

Your local voice



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PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2021

MINUTES

Committee in attendance: Tom Anderson, Pat McGinn, Bill Gemmell, Michelle Bourdet, Warwick Lavers

Committee member apologies: Simone Hunter, Janice Paull, Shelby Schofield, Ryan Hemsley.

MLAs in attendance: Giulia Jones MLA, Emma Davidson MLA, Dr Marissa Paterson MLA.

Meeting opened: 7:46pm (due to technical issues). 18 signed in attendance. 115 unique Facebook views of meeting video at 28.2.21.

7:30 Welcome to members and guests – Tom Anderson – Chair. Reminded people that the meeting was live streamed and would be available on our Facebook page later.

Acknowledgment of Country – Bill Gemmell

We are honoured to be meeting on the ancestral lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We acknowledge these First Australians as the traditional custodians of this land, whose cultures are among the oldest living in human history. We pay respect to the Elders of the communities in the Murrumbidgee region and extend our recognition to their descendants – past, present, and future.

7:35 Dr Marisa Paterson, MLA for Murrumbidgee

Dr Marissa Paterson MLA introduced herself and provided a personal profile. She has lived in Weston Creek for 15 years- Weston, Wright and Waramanga. She has 3 children all who have grown up in Weston Creek. Her prior work included ANU research, Centre for Gambling. She worked in both the ACT and the Northern Territory. Community is important to her, and she enjoyed working in remote indigenous communities.

Dr Marissa Paterson joined the Labor party one year ago and was a candidate at the last election. She sees gaps in how we care for our older people and thinks we can do a lot in this area in the ACT. Dr Marissa Paterson is on 3 committees including, Justice and Community Safety Committee, Chair Climate Change, Environment and Diversity committees.

Dr Marissa Paterson said she was open to conversations, wanted people to contact her, and was happy to meet people for a coffee. She will post on Facebook and be at Cooleman Court. She brought her first motion to the Assembly which was fully supported by all parties and passed. This was to establish Molonglo Community Council. She acknowledged the work that had been done for Molonglo residents by the Weston Creek Community Council.

QR codes to register to get information about Brierly Street and Duffy shop upgrades were available. This was to gather information about what people want and their ideas. There will now be a bulky waste service in Canberra wide from July. The Cooleman Court bird mural is a great addition.

Issues raised by participants:

Speeding, noise complaints and non-compliance of road rules.

Sample of questions from floor

- Concerns raised about **cars not slowing down**, police do not respond to reports. Speed limits, example John Gorton Drive is a problem area.

Police services model will be new. Return to country style UK model, with intervention, and police out in the community. More awareness of what is happening, potential to catch people in the act. Post today was about speeding. Too much speeding around the area, not just at night. There will be a major 3-4 month crack down targeting speeding. Dr Paterson encouraged people to call the police or call crime-stoppers.

- **Speed limits. World's best practice** near suburban areas and on arterial roads is the lowering of speed limits to reduce environmental noise. We need a review of enforcement and education.

Dr Marissa Paterson will feed this back to Chris Steel. Other transport options are coming.

- **Cooleman Park.** – residents would like a move to have park rezoned.

If that is what the community wants, then there needs to be broad community consultation. Are we happy to let go of that land? It is a potential community investment. Consultation would have to be broadly and widely and for a long time. Happy to continue the conversation.

- **Planning Act** has contradictory sections. Costs are being passed on. Due for review with a better hat and better citizen hat – what are the relevant weightings on decision?

Dr Marissa Paterson said that she appreciates the frustration and is happy to continue the conversation.

8:20 pm. Presentation by ACT Health – Master Plan for Canberra Hospital. David Jones.

See also slide presentation.

Master plan will guide the future development of the Canberra Hospital for next 20 years. Canberra Hospital opened c1973. Largest tertiary hospital for NSW and ACT region. Consultation – what works and what does not work. Some issues heard so far:

- Accessibility
- Traffic management
- Sustainability
- Provision of green spaces and spaces to sit in
- Parking

Will report back to the community on the consultation phase. 10 March opens the consultation period. Will have

more multiple pop-ups.

