

*Your local voice*



[www.westoncreek.org.au](http://www.westoncreek.org.au)  
[info@westoncreek.org.au](mailto:info@westoncreek.org.au)

PO Box 3701  
Weston Creek ACT 2611

Telephone (02) 6288 8975

## **Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 27 November 2019**

### **Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 7.35pm. The Chair, Tom Anderson, welcomed members and guests.

**Apologies:** Shelby Schofield, Mark Boast, Chris Wilson, Ryan Hemsley

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **ACT Health update on the new Weston Creek Walk-in Centre – Cathy O’Neill**

- **Cathy O’Neill - Executive Director of Cancer and Ambulatory and Community Health Support**
  - Came and spoke 18 months ago to announce start of work on walk-in centre.
  - Work is mostly complete and is on schedule.
- **Weston Creek walk-in centre and community health centre overview**
  - The centre is to provide free and efficient access to treatment and health advice.
  - No appointment will be required.
  - Open 7 days 7:30am – 10:00pm including public holidays.
  - It is a free service and is funded fully by the ACT government.
  - There will be no doctors, instead being nurse lead.
  - Will not service children under 2 years of age.
  - Will refer more complex health issues to the hospital.
  - Not designed for ongoing care/treatment.
- **ACT Health will refurbish and reinvigorate the Community Health Centre by adding the new Walk-in Centre**
  - Address is 24 Parkinson Street, Weston.
  - This will be the fourth centre to open, after Tuggeranong, Gungahlin and Belconnen.
  - Due to open 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
  - Open and operational before Christmas.
- **Walk-in centre services**
  - Cuts, bruises, abrasions and burns
  - Cold and flu
  - Sinus infections and tonsillitis
  - Strains/sprains and minor fractures
  - Skin infections and rashes
- **Community health centre**
  - Community nursing

- Antenatal services
- Maternal and Child Health (MACH) services
- Potential for more services to come
- **Walk-in centre demand**
  - There has been a steady 12.8% increase in usage of walk-in centre services year on year.
  - Other walk-in centres in Canberra see on average 200 people per day
  - Most common ailments treated are:
    - Common cold
    - Wound dressing
    - Lacerations
  - Subsequently there has been a 10% decrease in demand for emergency departments for these problems.
    - Opening of the new Weston Creek walk-in centre should see further reduction in strain on emergency department.
- **ACT Health app**
  - Shows current waiting times in walk-in centres.
    - ~30 minutes on average, may be longer at peak times
  - Shows how many people are waiting.
  - Estimates travel time to clinic from current location.
- **Walk-in centre parking**
  - There will be limited additional car parks
    - Remodelling of existing car park to fit extra spaces in
  - Heavily timed spaces
  - 14 x 2-hour spaces
  - New entry and exit roads
- **Results of public survey of current walk-in clinics**
  - 85% of clients were very satisfied
  - 69% of issues were considered 'non-urgent'
  - 44% of visits were following referrals from GPs
  - 25% of visits were following referrals from a hospital
  - 91% of clients were satisfied with opening times
  - 85% of clients had a general GP
  - Clients of all ages visit the walk-in centre

**Q:** The percentage of referrals from GPs is quite high. Do clients now more often go to walk-in centres rather than visit their GP?

**A:** Yes, particularly after hours, as the walk-in centre will be open both earlier and much later. The receptionist for a GP will often refer a client to the walk-in centre depending on symptoms without the client ever actually seeing the GP. ACT Health wants to separate minor issues from GPs and the emergency department.

**Q:** Will the walk-in centre perform x-rays?

**A:** No, they will most likely refer a client to the hospital. It would still be quicker to go to the walk-in centre to get the referral, than to wait in-line at emergency.

**Q:** Will there be car spaces dedicated to walk-in centre visitors?

**A:** Yes, and there will be an increase in parking patrols.

**Comments:**

- The walk-in centre will be able to treat most minor injuries, including most sport injuries.
- There will not be a phone service for offering health advice.
- The ACT Health website has a full list of conditions treatable.
- You can also ring Health Direct for the same information.
- Nurses at the walk-in centre will assess whether your condition is treatable.

