

*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  
Phone: 0458 756 034

**PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 26 MAY 2021**

**MINUTES**

**See also video of meeting, live streamed and uploaded to WCCC Facebook page**

**Committee in attendance:** Janice Paull, Simone Hunter, Bill Gemmell (WCCC Interim Chair), Warwick Lavers, Shelby Schofield, Michelle Weston, Michelle Bourdet

**MLAs in attendance:** Emma Davidson MLA, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

**Apologies:** Mrs. Giulia Jones MLA. Ms. Alice Hathorn.

**Meeting opened:** 7:30 pm. 14 signed in attendance plus guests and MLAs and WCCC committee members. Others in attendance signed in through QR code.

Unique Facebook 623 views of meeting video at 2/6/21

**7:30pm Welcome to members and guests:** Bill Gemmell, Chair of meeting. Introduced himself and made apologies for Ms. Alice Hathorn. Outlined the agenda.

**Acknowledgment of Country – Shelby Schofield**

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.

**7:36 pm Presentation by Yolandi Veermar of WOMBAT RESCUE**

**See also slide show.**

**Presentation:**

Yolandi Veermar is the founder of Wombat Rescue. In her presentation she outlined:

Challenges facing wombats. Including:

- Mange, which is terminal. Not as common as people think, have a fragmented populations and numbers are decreasing. Reproduction is only once every two years. According to a CSIRO study, four million mammals are killed annually on our roads.

How you can help.

- As a driver you can drive to the conditions, slow down in wildlife zones. Stop and check pouches. Report injured wildlife so they receive assistance and move wildlife off the road.
- Facilitate open conversations with land holders, install wombat gates,
- You can volunteer your time to do treatment. Yolandi can offer training and items you may need to assist wombats.

**Issues/sample questions raised by participants:**

- Can safe corridors for wombats be created for them to cross the roads?
- Participant from the floor spoke highly of Yolandi's work and her experience of having found a wombat in her yard in Weston Creek.
- Are there any wombat hot spots in the Canberra area? A: Coleman Ridge, Duffy area, Cotter Road.

Contact details:

<http://www.wombatrescue.com.au/>  
[rescuewombats@gmail.com](mailto:rescuewombats@gmail.com)

**8:00 pm Presentation by Kirsten Duncan from the CONSERVATION COUNCIL, ACT gas free project.**

**See also presentation. Make the Switch.****Presentation:**

Conservation Council is quite a small organisation. This project was funded by the Government Zero Emissions Grant.

Kirsten Duncan referenced the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025.

100% renewable energy by 2020 was achieved in the ACT.

22% ACT emissions from transport.

Phase out fossil gas by 2045 is a goal in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement.

Some features of the *Make the Switch* project:

- Switch from gas will help households to save money on bills.
- Is one way to take-action on climate change.
- Encourages households to switch their hot water, switch their heating, switch their cooking,
- Then you can close your gas account.
- Website has a calculator to compare running costs.
- You can download a free guide and action planner (copies available at the meeting).

Conservation Council ACT Region sites:

[makethemove.org.au](http://makethemove.org.au)

[maketheswitch.org.au](http://maketheswitch.org.au)

**Issues/sample questions raised by participants:**

- Costs of running appliances.
- Complexities of gas reserves and fracking. Most of our gas is exported.
- Q: Concern about discontinuing gas. People perceive electricity as more expensive. Concern that this may result in an increase in wood burning as it is being seen as a cheaper option. A: wood heating may result in salvaging of logs which is an environmental issue. Air pollution is a problem in Canberra.
- Building structures – the need for energy efficient standards.
- Q: How do you work out costs of setting up solar PV and /or batteries. A: This is dependent on your own personal circumstance.
- Q: Where will our electricity come from? A: Large scale installations such as solar, hydro and batteries will eventually be the source.

## 8:43 pm Murrumbidgee MLAs

### **Emma Davidson MLA**

Emma Davidson gave a thank you to Tom Anderson for his work on the Council, it is very much appreciated.

Community Connections Grants have been announced. It has a total of \$98 200 in funding.

Community Gardens Grants are now open. \$10 000 per project available. Applications close 28 June. Gardens build strength and resilience.

