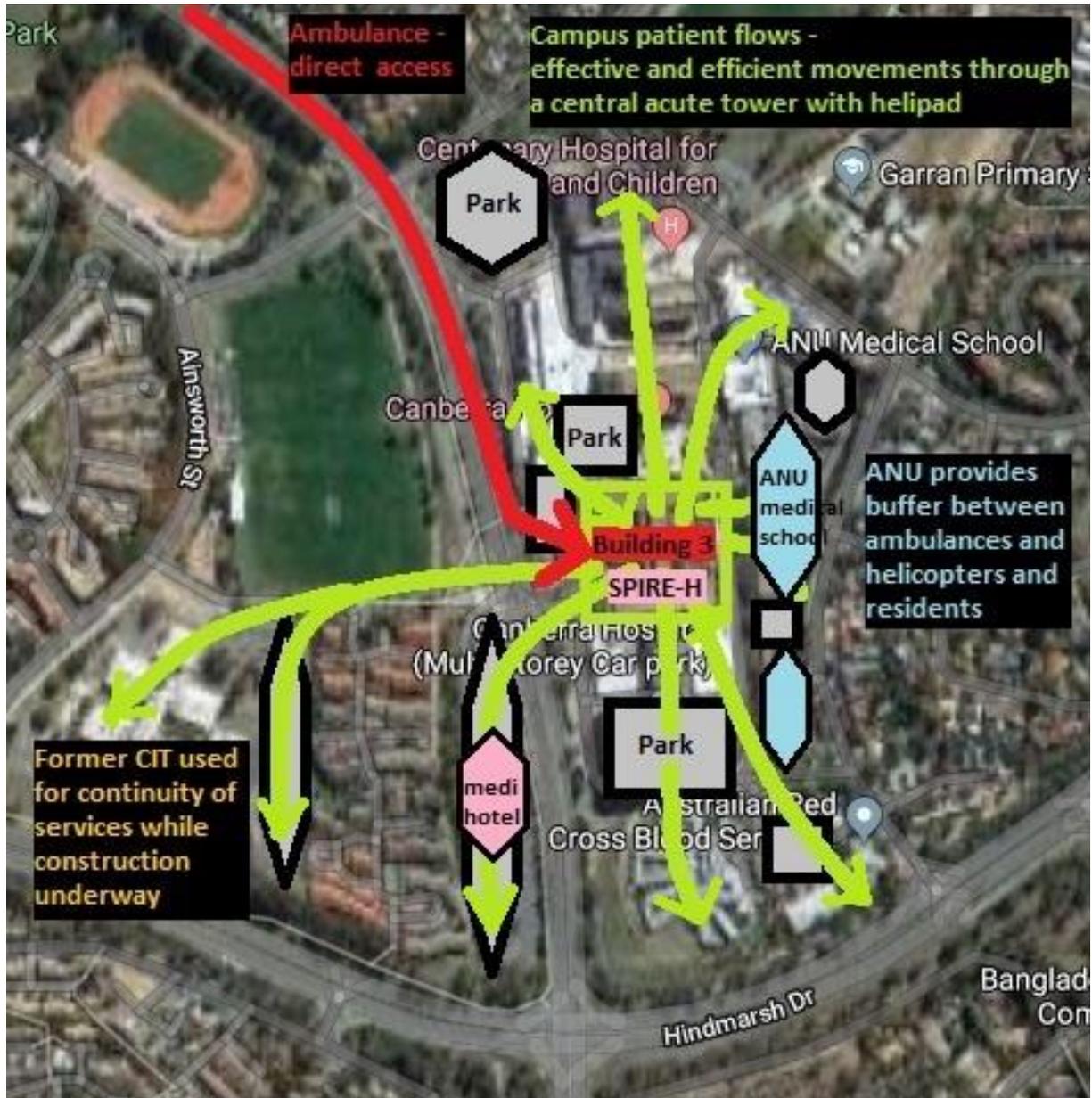
The map below shows the multiple benefits of SPIRE replacing the centrally located building 3. Locating SPIRE centrally creates a hub and spoke model for patient flows which allows walkable access to the SPIRE for imaging, surgery and intensive care from all parts of the hospital. This access to SPIRE creates an opportunity for more areas of the hospital precinct to be viable options for hosting patient services and therefore future proofs the ongoing growth and development of the hospital.