**Q:** What happened to the trees in the Community Health Centre courtyard?

**A:** Not sure but will follow up. They may have been relocated during construction.

**Comments:**

- They appear to have been chopped down and mulched.
- Plans of new walk-in centre show trees for the courtyard, so maybe new ones will be planted.
- Some artworks have been commissioned/purchased for the walk-in centre, including indigenous/welcome to country art pieces.

**Q:** Are there rooms left in the community health centre for other services in the future?

**A:** Yes. Some have already been determined, including community nursing services and MACH services. Potential for rehabilitation services. Services regarding complaints and feedback will be managed centrally. There may be the capacity for more services. It is always a juggle and depends on demand. There are some concerns regarding mobility.

**Q:** Will there be dedicated security?

**A:** There won't be security guards, however the refurbishment has tried to improve the security of the facility.

- Increased lighting
- Boom gates
- Responsive police
- There has only been one instance of a security breach at a walk-in centre in the past

**Q:** Will there be an x-ray provider in the new Cooleman Court development?

**A:** Currently the only public x-ray provider for the area is Canberra Hospital. There may be the potential for a private x-ray provider for Weston Creek.

**Q:** Will prescription services be offered at the walk-in centre?

**A:** Nurses will be able to prescribe medication, but not on an ongoing basis like a GP. They will be able to provide take away medication.

**Q:** Will the walk-in centre be able to provide inoculation services?

**A:** If a client is at risk, they will inoculate, but it won't be commonplace. The clinic won't be able to inoculate children until Stage 2 (refurbished Community Health Centre) opens next year.

**Q:** Will there be a link between this walk-in centre and the Child Development Service centre in Holder?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Will there be an out of hours care service? How about for youngsters?

**A:** There is already CALMS (Canberra Afterhours Locum Medical Service). There are too many risks involved in seeing to children under the age of two years.

**Q:** Will the new carpark arrangement affect church parking?

**A:** Not sure, but it shouldn't affect it.

**Comments:**

- Concerns regarding lack of parking for the walk-in centre and surrounding buildings.

**Finished at 8:07pm**

## 5 Minutes with MLA's - Talks with Caroline Le Couteur

- Update on Coombs Peninsula
  - The assembly passed a motion to agree with the planning committee regarding rezoning for conservation and recreation areas
- The ACT government employed the Fenner School of Environment and Society to recommend the most suitable trees for Canberra's changing climate based on predictions for the next 20 years
  - Canberra's climate looking to become more like Wagga Wagga's
  - "Plant for the future, not the past."
  - There has been a greater focus on fire resistance of new trees
- Discussions regarding Witness J and the secrecy surrounding their sentencing
  - The ACT government and Shane Rattenbury (Minister for Corrections) knew only two hours before the media did.

**Q:** Is it true that a large percentage of the current prison populous of AMC is made up of prisoners in remand? Concerns regarding efficient use of space/resources.

**A:** The AMC was built under the optimistic view that Canberran's would be a 'utopia' with little crime. The prison populous has grown faster than expected. There are also more women than expected. There is therefore not enough space for prisoners, especially female prisoners. There is an 80-bed residential building used for those on bail, however many cannot be given bail because they are homeless and don't have an address to go back to.

**Q:** How much does it cost to keep someone in jail who would otherwise be homeless?

**A:** It costs roughly the same to keep them in jail with access to more police and justice services as it does to just house them.

**Q:** How many of those in remand are from NSW?

**A:** Unsure of distribution but will take this on notice. Likely NSW has as many ACT criminals as ACT does NSW ones.

### Comments:

- Concerns the community is not being well enough informed on such matters.