Question asked about the care and maintenance of trees. A: We need to plant new trees, but we also need to look after the ones we have. Concerns can be passed on to City Services.

National Volunteering Week has just finished. As a result of COVID some groups, such as Landcare, are looking for volunteers.

Emma has seen a wombat in Coolo Park!

Q: Ban on single use plastics. A: supporting the community so that appropriate utensils are available for use for people.

### **Dr Marisa Paterson MLA**

Thanked and acknowledged Tom Anderson's work.

Marissa had a wombat in Waramanga not long ago!

District Planning Workshop Weston Creek session is on the June 6-9pm. You can still register online.

Dog registration laws passed last sitting. Registration will need to be reviewed annually with no cost.

Marisa having a mobile office at Coleman Court on the Woolworths side, 26 May, with Minister Gentleman on Police Services Model. 3-4pm.

Inquiry into Renewable Innovation in the ACT: submissions made on-line, hearings in the next few weeks.

Election inquiry: for the last 2 weeks there has been hearings. You can listen on the assembly website.

Brierly Street upgrades – over the next few months Marisa will talk with the community. Process will start shortly.

Marisa has posted on social media about recycling. You can join her for a tour of the ACT recycling hub on 15 June to see the facility.

Q: Changes to police model. A: Marisa gave outline of UK based preventative model. Police being out in the community.

Q: Will we get a Police person stationed here locally? A: a good discussion to be had.

Questions from the floor about recent incidents, responses, and supports needed.

What are the outcomes expected from the police model?

## **GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of 28 April 2021.

Moved: Mark Boast Seconded: Michelle Weston. Accepted: Yes.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 28 April 2021.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report this month.

## **REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE:**

Bill Gemmell:

- Welcomed Michelle Weston to the WCCC committee.
- Call out for volunteers. If you want to join the Committee, please let us know.
- The AGM will be in August, and Council will run on interim arrangements until then. All are encouraged and invited to nominate for the Committee.
- Village proposal on the AFP site was rejected by ACAT. Council was a party joined. The ACAT report is on the WCCC website.
- Council meeting to discuss parking issues, and park and ride. Plans will be presented at the meeting. Council will put out a survey for community input. Minister Chris Steel will be at our next meeting.
- Weston Creek Community Council has submitted to the Inquiry into Renewable Energy Innovation in the ACT, chaired by Dr Marisa Paterson.
- WCCC has put in budget letter including concerns raised with Council, including the need for an air quality station in Weston Creek.

Simone Hunter:

- Floriade pop-up. Council have been successful again this year, acquiring 2000 bulbs. The display will again be at Chapman. Planting bulbs will be on 6 June 11am-4pm – call out for volunteers for this event. Can just join us or can let us know. Information on the WCCC May/June newsletter.
- Call out for volunteers. Let us know how you would like to contribute to Council or any events.

Warwick Lavers:

- Council supports development done well. Warwick gave outline of the Village proposal for the old AFP site. The proposed development had rows of houses, close together, with narrow roads. Council was a party joined.

**HAVE YOUR SAY, FEEDBACK FROM THE FLOOR.**

<p>Village proposal on old AFP site was not in the character of Weston Creek. Concerns raised about: Removal of trees, 3-storey buildings and the third entrance on Heyson Street. Heyson Street is already very busy.</p>	<p>What is the definition of Weston Creek (WC)? Preserving the village feel of WC. District planning workshop for Weston Creek on 8 June at the Labor Club Stirling. Register to attend and let Government know what you want for WC.</p>
<p>Traffic concerns raised about Mulley Street. This is a dangerous intersection, witnessed car accidents. Council has expressed this problem in the Budget letter.</p>	<p>Cycle path and the two lanes along Streeton Drive needs upgrading. These are also included in Council Budget letter. Council will also ask Minister Steel.</p>

**CLOSE OF MEETING: 9:35 pm. Chair thanked everyone for their participation.**

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday 30 June**  
**Weston Creek Community Centre**

- What we heard, WCCC overview of your concerns: parking, traffic, and transport.
- Mr. Chris Steel, Minister for Transport, Minister for City Services, Minister for Roads and Active Travel.
- Mr. Richard Henty, Transport and City Services, Duffy Shops upgrade.