This site provides efficient and effective ambulance access to the SPIRE building from Yamba Drive. The ANU Medical School provides a buffer between the ambulance entry to SPIRE including

the helipad), and the Garran Primary School and residents reducing their concerns about noise and the safety of children on Palmer Street and Gilmore Crescent.

Parking difficulties and traffic congestion around the hospital are significant issues for the community. Under this hub and spoke model the SPIRE would be directly accessible from the large structured carpark to its south and the surrounding buildings would be accessible from carparks on the periphery of the hospital which would also minimise traffic on the central Hospital Road.

Building 3 – hub and spoke model for patient movements



## Corner of Palmer Street and Gilmore Crescent



The community has significant concerns about the SPIRE being situated on the corner of Palmer Street and Gilmore Crescent including the safety of children accessing the Garra Primary School. Garbage trucks will move along Gilmore Street, a 40 km/h school zone, to access SPIRE and ambulances will enter the SPIRE from Palmer Street, a residential street.

Unfortunately the former CIT will be demolished to provide car parking for the SPIRE building, this is a significant walk for many people in the community. Like all buildings built in the 1960's, they contain asbestos (not loose fill) which requires remediation for repurposing. A refurb would be a low cost option for accommodation for many community groups and Allied Health organisations and create a health hub with synergies to the largest hospital between Sydney and Melbourne.

Delaying the demolition of the buildings for the SPIRE and the former CIT would also allow time for the Inquiry to be undertaken and the Precinct Plan to be developed.

We also bring to your attention that there has been a lack of consultation about the impact SPIRE will have on the operations of the hospital (patient flows) and the Garran residents. The community was not aware of the ambulance entry from Palmer Street until late September 2019.

The map of SPIRE presented to the March 2019 Woden Valley Community Council (WVCC) public meeting did not highlight the ambulance entry to SPIRE.

The WVCC would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns and ambitions for our community. Please let me know if you are available to attend any of our public meetings in 2020. I can be contacted on 0420 533 809 or at [president@wvcc.org.au](mailto:president@wvcc.org.au).

Yours sincerely



Fiona Carrick  
President  
Woden Valley Community Council

26 November 2019

cc – Ms Vicki Dunne MLA

cc – Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA

## Attachment A

## Multi Criteria analysis

Criteria	2008-09 Budget - Building 3	2016 election - cnr Yamba Drive and Kitchener St	2018 December - cnr Palmer St and Gilmore Cres
Opportunities for SPIRE to expand with population growth	Yes – centrally located	Limited – constrained site	Limited – constrained site
Patient flows between SPIRE and wards	SPIRE central allowing access to SPIRE from the whole campus	SPIRE on the northern side of campus requiring longer patient movements from the south of the campus	SPIRE on the north eastern side of campus requiring longer patient movements from the south and west of the campus
Access – ambulance entry	Efficient from Yamba Drive	Efficient from Yamba Drive	less efficient – from Palmer st
Access – resident drop offs	Ability to provide parking spaces	Parking constrained	Parking constrained
Parking and access to SPIRE	Next to structured carpark with parking around the campus	Further from structured carpark with parking around the campus	Further from structured carpark with parking around the campus
Impact on surrounding residents	Limited, buffer from ANU Medical School	Residents across the road significantly impacted	Residents across the road significantly impacted
- safety	Ambulances on Yamba Drive, not Palmer St	Residents significantly impacted	Residents and students significantly impacted
- traffic congestion	Reduced due to streamlined ambulance movements and parking arrangements	Ambulance movements and parking not streamlined and convenient	Ambulance movements and parking not streamlined and convenient
- noise	Reduced due to the buffer between SPIRE, ambulances and the helipad Ambulances on Yamba Drive, not Palmer St	Residents significantly impacted from ambulance and helicopter movements	Residents significantly impacted from ambulance and helicopter movements