**Q:** Do media releases (such as those released by Shane Rattenbury) get sent to community councils?

**A:** No, they don't currently. Will look into getting community councils on standard distribution lists so that communities are better informed earlier. Will ask executive media staff for this to be considered.

**Finished at 8:18pm**

## Transport Canberra on the new bus networks – Peter Steele

- **Peter Steele from Transport Canberra and City Services**
- **Overview**
  - Transport is ever changing depending on changes in demand
  - So far there has been good feedback from WCCC in regard to transport in the region
  - A new transport network started in April 2019
  - Focussed on more high frequency services, to service more people
- **The original proposal**
  - Local services designed to connect people to Cooleman Court
- **Changes**
  - Rapid 7 has been extended to Chapman
  - 7 days a week, all day, to city
  - Local bus to Woden
  - Extension of routes 66 and R10 to Denman Prospect shops
  - 19 minutes to the city on the R7, 27 minutes on the R10
- **Statistics**
  - 6.4% increase in usage of public transport since the changes
  - This jumps up to 10-26% in the Weston Creek region, and 23-50% in Molonglo
- **What have we heard?**
  - The R10 is full, need more services
  - High popularity of park and ride services in Weston Creek and Molonglo
    - Significant increase in use since peak/express services were replaced with all day services
    - There are calls for more park and ride services
  - Some reliability issues on weekends
  - Local busses are needed more frequently
  - The connection and timings of buses 70 and 71 need improvement
  - The R7 connection timings need improvement
  - Further improvements required for services going to Parkinson Street shops
  - Need for more wheelchair accessible buses
  - Improved wayfinding signage is required
- **What's next?**
  - Looking into updating the bus timetable for Weston Creek and Molonglo Valley (e.g. Routes 70 and 71)
  - Light rail to Woden (and beyond) to start construction soon
  - Ticketing system replacement
  - Zero emission fleet transition
  - There is more information on the Public Transport Association of Canberra website

**Q:** There are not enough connection services in the region on weekends, what is being done to combat this/are you aware?

**A:** The goal is to eventually increase driver numbers to provide more frequent services. The goal currently is to deliver 100% of the services that have been announced and then add more as we are able, rather than promise everything and under-deliver.

**Q:** If a connecting bus is late/early, does the other driver know so that they may adjust?

**A:** No, not at this stage.

**Q:** Will there be a direct service from Weston Creek to Belconnen? There are many services including the hospital, university and schools that we require better access to.

**A:** Currently no. A bus route is an investment decision. Currently, the aim is to set and maintain a base line of bus routes, and improve/increase where possible, when possible. New bus routes will be put between areas that need it most. We haven't seen

great enough demand yet for a route between Weston Creek and Belconnen for it to be a priority.

**Q:** The most recent purchase of buses was for non-electric units. Why not buy electric ones if the goal is to have an all-electric fleet?

**A:** Currently there are 450 buses in the network, and some of them are over 20 years old (and past due for replacement). We need to find a balance between securing the current bus fleet and establishing 0 emissions. The electric bus network highly depends on power infrastructure – we need to secure an energy supply for bus charging and that hasn't been done yet. It will cost \$450 million to replace the current network with a 0-emission fleet.

**Q:** Is there only one supplier of electric buses available?

**A:** ACT Transport will most likely be employing Yutong – the largest electric bus supplier in the world. It costs roughly \$900,000 for an electric bus vs \$500,000 for a diesel bus. In Australia, Bustech and Brisbane Metro are also developing electric buses (or track-less trams). Overall, there is lots happening in this space and prices/technologies will continue to improve with time.

**Q:** Stage 2 of the light rail is not yet finalised. Is ACT Transport considering new bus networks for the area in the scenario that it doesn't go ahead?

**A:** Not really – the light rail will go ahead. Furthermore, buses will still need to run until the light rail is fully installed anyway. The network is scaling each year to combat population growth and higher demand for public transport.

