

*Your local voice*



www.westoncreek.org.au  
info@westoncreek.org.au  
PO Box 3701  
Weston Creek ACT 2611  
Phone: 0458 756 034

## **MINUTES PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023**

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

**COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Bill Gemmell (Chair), Michelle Bourdet, Liam Foley, Louise Hughes, Michelle Weston, Mark Boast, Diana Terry

**APOLOGIES:** Mark Boast, Dianna Terry

**MURRUMBIDGEE MLAS IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Marissa Patterson MLA, Emma Davidson MLA,

**MLAs viewing online:** Peter Cain MLA

**MEETING OPENED:** 7:33 pm. 12 signed in attendance. Plus 3 EPSDD guests, 4 MLAs and 7 WCCC committee members.

Unique Facebook 198 views of meeting video (as of 28 March 2023).

Welcome to members and guests. Chair, Bill Gemmell

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 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.

### **7:34 pm GUEST SPEAKERS: Mel and Sarah from Sub Zero**

#### **SUBURB ZERO. LINKAGES TO ELECTRIFYING AUSTRALIA INITIATIVE.**

- Suburb Zero is a community organization. Saul Griffiths worked with Joe Biden, and this follows that work.
- This initiative is part of Senator for the ACT, David Pocock's policy platform.
- Pilot program in Canberra with cost-of-living benefits looking at 1 000 houses in a suburban area (mixed housing types)
- The project gives people the opportunity to be fully de-carbonised. Also looking at the barriers to adopting electrification, for example renting. Using your car for electrical storage is efficient.
- Speakers made a request to audience to complete a short survey to show support and to also inform decision-makers (or show interest) to be a pilot suburb

#### **DISCUSSION. Sample questions and comments from the audience.**

Audience concerns included:

- Expense of retrofitting
- Caps on how much people can put back into the grid is a barrier.
- Question about ACTEW being worried about their network, stabilizing the grid and storage.

Q: How do we make houses more energy efficient particularly with heating?

A: Will be part of the picture. Pilot will look at issues such as heating. Rewiring Australia involved.

Q: How do you dispose of solar panels and batteries at end of life?

A: We don't want them to end in land fill. The life has been much longer than was expected. There is also a huge industry investigation around this.

Q: The batteries have lithium. What happens when they burn, how do you get out?

A: Fuel burns too. Work is happening in this area.

### **SHARED EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Chair gave an introduction about the shared emergency services proposal potentially located in Duffy. Justice and Community Safety Directorate will speak at next month's public meeting.

It appears that the area would have to be re-zoned.

Dr Marissa Patterson MLA confirmed that fire and ambulance services are planned for the site, but not police.

Chair suggested people have a look at the space, have a think, and let Committee know for next meeting.

#### **Concerns raised by audience:**

- Will the facility include police?
- Will the facilities in Phillip be closed?
- What is the portion of the block that will be used?
- Where will the entrance/exit be? Will it be on Dixon Drive?
- Concerns for cyclists and walkers as there is a lot of activity in this area.
- The green belt put forward for the possible shared services centre is on land that community was advised would not be touched. It is a green belt to protect the suburbs from a firestorm.

### **DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT WESTON CREEK DISTRICT STRATEGY**

Chair gave a report about what Council have heard from the community and information sessions.

- Planning how land will be used is important to every resident.
- Once a piece of green space is developed it is gone.
- Need to consider that the Territory and nation face housing availability and affordability shortages.
- Linkages to Human Rights Law and environmental protections needed.
- Getting feedback from the community that the maps in the District Strategy are lacking in detail.
- Concerns about the data. It appears that the Government does not have sufficient analytical capacity.
- Need to have a balance between the character of Weston Creek, development, and green spaces.

Thank you to those who have provided commentary. This will be included in the submission from WCCC.

Submissions are due 3 March 2023.

