

Your local voice

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## Minutes of the WCCC General Meeting Wednesday, 28 March 2012

### 1. Meeting opened

Chair Tom Anderson opened the meeting at 7.35pm. About forty persons were present. Tom welcomed Mr David Dawes, Director General, Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government; Mr Hamish McNulty (Infrastructure and Capital Works); Mr Ivo Matesic (Land Development Agency); Ms Alison Abernathy and Ms Chantelle Lustri. He also welcomed Mr Mark Sawa of *The Southside Chronicle*.

**2. Apologies:** Tony Gill (Roads ACT), Tim Dalton, John Burke.

### 3. Presentations: What's New with the Molonglo Development?

Mr David Dawes introduced the presentations and said that if WCCC members had questions that he or others could not answer, he would undertake to take the questions on notice and get a response from the relevant part of the ACT Government.

#### Roads

Mr Hamish McNulty began with a presentation about what is happening with the Cotter Road and what other construction works are planned to follow.

- In relation to the roundabout on Cotter Road outside the Defence Staff College, he said that the utility adjustments had been done, and that works had started on Stage 1 of the new Cotter Road—constructing new lanes on the north side of the road. This work will take about twenty (20) weeks.
- Stage 2 will be similar construction on the lanes on the south side, and that should take about fifteen (15) weeks.
- Both Stages should be completed by the end of September 2012.
- Streeton Drive will become a T-intersection with Cotter Road, and will have traffic lights.
- Dixon Drive is to be realigned to Unwin Place and traffic lights will be installed at the intersection.

Design phase for these two latter intersections will be complete by the end of June 2012. If money is allocated in the budget, work on these intersections will start as soon as possible. Probably by the time this work goes to tender, the roundabout on Cotter Road at the Defence College will have been removed.

Q: This means that there will be five sets of traffic lights within a distance of about 1 kilometre—at the intersection of Tuggeranong Parkway with the Cotter Road (2 sets); at the

new entry to North Weston, at junction of Streeton Drive and Cotter Road, and at intersection of Dixon Drive and Unwin Place. This could create major bottlenecks in peak periods, so will the lights be coordinated?

A: I don't know if the lights will be synchronised, and will need to ask Roads ACT. I would like to add that the cost of building under-and over-passes could not be justified for these intersections.

In relation to roadworks in general, they will always cause congestion, but this can't be helped. If you can be patient until the end of September, then Cotter Road will flow much more smoothly. Eventually, there will be new roads in the Molonglo Valley to connect John Gorton Drive with William Hovell Drive in the north and with the Tuggeranong Parkway in the east.

Q: Will the speed limits at the roadworks site be kept at 40kph every weekend, even if no work is being done?

A: Usually the limits change at weekends, if no work is being done. In the case of the current Cotter Road works, the limit will stay at 40kph as the temporary roads are curvy and could be dangerous if drivers go too fast.

Q: It is very dark where the temporary works are. There are no reflective indicators on concrete barriers, and none on the Tuggeranong parkway. Could indicators be put in?

A: Will refer this matter to Roads ACT.

[Note: Reflective indicators were put in by Friday, 30 March, and it is now easier to work out where the temporary road goes.]

Q: When the Cotter Road where it meets Adelaide Avenue is altered in the future, will there be some way for cars coming east along Cotter Road to get on to Yarra Glen road?

A: Will have to ask roads ACT.

### **Wright and Coombs suburbs**

Mr Ivo Matesic said that in **Wright**, the first suburb of Molonglo to be developed, Stage 1A has been completed, with the roads done and some houses already being built.

- All blocks of land have been sold, except two blue parcels and two red parcels (these won't be sold for two or three years).
- The second stage of housing construction will start early in 2013. Some residents may move in as early as July 2012, but the majority won't move in until 2013.
- The focus has been on getting retail and commercial land parcels ready for sale. It has not yet been decided what will be done with blocks set aside for community purposes.

In **Coombs**, work has begun on two water quality control ponds (different from the North Weston Pond).

