

# WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Your Local Voice -

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12 May 2004

Mr Bill Stefaniak MLA  
Chair  
Select Committee on Estimates  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Stefaniak

## **ACT Budget 2004-2005**

In response to the invitation of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2004 to comment on the ACT Government Budget delivered on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004 the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) presents the attached submission on the proposed 2004-2005 Budget.

The WCCC has canvassed residents during public meetings and during our 'Taking to the Streets' initiative in visiting local shopping centres.

The WCCC contributed to the consultation process for the ACT Government's 2004-2005 budget through its written submission of 2 December 2003. This is available on our website [www.wccc.com.au](http://www.wccc.com.au) click on SUBMISSIONS.

Yours sincerely

*(signed)*

Pat McGinn  
Interim Chair

**Submission of the  
Weston Creek Community Council  
on the  
2004-2005 ACT Budget  
delivered on  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

The Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) notes the positive funding proposals for local enhancement and development in the eight suburbs of Weston Creek and immediate environs.

These welcome initiatives include:

- Therapy ACT Holder enhancement.
- Independent Living Centre Weston enhancement.
- Grant Cameron Community Centre enhancement.
- Community Development Worker for Weston Creek & Tuggeranong. [The WCCC stresses the importance of the continuity of post-bushfire counselling services in schools for at least another 6 months.]
- Weston Creek ChildCare Centre rebuilding in 2005-2006 [The WCCC requests that there be no delay on this starting date].
- Replacement of Deeks Forest Park, although the proposed new location is of some concern to some residents.
- Improved lighting at Stirling Playing Fields.
- Bush fire repair initiatives, including weed control.

The WCCC acknowledges, and the community looks forward to, the following ACT wide proposals.

1. Extra Police. - The WCCC requests that enhanced support be available by the Police for local Neighbourhood Watch groups which are suffering from a lack of support from the Police.
2. The establishment of more Community Fire Units. There are still seven suburbs in Weston Creek with no units and one exposed suburb has only 2 streets covered
3. Improved bus-stops. The denuding of the landscape has exposed more of Weston Creek to the elements. The WCCC looks forward to more and improved bus stops.
4. The preparation of pedestrian plans for activity centres. The WCCC requests that planning for Coolamen Court be undertaken.

5. ACTION plans for ten new express services, more demand-responsive services and links between cycling and other modes of transport. The WCCC has requested a bus service to link Tuggeranong and Weston Creek and a cycle-way on Streeton Drive.
6. The formation of walking-bus groups for primary schools. Recent concerns have been expressed about parking at Rivett Primary school/temporary Weston Creek Children's Centre and additional parking has been requested at Waramanga. The formation of such groups would contribute to safety around these areas.
7. Improving pedestrian ways to shops for seniors. Improvements are essential in footpath surfaces, lighting and the trimming of drought affected trees, most of them planted 30 years ago, along walkways in all suburbs.
8. Actively Ageing programs for seniors. The WCCC requests the establishment of such a class, possibly at the Weston Creek Community Centre given that the demographics of Weston Creek indicate an increase in senior residents. Analysis of the Territory's ageing population is also welcome and will reveal the urgent need for seniors' accommodation in Weston Creek.
9. Improved Condition of School facilities. The WCCC is very concerned for the provision and maintenance of K-2 suitable and safe playground equipment. School facilities in Weston Creek are ageing.

The WCCC requests that the Committee encourage the Government to address the detail in the Budget for the lay person. The Budget Papers do not go into the detail to assist the average resident and the attachments and the appendices are at such a high level that the published material does not address specifics. It is very difficult to approach individual departments to seek information on whether a specific request has been funded.

The WCCC requests that the Committee examine not only the details of the budget but in some way influences and changes the Governments approach to reporting its proposed Budget to the community.

The Government needs to clarify its intentions in addressing many community issues brought to the attention of the Government by the WCCC in our budget submission. Perhaps another Budget Paper addressing the all submissions received with either a YES/NO response?

The WCCC has been unable to find reference to the following in the Budget Papers and requests the Committee to encourage the Government to provide the Committee with specific answers to:

## Education:

1. Early childhood services: Where is the government lowering teacher student ratios? The appointment of K-2 teaching assistants? Increase in teaching space sizes?
2. Major refurbishment of Weston Creek's government pre-schools, primary schools, and Stromlo High School? Which ones this FY in Weston Creek?
3. Community Library and IT services in Stirling – where is the budget allocation? YES/NO?

## Sport & Recreation

1. The refurbishment of local playing fields. – Where are the funds for Waramanga Number 1 field?
2. The provision of a public swimming pool? Residents have been requesting such a facility for nearly three decades. There is a glaring inequality of the provision of swimming facilities between Belconnen/Tuggeranong and Weston Creek. Where are the funds for such a facility on the Broadacre Estate on Weston (sections 83 & 94)?

## Planning

1. Funding for Community Groups to undertake land release consultations in Molonglo Valley post bushfire – where are the funds?
2. The release of land for a new Community Centre – where is this buried in the Budget papers?

## Urban Services

1. The re planting of Narrabundah Hill – timing and costs?
2. The replanting of the landscaped buffer strip of land bounded by Cotter road, Eucumbene Drive, Warragamba Avenue, Dixon Drive, Streeton Drive adjacent to Holder & Duffy. Where is this in the budget?
3. Replace damaged street lighting with yellow sodium lights. Is ACTEWAGL doing this?
4. Funds to create a Local Centre Master plan for the upgrade of the Duffy shopping precinct. When and what budget has been provided?
5. More funding for the maintenance of public spaces around Coolamen Court. -Asset maintenance. - The current Government does a lot of building and no maintenance. Where are maintenance costs budgeted for in the next FY?
6. The creation of a master traffic plan for the area around Unwin Place/ Hickey Court in Weston. Where are the funds? In what Dept? Please advise.

7. Additional car parking at Stirling Netball Courts, Arawang Primary school/Waramanga playing fields. A Ted Quinlan 2001 election promise – see extensive press coverage. – Where the money?
8. Improved lighting is welcome at Stirling.
9. The establishment of an on-road cycle path on Streeton Drive – Urban Services.
10. Upgraded arrangements including widening of the inbound Molonglo River Bridge for the Cotter Road/Tuggeranong Parkway entry. This road approach does not meet current road design regulations (note Hansard of Dept of Urban Services last year) and the issue has not been addresses by the current Government. The accident statistics at this merge lane are difficult to obtain from the Government because the road fails design standards. When is it going to be upgraded?

#### Transport

1. Bus route via Weston Creek from/to City-Tuggeranong? When will ACTION be given funding for this route? It is not elaborated in the Budget papers.
2. Review of School bus services serving Weston Creek students. Students in Weston Creek travel to out of area schools in response to the Governments closure of Stirling College, but they do not provide adequate bus services to the alternate schools the Government is requiring students to attend. Where in the budget are the funds for ACTION to provide direct bus routes to schools which Weston Creek students are required to attend because of the closure of Colleges in Weston Creek?

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WCCC May 2004