

*Your local voice*



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## **Minutes of the WCCC General Meeting Wednesday, 29 September 2010**

### **1. Meeting opened**

WCCC Deputy Chair Tom Anderson opened the meeting at 7.35pm.

### **2. Apologies**

John Milne, Steve Bloom, Mal Ferguson, Pat McGinn, Caroline Le Couteur.

### **3. Presentation**

George Tomlins and Ivo Matesic from the ACT Land Development Agency (LDA), and Tony Gill from Roads ACT, were introduced.

Tony Gill, Roads ACT, spoke first.

Mr. Gill said that Roads ACT will still have responsibility for overseeing all roads, but Land and Property Services is responsible for actual construction of infrastructure in North Weston and Molonglo. In Molonglo Stage 1A, Weston Pond will be constructed; at Stage 1B, 2 kilometres of the new arterial road, John Gorton Drive, will be constructed.

John Gorton Drive will have 2 lanes in each direction, with bus lanes at major intersections. There will be a median strip, similar to the median strip on Cotter Road between Streeton Drive and the Tuggeranong Parkway.

Q: Is there going to be any landscaping in the buffer zone between Dixon Drive and Cotter Road?

A: No. At this time there are no plans by Roads ACT for landscaping.

Mr. Gill said that Dixon Drive is to be realigned, and it is proposed that traffic lights be installed at the intersection of Dixon Drive, Streeton Drive and Unwin Place to control the intersection.

In addition, Cotter Road will be duplicated between Tuggeranong Parkway and Adelaide Avenue. Funding of \$7 million is available in this year's budget and design work will be started next calendar year.

Q: Will there be access into North Weston at Kirkpatrick Street?

A: Yes. An access road at Kirkpatrick Street will be constructed first, to facilitate entry for heavy traffic associated with the development of North Weston. Tenders will be called within

the next three to four months, and construction is planned to start early in 2011. Unwin Place access will be upgraded later.

Q: Will there be any access road into North Weston from where Heysen and Hilder Streets intersect/

A: Mr. Gill said he was not aware of any access road to be built there.

WCCC Deputy Chair Tom Anderson said that Defence Housing Agency may have plans for a road there.

Q: The speed limit on Streeton Drive is 80 kph. Will that speed zone remain as traffic becomes busier?

A: There are no plans to reduce the speed limit on Streeton Drive. Further, there are no plans to install more traffic lights along Streeton Drive—only at the junction of Streeton Drive with Dixon Drive and Unwin Place.

Q: Can you comment on plans for roads in Molonglo?

A: Mr. Gill said he could not comment.

Ivo Matesic from LDA said that estate development in Molonglo will start construction in the next four to six weeks (late October or early November), after contracts have been signed. The trunk sewer, John Gorton Drive and Weston Pond have already been started. Next will be local roads, access roads and services. The Development Application (DA) has already been approved.

Q: Will the gross pollutant trap on the south side of Dixon Drive have any safety fencing?

A: Will take that question on notice, and let WCCC have an answer shortly.

Q: What will happen to Deek's Forest Park?

A: In the plans, some of the land will be preserved, but it will not be a forest.

Q: Why is the LDA allowed to clear forested land, when farmers (and other people) may not cut down trees without permission from the Government? What about the carbon footprint it causes? Is there any requirement for an offset?

A: George Tomlins replied that the Report on the 2003 Bushfire recommended that there be no commercial pine forests east of the Murrumbidgee. There is no requirement for an offset. The Government looks at the total energy use, overall, and is not planning to replace pine forests with pine forests.

Q: If the vegetation is to be removed, why not have denser development?

A: In Coombs and Wright, block sizes are generally smaller than in suburbs built previously. Out of 3700 blocks, 1200 are standard size blocks, 2500 are medium density blocks. The Planning Authority produces umbrella of requirements, then this is refined.

Q: What consideration has been given to how cyclists will cross Cotter Road at the junction with Streeton Drive? Will there be any provision for an underpass?

A: Not for an underpass, but the traffic lights will allow for cyclists.

As there were no more questions, the presentation by the LDA finished and there was a short break.

#### **4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

After the break, normal business resumed.