More information options for the planning review:

- Find documents and/or make a comment at [yoursayconversations.act.gov.au](https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au)
- online Q and A session Thursday 23 February 6:00-7:00pm. Register through the Your Say website
- South Side Listening Spaces – you can drop in and talk to planners about the draft district strategies and draft Territory Plan
  - 24 February - 10:00am-5:00pm Abode Woden Hotel, Stromlo Room
  - 25 February - 11:00am – 4:00pm Abode Woden Hotel, Stromlo Room

### **CONCERNS, COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

- Clarity around maps, more detail is required especially around proposed and potential development areas.
- Ear marking the green spaces for development is not making a sustainable city.
- District Strategies have little factual basis, with no substance and little for Weston Creek
- What do people value in this area, what needs to be prioritised going into the future? This is an opportunity to influence that change. Chance for renewal and new investment in Weston Creek. Encourage everyone to participate.

- For the average citizen, the planning processes are too confusing with too much paper.
- The plans are trying to sound good without committing to much.
- In the case of infill of urban space - what happens in terms of timeframes and consultation.
- People who have purchased in Weston Creek may not end up with what they thought they had bought.
- Everything feels rushed, sessions are being held in work hours which are hard to get to.
- Residents want Government to listen to what the residents value.
- It was appreciated that the planners came to the November WCCC public meeting to give information and answer questions.
- Dr. Marissa Patterson MLA advised that the Planning Bill is very complicated, as it needs to be. The District Strategies are an avenue to give feedback. The Weston Creek population is not growing. Other areas need more services and Weston Creek may struggle to get what is wanted. Please give feedback.

## **MURRUMBIDGGE MLAS**

### **EMMA DAVIDSON MLA**

- Thank you for the feedback at this meeting on the Weston Creek District Strategies. Green spaces are valued in Weston Creek. Everyone is encouraged to give feedback, even a few lines.
- Housing and homeliness services need to provide a service and pay their workers. Federal support is needed. District Plans are another way to address housing.
- Housing needs to meet design standards and with the ability to be modified for future needs, such as aging and mobility.
- The pressures on cost-of-living Inquiry are taking submissions until 20 March. Chaired by Jonathon Davies MLA. The closing date is set so that the committee can make recommendations to the Treasurer before the next ACT Budget

#### **Concerns raised by audience:**

- Concerns raised about regressive land tax in the ACT and the flow on cost to renters. A: If landlords are concerned, they can also look at renting through YMCA
- Concerns of homeliness, and how do you access support. A: One Link is a good starting point. Communities at Work have food pantries. ACT Women's Health Service can provide support.

### **DR MARISSA PATTERSON MLA**

- Dr Marissa Patterson MLA is on the Cost-of-Living Committee
- Discussion paper on voluntary assisted dying. Survey or submission open. Also, age of consent. What are the community thoughts?
- Heritage Inquiry, which ties into planning, closes on the 31 March.
- The mural to be painted at Coleman Court playground has been chosen with sun smart messaging.
- Moved a motion for online reporting to police. So, this will be another reporting avenue and will give an incident number. Passed in the Assembly last week.
- Dangerous Driving Report should be published within the month.
- Other inquiries and legislation are coming through.

**CHAIR REPORT.**

Printed report supplied at meeting and emailed to mailing list. Also available on WCCC website.

- Return it machine is up and running in Commons Court, Weston
- DA for Fetherston TBA
- Intersection improvements should be starting soon in Weston
- Molonglo Bridge announcement has been made. Council has advocated for Molonglo
- Final plans for Brierly Street expected to be announced shortly
- Request for volunteers. Call for nominations for the committee

**FROM THE FLOOR:**

- Questions raised about the TCCS depot Holder. DA will go out for community consultation.
- Important to have sports facilities near where we live.
- Mulley Street gym wants to expand.
- Stromlo car park is a tax on athletes. Stromlo surface is an investment in urban heat.
- Raiders Club DA for variation to crown lease not finalized. This may add pressure for meeting rooms.
- Please pass on ACT Government Budget 2023/24 ideas to Council

**GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of November 2022

Moved: Roger Tomlins Seconded: Louise Hughes Accepted: Yes.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of November 2022. None

**CLOSE OF MEETING:** 9:45 pm

**NEXT WCCC PUBLIC MEETING:**

At 7:30pm Wednesday **29 March 2023**

VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre

TOPIC: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Shared services  
facility at Duffy.