- Friday 26 February at Cooleman Court 4-6 pm
- Denman Prospect on Saturday 27 February 10-12am

Report back early April. The final master plan for next 20 years will be available mid-year 2021.

Issues raised by participants:

Public transport issues, navigating the hospital, ease of access. Process of Master Plan very lengthy.

Sample of questions from floor

- Light rail does not go to hospital. It is a busy area.
- Why is Hospital Road bus stop closed?
- Not all bus routes go through there. Yamba Drive bus stop is not safe.
- Access to hospital. Need information hand-outs.
- Information about the relationship to Calvary Hospital and walk in centres needs to be more transparent.
- How is the hospital planning benchmarked against best practice?
- Access to the hospital for drop off, pick-ups with elderly and children.
- Need for (geriatric, palliative) reflective green spaces.
- Dense site, too much on the site.
- Hunter Region has had success with services being semi-attached to hospital, GPs etc.
- What is the staffing recruiting strategy? Under staffing is an issue

Responses and some commitments made:

- Will be doing traffic studies. Will look at how you access public transport.
- There is a bus stop on the hospital campus and a shuttle bus.
- Will talk to Transport Canberra.
- Looking at moving some services to the walk in centres to lessen congestion on the campus.
- Consulting with staff to improve work culture.

9:10 pm. Murrumbidgee MLAs

Giulia Jones MLA

- Giulia Jones is the shadow health spokesperson. The roll out of vaccine has had 250 vaccinations.
- Assembly estimates and annual reports being combined this year.
- Thanked Marissa Paterson for the motion of Molonglo Community Council saying that this is timely.
- Last sitting week – exemption for convoy for Cancer approved.
- She mentioned that there is an impression that poverty, homelessness, prison, and crime issues have worsened.
- Thank you to Emma Davidson for Coolo Park support. People were treated badly in this process. Consultation processes

Emma Davidson MLA

- Community Connections helping mental health and well-being. Grants are available to connect in a COVID safe way. Up to \$5000. Do not need to be an incorporated association to apply.
- **Comment from floor:** Thank you to the MLAs for their support and quick replies.
- **Questions from floor:**
 - bus design issues, doors and back step causes mobility access issues for people to get on the bus and then to get to disability seating. Emma Davidson advised that the Your Say panel

- survey has this as a topic at the moment and she will pass on the feedback to Chris Steel.
- Ambulance responses and Involuntarily detained people, Emergency apprehension order under Mental Health Act – is this necessary? Emma Davidson will respond in more detail by email

9:20 General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 25 November 2020

Moved: John Mungoven Seconded: Pat McGinn Carried

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 25 November 2020.

None

Treasurer's Report

- Weston Creek Community Council Smallbiz Account - \$15 893.23
- Fetherston Gardens Account - \$8 633.74

9:30 General Business

Chair Report: See also newsletter.

- Molonglo Valley Community Council- we are proud of what we have done over 10-12 years for Molonglo area. Hopefully, we will see the town centre built soon. Your Weston Creek Community council has spent much time and resources on the many issues in Molonglo and can point to the very good bus services, the proposed new bridge and the new aquatic centre as some of our achievements. We still lament the lack of shops and hope Koko will be up and running 2022.
- Watling Place Car Park – thank you to the MLA support, petition, and the Save Cool Park group that the car park will not go ahead. We consider the best outcome has been achieved and would like to see it revert to open space zoning.
- Brierly Street Stage Two- the car park monies will go to the Briery Street upgrades. We will outline your survey responses at the next meeting. We are planning a further survey to drill down on the issues.
- Budget – last year's budget. Duffy shops, Duffy Primary School upgrade, new intersections and netball courts are included.
- Mural on western wall at Cooleman Court is very good and courtesy of the government.
- Old AFP site. There has not been a decision announced yet, 2 months after the case adjourned.
- Calming measures are being looked at for Namatjira Drive and Streeton Drive
- Weston ponds – we would like a path and somewhere to sit.

Questions/comments from floor:

- WCCC Facebook page– working now, thank you Bill.
- Compliments to the Council achievements and MLA support for the new playground at Waramanga shops and Coombs paths.

9:27 pm Close of meeting.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 31 March 2021
Capital Estates Denman Prospect, Brierly Street, and survey
Community Centre Weston