- There have been some delays in development of the two suburbs, partly because of the rain. In Coombs there was further delay due to an appeal against the Development Application that was lodged by the Conservation Council. Mediation has brought a resolution, and a number of blocks will not be developed yet, in order to preserve the habitat of the pink-tailed worm lizard. Those blocks will be subject to a Plan of Management, to be developed.
- Stage 2 will be completed before Stage 1 because it includes construction of a school and local centre. It is expected that the school will open in February 2015. As a temporary measure, Duffy Primary School will be expanded in 2013 and 2014 to take students from Wright. The local centre will also come on line in 2015.
- Coombs will be done in the next two to three years. There will be a road to connect John Gorton Drive with Tuggeranong Parkway.

Q: Will the old bike path from Weston to Lake Burley Griffin be reconstructed when the roadworks are finished?

A: The Land Development Agency is very mindful of the need for bike paths, and have

designed a network of paths in Wright and Coombs. Mr Matesic said he did not know if the old bike path would be restored, but would get an answer on that for WCCC.

Q: When driving on the GDE and Tuggeranong Parkway from the north, there are no signs for Weston Creek, which is not helpful for drivers who are not locals.

Q: Will the local centre in Coombs include shops? And if so, when?

A: Yes, there will be shops, and completion of the centre is projected for 2015. If construction goes smoothly, the centre might be ready earlier than presently anticipated.

Q: Will there be building on the old sewerage works?

A: Details for that area have not yet been decided, and will be left until after completion of Wright and Coombs. If it turns out that the area is too polluted, it may be turned into a park.

Q: What size will the local centre in Coombs be?

A: About the same size as the Ainslie shops; that is, about one-third the size of Cooleman Court.

Q: Will there be any community facilities, or services, such as doctors, a medical centre, etc.?

Q: Will the river corridor be developed tastefully, as in places like Bright, Wangaratta or Benalla?

A: There are plans to develop the river corridor for recreation and community use. A River Park Concept Plan is being developed. The river corridor will also serve as a safety feature in the event of future bushfires.

#### **4. Presentation: Bike and Ride**

Michael Jollon and Kylie Watson from AECOM (communications consultants) said that AECOM had been hired by the ACT Government to do a feasibility study for Park and Ride, and Bike and Ride locations, in accordance with the Government's Transport Framework and Sustainable Transport Policy for Canberra. It is proposed to put a Bike and Ride location near Cooleman Court.

Bike and Ride aimed to provide secure locations for commuters to leave their bike while they took the bus to work—usually a secure cage that holds about 26 bikes. One is about to open at Mawson, on Athllon Drive, and another on Melrose Drive in Lyons, beside the church on the corner of Launceston St (opposite the Woden Pool).

Site selection process: In order to identify possible sites, the consultants look at existing and future bus routes; connectivity to cycle path networks; catchment area (roughly 3km radius circle, about 15 minutes' ride); Proximity to other compatible uses (to provide passive surveillance of the Bike and Ride site, for security purposes). After that, the consultants do an analysis of the data, and consult with interested parties, such as community groups, lessees, businesses, etc.

Areas of investigation: Canberra Avenue, Wentworth Avenue, Gungahlin; Gundaroo, Weston Creek (Cooleman Court).

Choices in Weston: Possible sites were along Brierley St or Parkinson St. The main difference between these is that Brierley St carries a lot of traffic and is already rather crowded. Parkinson St is considered to be a better option; the cage would probably be located on the open land at the corner of Parkinson and Brierley Streets, beside St Peter's Anglican Church.

Q: How big is the cage?

A: About 12 metres long and 6 metres wide. It would not take up any space on the road, or any parking space.

Q: Do the cages have lighting?

A: There is some lighting on the street already, but at the cage site the lighting will be improved.

Q: Is AECOM working with the Master Plan for Weston?

A: Yes.

Q: Who would use the Park and Ride? Where would they want to go? Is there a market for it?

