

Your local voice

■ ■ ■ weston creek
■ ■ ■ community
■ ■ ■ council

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PUBLIC MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH 2022

MINUTES

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

Venue: Weston Creek Community Centre off Parkinson Street

Committee in attendance: Mark Boast (Chair vice Bill Gemmell), Michelle Weston, Liam Foley, Louise Hughes

Committee apologies: Diana Terry, Lesley Pattinson, Bill Gemmell, Michelle Bourdet

MLAs in attendance: Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

Meeting opened : 7:35 pm. 10 signed in attendance, plus one guest, one MLA and four Committee members. 139 views as at 7 April 2022.

Apologies: Gill King sent her apologies for not being able to present as scheduled on Living Streets due to a Covid 19 exposure.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Acknowledgment of Country

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.

7:40 pm PRESENTATIONS and Q&A:

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA presenting the 'Her Way' Project

Acknowledgement of Country. Marissa distributed the 'Her Way' Recommendation report – supporting women in Canberra's South who want to make greater use of public transport and active travel. Marisa

Presentation Key Points:

- The report is part of a campaign to look out how people are using public transport in the electorate of Murrumbidgee.
- The project targeted those interested in changing behaviors, concerned about the environment, their health, and willing to have a go at something different.
- The project looks at understanding barriers to participating in active travel.
- As part of the light rail disruption MPs have started wondering how to engage with the community about changing behaviors to avoid sitting in traffic jams.
- The project surveyed the community to understand different perspectives such as why specifically

women are usually last to come on board with active travel. 84 respondents provided good information. There were other submissions from different community members all round Canberra, Specialist groups such as Pedal Power, ACC and specialists in active travel.

- Most people drove to work, shops, and school and wanted to understand the different options for active travel.
- Time pressures influenced behaviour, - particularly trip trains from school to work, personal safety (real and perceived) were also issues for women. Particularly interesting was schools – a critical point where people go to drop of kids. Do we need more park and ride facilities from school?
- Seasons and weather were another influence, as were financial considerations.
- The results from the survey and submissions were written into the 'Her Way' report with some recommendations to the ACT Government about what women needed to change their behaviour.

Some of the Key recommendations from the report:

- Run a focus group to engage women in different behavior choices
- Personalised travel plans – not sure how to get from A to B
- Digital way-planning
- Normalize the behaviour – make it part of life as usual
- Safe connected infrastructure – not confident on bikes, more and better paths with lighting
- Bike parking and end of trip facilities important to changing behavior
- Park and ride facilities needed
- Ebike initiatives – ebike library, generally encouraging people to engage with this
- Flexible workplaces – ACT Govt workers can work closer to home rather than travel to the city
- User design perspectives – Transport ACT has diversity group to consult around light rail

Next steps

- Trialing the ebike and communicating with anyone who wants to have a chat about it
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement
- 6 June 2022, Pedal Power public forum for beginners – including how to get a bike on bus, basic bike care – please don't hesitate to contact Marisa on this issue.

Sample questions from the audience

- Q. What about charging the ebike. A. The ebike does one way to the city without charging and is very easy to charge at the office when you get there.
- Q. How did you find storage – especially for bikes and e-bikes in civic? Must be secure places to leave a bike. A. Agree this is a big issue. Suggest you register your bike with the police so at least you will get it back if it is recovered.
- Q Were you surveying the converted. A. Most respondents said they wanted to change their behaviour.

Ms Rosemary Dupont, Pedal Power (immediate past President)

Acknowledgment of Country.

Rosemary explained Pedal Power's role in encouraging people to exercise and cycle for years.

Key points from presentation

- Pedal Power is the largest cycling organization in Canberra, other is Canberra Off Road Cycling (mountain bikes) and Cycling ACT (racing on road bikes).
- Pedal Power's vision is to be the cycling capital of Australia – better for cities and better for ourselves. There is now big competition for cycling tourism. Stromlo is being further developed to compete with places like Derby in Tasmania.
- Pedal Power is Canberra's peak cycling organization with 6-7000 members, champions of cycling for transport, recreation and sport. The organization has been running for almost 50 years.
- Pedal Power provides insurance 24/7 all over the world – the main part used is medical, but also third party - for example say if you scratched a car.
- Pedal Power runs two main events: the Big Canberra Bike Ride (a family ride) and the Fitz's Challenge (an elite ride). Pedal Power volunteers run about 20 social rides a week, mountain bike and road bike. Pedal Power runs the New Horizons Program for people who can ride and need to get back on their bike and get confidence up. Cycle Well is a program for women who have never cycled, and there is a program teaching migrant woman how to ride and giving them a bike. A very popular program is Big skills for Small Bikes teaching parents how to teach their kids to ride.
- Pedal Power looks at how Canberra can be more bike friendly, for example:
 - Need separated bike paths and roads – eg. the Sullivan's Creek path is really busy.
 - Women are concerned about lighting – and helmet hair. E-bikes are a good option as you don't need a shower at work
 - Government promoting cycling and letting people know what is going on – service stations for bikes and new bike paths put in place
- Cycling benefits business – need less parking spaces, cycling creates at a couple of billion dollars in Australia alone.
- Increased fitness and general health benefits – physical and psychological
- Saves you money – lots of people have sold their cars - no registration, petrol and running costs
- Connects you to Canberra environment – you see lots more when you walk and cycle
- Transport emissions – lots of people don't like cyclists but should appreciate when you are on the bike you're not taking up parking spaces or adding to traffic congestion.