**Comments:**

- Concern of scaling back bus networks after light rail installations following what has been felt since light rail Stage 1.
  - More walking will be required for passengers to get from home to public transport routes because there will be fewer local routes.
  - The road network dictates the bus network to some extent.
  - Need for bus connections next to light rail stops.
- Disability compliance deadline is 31 December 2022.

**Q:** Any updates on buses to/from Coombs?

**A:** Route 66 should cover Coombs.

**Q:** Is there/will there be a real-time app for bus routes?

**A:** There are several already on the marketplace/app store. Most are unbranded at this stage. I would recommend using NextBus. There are plans for a new app for when the new ticketing system is implemented. This could potentially be in 2021. The delay is due to funding – development of a new app is expensive. The MyWay system cost roughly \$8 million, and a real time app could cost up to \$12 million.

**Q:** Can the R7 terminus be used as a stop?

**A:** It would need to be redeveloped. It needs to be reconfigured to be more accessible for pedestrians. It would be helpful for residents of Chapman and Rivett and so it will be looked in to.

**Finished at 8:57pm**

## BUSINESS MEETING

- **Minutes of the Meeting of 30 October 2019**
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - Main Account \$13,612.33
  - Fetherston Gardens Account \$10,404.03
- **Community survey**
  - There will be a survey coming out on the 28 November 2019.
  - It will explore current issues and determine what is important to the community.
  - Please spread the word to friends, family and neighbours
  - It will be on the website and Facebook; however, we can look into issuing paper copies for those who are less computer literate.
  - We aim to have 1200 participants.
  - There will be 23-25 questions that will discuss a range of issues, and you will be given the opportunity to add others.
  - Will enable the council to develop a template of issues to aid in talks with politicians.
  - Issues to be discussed include; building planning, traffic, the bridge over the Molonglo River, and public trees.
- **Review of planning in Molonglo**
  - April/May 2020
  - Terms of reference not yet announced
  - Looking into lack of trees, shops, etc.
- **Estate development plan for AFP site has closed**
  - Various buildings on the site
  - Have produced a comprehensive report on it discussing improvements etc.
  - There have be six additional submissions from other residents independent of the council.
- **Zapari development**
  - The company lodged a request for re-consideration of their development application.
  - The developer still wants 149 dwellings instead of the originally planned 44.
- **KOKO development**
  - Woolworths supermarket
  - Development plan due next week (first week of December 2019)
  - Request for reconsideration
  - We need to make sure they consider more than just the need for shops.
- **Meeting with ACT Shadow Minister for Sport – James Milligan**
  - Monday 2 December 2019
  - What is their policy as the opposition?
  - What facilities do they think are needed?
  - Will be a preliminary discussion.
  - We want to reach out to sports groups for their opinions and ask what they need.
- **Rivett shops parking**
  - Time limit on 8 spots to be added
- **Letter to minster about development application for aged-care facility**
  - Bushfire prone area
  - There are better locations, e.g. Chapman
  - We don't want to put vulnerable people in such a position

**Q:** The suburbs of Yarralumla and Deakin are to switch electorates from Kurrajong to Murrumbidgee?

**A:** The council disagrees and has counter proposed that they stay in Kurrajong. Talks of Kambah West to move to Brindabella electorate

**Q:** A flyer from the Woden Valley Community Council mentioned the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department was to move to Palmer Street in Garran?

**A:** It will stay within 100m of the current location but will have a different access route.

- This is a matter of discourse and there has been a petition in the Assembly.
- Concern about traffic arrangements
- Live issue
- No overview of the hospital site
- The neighbouring CIT site has not been taken into account.
- The community has a right to know government plans for the site.
  - How does the community gain access to this information?
- How can the WCCC get involved?
  - Tom Anderson to sign a letter addressing concerns.
- Access to Garran Primary School to moved to the other side?
  - Would need to widen the road.

**Closing of meeting**

- No further questions
- The meeting closed at 9:26pm

<p><b>Next Meeting Wednesday, 26 February 2019</b> <b>Raiders Club, Liardet Street Weston</b></p>
---