A: A 3-kilometre radius catchment area would cover most of Weston Creek. The cage has only 26 places, and there would probably be enough people using the facility to fill the cage.

Q: How will users get access to the cage?

A: Cages will have secured access. Users will have to register to get access and will use swipe cards that will link to the MyWay system.

Q: It is difficult to cross Parkinson St now because there is no fixed crossing point. This could be a problem for cyclists wanting to use the cage.

Q: Using Bike and Ride facilities will be dependant on the availability of a GOOD bus service, especially for people wanting to use the facility outside peak hours. At present the bus service to and from Weston Creek is not good.

Q: Are the Bike and Ride facilities used more by men or women?

A: At present they are used more by men. If women are to use them, the lighting must be good and there needs to be good passive surveillance, such as having a lot of people around.

Q: Has there been any vandalism?

A: Not so far.

Q: At present it is much faster to cycle to the city or to Launceston Street in Lyons than to go by bus. If there is no direct service from Weston in to Civic, it is not likely many people will use the Bike and Ride facility.

A: In the short term there is a plan for Weston Creek to have better bus services, and ACTION is working on a direct connection to Civic. Check on the Transport for Canberra website for up-to-date information.

Q: We need a quality bus station in Weston, with good integration of bus services with other facilities. Buses need to improve before people will use them.

Q: Will the Park and Ride facility at North Weston have a cage for bikes?

A: Yes.

Ongoing Weston Transport Projects: Weston Master Plan (realignment of public transport routes); Major Bus Stop Program (renewing bus stop locations); North Weston park and Ride facility (beside the Defence Staff College, on Cotter Road).

Comments should be submitted by 4 May 2012, through the TimetoTalk website:  
[www.timetotalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au)

After the presentation there was a short break for tea and coffee.

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

The minutes of the previous public meeting (February 2012) were accepted as circulated. (Moved: Chris Wilson; Seconded: Simon Hearder. Motion passed.)

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that WCCC had a credit balance of \$13,618,17.

## 7. General Business

1. Master Plan for Weston Group Centre: Consultation on the Master Plan continues.

WCCC Chair Tom Anderson and committee member Max Kwiatkowski are members of the Stakeholders Reference Group, and Max is attending a meeting tonight. There will be a public meeting at the Uniting Church on 4 April, and Tom urged WCCC members to go along.

Timeframes are as follows:

- May 2012: Draft Master Plan for public comment
- June 2012: Final Master Plan ready
- August - September 2012: Implementation Plan to be drawn up; Endorsement by ACT Government

2. Teesdale Place, Stirling: The block next to the Labor Club has been released for sale. It is zoned for leisure and accommodation (not residential accommodation). The Labor Club has been granted approval to de-concessionalise its lease, so the Club can use its land for other purposes, or borrow against it for development.

3. Cotter Road through to Adelaide Avenue: The NCA has announced a 2-stage project worth \$12.5 million to develop the Cotter Road where it meets Adelaide Avenue. In the first stage, the intersection of Lady Denman Drive with Cotter Road will be turned into a T-junction with traffic lights. There will be no connection to allow cars to go south through Yarra Glen. Cotter Road will be widened to four lanes as far as the bridge near the riding school, but the section between the bridge and Tuggeranong Parkway will not be widened yet.

4. Fetherston Gardens: The Draft Master Plan for the Gardens has been announced, and is considered by the Friends of Fetherston Gardens to be generally very good. The Master Plan is on display at the Woden and City Libraries. There is a link to the Plan on the WCCC website. Any feedback from interested citizens is invited.

5. Goyder St Library: WCCC has made some enquiries about finding a suitable space to set up a library in Weston Creek, but has had no success so far.

6. Weston Creek Festival: Tom reported that the Festival will probably be held on Saturday, 29 September 2012. Organiser-in-Chief is Tim Dalton, who is working with others on organisation and funding. The ACT Government has give a grant of \$6000 for the Festival, and other sponsorship may be available.

The meeting was closed at 9.50pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 2 May 2012, at 7.30pm**