Pedal Power Murrumbidgee Advocacy Group

- Cycle infrastructure – Weston Creek – needs to be big review of the cycle network
- The Advocacy group believe it is a fair comment that Weston Creek has missed out on recent money spent in infrastructure in Canberra. Just across the way in Woden lots of things have been done (separated bike lane along Corinna and Furzer Streets to the mall), and upgrading intersections where Theodore St meets Melrose to make it much safer.
- Weston Creek is blessed with great arterial paths along easements, but it doesn't bring you into the shops area. Brierley St is now the subject of a design review and Pedal Power have a submission noting not much has happened in the 50 years since it was set up. Trenerry square could be much improved as a place for people. Pedal Power submission has asked for better cycling and walking places in town.
- An advocacy member gave an example of the narrow path on the bridge on Streeton drive which is next to 80kmph traffic. The path is way too narrow for two bikes to pass safely. He also commented the proposed route to the city – the C5 needs to be improved, it is narrow with lots of tree roots.
- Infrastructure can make a huge difference, for example the upgraded path on Heysen Street has a resulted in an increase in cyclists and walkers in the area.

Rosemary asked the question about what would motivate you to cycle? Some comments were:

- Secure parking – improving the CCTV, need safe places.
- Separated cycle ways
- End of trip facilities with showers
- Lighting on bike paths
- Possibly subsidizing and e-bike
- Ride to work networks - how to get from work to home without dead ends

Other comments

- market for e-bikes getting far more competitive. The scheme with the trial bike for a week is great
- Mountain bike facility at Stromlo is used by hundreds of people. Molongolo Valley bike paths, particularly along the river are wide and smooth and free running. Weston Creek is rough and needs work. The Land Agency is trying to link up paths.

8:40 pm MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

Assembly is sitting next week. Community inquiries - Annual report hearings, community corrections inquiry looking at how community correction orders work with the community.

Last week in assembly Marisa Paterson suggested a carbon calculator for businesses – there is one for homes, now need one for businesses.

The question was asked about whether there was going to be a coffee shop at the empty Coombs shops. Marisa Paterson said it was not completely clear yet - needed to verify this.

There was a comment about the announcement that London Circuit has approval to be raised despite 80 per cent of people who put in submissions not being in favour of light rail going through to Woden. Marisa Paterson advised a lot of community is supportive of light rail coming to Woden, it is part of the public transport and active travel network. While there are lots of views on this, it is going to happen. A comment was made it was a shame the Commonwealth did not provide more infrastructure funds to help.

The question was asked as to whether the Coppins Crossing Bridge work could be brought forward. Marisa Paterson said she would ask Chris Steele.

8:55 pm GENERAL MEETING:

- Minutes of the meeting of February 2022
Moved by Michelle Weston, Seconded by Louise Hughes
- Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of February 2022

General Business

- Chair's report and newsletter: copies available at the public meeting and have been emailed out to those on the mailing list. Points include:
 - Follow-up will be provided on the Container Deposit Facility for Weston Creek
 - Consultation documents have been released for the revised Planning Laws.
 - Council has been invited to speak with the consultants appointed for the Brierly Street Project.
 - The Village Building Company has lodged a Development Application for the former AFP site on Streeton Drive.

- The RSPCA will be moving from the no longer fit for purpose site on Cotter Road to a new site at Pialligo. The current RSPCA site is on the Government's land release program. Council will work with Molonglo Forum representatives to represent both Communities.
- The Chair met with Minister Chris Steel recently and raised issues about the delivery of municipal services including "Fix my Street" short comings, crime rates, police presence and dangerous driving. Minister Steel will be attending a future meeting after the Federal election is over to discuss issues in his portfolio, including Active Travel initiatives.
- Weston Creek Community Council will host the Bean Community Council's Federal Election Forum on 2 May 2022, at 7 pm in the Weston Creek Community Centre. This is a joint Forum with the Tuggeranong Community Council, and the Molongolo Community Forum.
- We have two vacancies on the Council Committee and are looking for interested residents of the Weston Creek community.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday 27 APRIL 2022, 7:30 pm

Topic: SPORTS FACILITIES IN WESTON CREEK

Venue: Weston Creek Community Centre

Please let the Committee know what topics you would like to hear about at WCCC monthly public meetings.

9:00 pm: Meeting close.