The minutes of the last ordinary public meeting (July 2010) were accepted as circulated.  
(Moved: Simon Hearder; Seconded: Lance Williamson)

## 5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the bank balance is \$4188.26. He also reported that the auditor had finished checking the WCCC books and had submitted a report that the books balanced and had been found to be satisfactory. This finalised matters for the previous financial year, given that the auditor's report had not been available in time for the Annual General Meeting in August 2010.

**Motion:** That the Treasurer's report be accepted. (Moved: Chris Wilson; Seconded: Trevor Wilson). The motion was passed.

## 6. General Business

**1. Pilot survey:** Communities at Work is conducting a survey on quality of life for people over 50 years of age, and survey forms have been put in every letterbox in Weston Creek. WCCC members are asked to assist by completing the survey and sending it back to Communities at Work.

**2. Time to Talk—Canberra 2030:** The Chief Minister is asking Canberrans what they want for Canberra in 2030.

One member suggested there is scope for WCCC to organise an open forum to discuss this initiative and pass on our ideas to the Government. The topics to be covered include:

- Who Pays?
- What is significant?
- Form/shape of the city
- Getting around
- Housing
- Water
- Population
- Environmental sustainability

It was suggested we could try to have a forum at the October public meeting, on 27 October.

One question raised was: Canberra is the national capital. What is inherent in that role? Canberra is losing visibility as the national capital.

The government is planning several forms. Tom Anderson attended one at which the focus was on "How do you engage the community?", at which 150 people were present.

**3. Parking at Cooleman Court:** The majority of spaces are now 2-hour parking. There is some concern that 2 hours is too short for people to attend classes and do shopping. WCCC will consult with Roads ACT and the management of Cooleman Court again to see if some spaces could be increased to 3- or 4-hour parking.

**4. Development applications in Weston Creek:** A number of Community Councils oppose Draft Variation 303, which would reduce the size of blocks where dual occupancy would be allowed, from 800 sq.metres to 700 sq. metres. This would increase the number of blocks that could become dual occupancy from 58% to 85% of all blocks.

Woden Valley Community Council wants the whole variation to be withdrawn and consultation held.

Eight DAs in Weston Creek have been notified, including:

- Fisher: Nine 2-bedroom units
- Waramanga: 24 units on the petrol station site;

WCCC encourages members to look at the WCCC website and click on the link to development applications, and be aware of changes proposed for your suburb.

**5. Eastern Broadacre Proposal:** for the area at the top of Majura Lane, through the airport and down to the bottom of Hume.

6. A Road Safety discussion paper, **Vision Zero**, has been released by the ACT Government. Also released is **Storm Safe**, on how to prepare your house for storms.

**7. The Inner South Community Council** has just been set up. It covers the Manuka-Griffith-Narrabundah area, and includes a number of Residents' Associations.

#### **8. Fetherston Gardens:**

- Working bee: Chris Wilson spoke briefly about the working bee held on Sunday, 26 September, which was attended by about 20 people, including three park rangers. Quite a lot was achieved, such as clearing pathways and removing rampant ivy from trees.
- Combination lock: An access gate has been installed, from the carpark for the Islamic School, just off Heysen St. A few members of the Gardens Working Group have the combination. It is proposed to have a working bee on the last Sunday of each month, from 10am until 1pm. All welcome.
- DHA: Kerstin Linton, Convenor of the Gardens Working Group, has spoken with representatives of the Defence Housing Agency (DHA), but they are not yet ready to divulge their plans for building residential housing in the area above the Gardens, as the plans have not been finalised. DHA has realised that the Gardens will be an important feature for the housing development. DHA has not decided where to put their access road—parallel to the Parkway at the top of their land, or lower down along the Fetherston Gardens boundary.
- Kerstin Linton and Trevor Wilson were interviewed on the garden program on Radio 666 by Greg Bayliss. Later Radio 666 may do an on-the-spot interview at the Gardens.
- Naming the Gardens: A submission has been sent to the ACT Place Names Committee, to recommend that the Gardens be named for Tony Fetherston, who was head of the Horticulture School for many years. The Place Names Committee will meet on 4 November.
- Bulbs from Floriade: One member suggested we ask if we could have some of the bulbs left over after Floriade in 2011 for the Gardens.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

**Time to Talk—Canberra 2030**

**Wednesday, 27 October 2010, at 7.30pm**