

Your local voice



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MINUTES PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL 2023

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

COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Gemmell (Chair), Michelle Bourdet, Liam Foley, Roger Tomlins

APOLOGIES: Michelle Weston, Dianna Terry, Louise Hughes

7 signed in attendance. Plus: Guests Graeme Rossiter, Phillip Stephens and Geoff Kutz from Weston Creek Tennis Club.

MLAs VIEWING ONLINE: Peter Cain MLA

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Cocks MLA, Emma Davidson MLA.

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs APOLOGIES: None

Unique Facebook 115 views of meeting video and 6 views on Utube (as of 21 May 2023).

MEETING OPENED: 7:36 pm.

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.

7:40 pm GUESTS: Representatives from the **WESTON CREEK TENNIS CLUB** outlining their vision and expansion plans. **Graeme Rossiter, Phillip Stephen and Geoff Kutz.**

PRESENTATION: See also Power Point presentation.

- Brief History of Weston Creek Tennis Club. Began in 1971. The court complex opened in 1973. This year is the 50th anniversary.
- Provide a range of programs for a variety of ages and skills, including schools.
- The club is community based.
- The Commonwealth Government committed \$800 000 for a project to build 4 new tennis courts.
- The ACT Government has announced a further commitment of \$100 00 toward the project.
- Key stakeholders include DITRDCA, Sport and Rec Tennis ACT Weston Creek Tennis Club which has the 99-year lease.
- Preliminary work on the project must be completed before 30 June 2023 including a geotechnical survey, survey of boundary and existing site services, developing working drawings, project plan, and cost estimation.

- Work underway includes: communication with key stakeholders, getting quotes and completing the extensive application.
- There is a working group including, President, Treasurer and Coordinator.
- Website: <https://play.tennis.com.au/westoncreektennisclub>
- For further information contact Graeme Rossiter on 0431 930 710
- Yearly fees plus \$30 one off fee
 - Adult \$165 plus 30
 - Family \$330
 - Tertiary student \$115
 - Junior under 18 years \$65
 - Pensioner \$135

DISCUSSION. Sample questions and comments from the audience.

Q: What will the estimated cost be? A: We have some grants, but the quotes have come in higher. Therefore, the project will be tailored.

Q: About usage and inclusions. A: multi-purpose facility is favoured. Can work with WCCC.

Q; Safety in the area. Lighting and activating the area A: Aware of some issues which have improved. Will be making recommendations.

Q: Does present budget include clubhouse? A: Current focus is courts.

Q: Any potential for fund raising? A: This has been done but can be difficult for the amounts required. Some club members have put money forward. There is not a lot of current sponsorship, but this is being explored., such as partnerships with businesses.

Q: Can other groups use the area? A: Yes. Courts can be hired for a range of purposes. Extension of the clubhouse has this goal too. Businesses hire area for staff. Happy to extend this.

Q: Will the expansion bring championships and people from interstate? A: This is happening already. Weston Creek will have the blue surface courts which will bring competitions.

Q: Are you installing more solar panels? A: Yes. If the new clubhouse is funded, we will have an area to put more panels on.

Q: Are the Scouts still nearby? A: Yes

Q: How many members do you have? A: 450 approximately.

Discussion included:

- Membership is growing, club is also catering for Molonglo.
- Club space may have meeting rooms (down the track).
- Making the project inclusive, including access, levelling the land.

Chair thanked the presenters. A letter of support was canvassed. Those present agreed to letter of support.

TOPIC: Update on the Planning Review and Reform, Bill Gemmell (Chair)

Led by the Chair, Bill Gemmell. See also Power Point presentation.

Government response to the Standing Committee for the Planning Review was tabled 24 April 2023.

Will be used to inform the Assembly Debate in June 2023.

WCCC will draft a summary for circulation.

Some points of concern so far:

- The Committee recommended a review of governance arrangements considering the dual roles held by the Chief Planner/Director General
- Community members need to be able to seek Controlled Orders
- Committee recommended that Territory Priority Projects (TPP) be considered by whole of Assembly
- Canberra Town Planning Submission dropped into the Planning Review submissions for the Stirling Weston Club

8:25 pm MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs

We always have an open invitation to all Murrumbidgee MLAs to speak at the WCCC public meetings.

Ed Cocks MLA

- Impressed with WCCC Budget letter submission. Hoping that aging infrastructure such as pathways are improved.
- Have been advocating for a town centre at Molonglo. The Weston Creek facilities are over-loaded.

Questions:

Q: Some tables and shade sail requested for *Coolo Park*, for example for bigger meeting groups such as a walking group. A: Liberals would like this park restored which will increase use for the community. Needs to come back to its original green space.

Q: Will Liberals debate *Coolo Park* in the Territory Plan debates? A: I don't know if it will be in that debate as there is a lot to discuss.

Q: There is a lack of sporting facilities. Molonglo also needs more facilities as Weston Creek is being overloaded. A: Agreed. Gymnastics Club is looking at ways to expand.

Q: There are empty shops at Molonglo that should be looked at for other uses. A: This is continually a reminder of a disappointment that this is the case. Would like to see these spaces used.

Q: Concerns of disruption to the archery club in Holder. A: Not the only person to raise concerns. Looking into the issue. Wouldn't like to see area lose this facility.

Q: Update on a hydrotherapy pool A: Going in at Tuggeranong. Residents have concerns about access to hydrotherapy pools.

Emma Davidson MLA

- Pleased to see the conversation about the planning laws at this meeting. There are housing affordability and environmental issues. Also, concerns about the consultation and governance. Emma Davidson advised she was speaking as a Greens member on this topic. Still can make amendments to these laws.
- Emma Davidson has had a conversation with Minister Steel about *Coolo Park*. Planting trees and play equipment may be difficult. Tables are movable and may be approved. Emma Davidson advised that if Ed Cocks moved a motion on *Coolo Park*, she would support it.
- Review into the ACT Seniors Card. Many don't know about the card or its discounts. Have a look at the Directory to see how you can reduce your bills. COTA is a very good service.

GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of March 2023

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of March 2023. None

Moved: Val Bland. Seconded: Roger Tomlins. Accepted: Yes.

CHAIR REPORT.

- Printed Chair report supplied at meeting and emailed to the WCCC mailing list. It is also available on the WCCC website.
- The Inquiry has reported on dangerous driving

HAVE YOUR SAY, FEEDBACK FROM THE FLOOR.

Some issues raised:

- Graffiti in the area, along the fences and at Fetherston Gardens was raised as an issue.
- The proposed Shared Emergency Services Centre – it was asked who got the letters. Ed Cocks will follow this up. Chair will contact the EPSD engagement person.
- Thank you to whoever organised lighting, it has made a big difference for safety.
- Thank you, the new pathways are also appreciated.

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 9:04 pm

NEXT WCCC PUBLIC MEETING:
At 7:30pm Wednesday 31 May 2023
VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre