

Your local voice



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MINUTES PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 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, Roger Tomlins

APOLOGIES: Michelle Weston, Dianna Terry

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAS IN ATTENDANCE: None in attendance.

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs APOLOGIES: Emma Davidson MLA

MEETING OPENED: 7:39 pm. 7 signed in attendance. Plus 3 guests from Justice and Community Safety Directorate, and 5 WCCC committee members.

Unique Facebook 181 views of meeting video (as of 21 April 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.

7:40 pm GUEST SPEAKERS: REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIRECTORATE ON THE INVESTIGATIONS FOR A COMBINED EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTRE ON BLOCK 2 SECTION 58 DUFFY

PRESENTATION:

- **Need for the station:** Area is growing with population and spatial growth. Reduce response time for ambulance, fire and rescue services. Lessons learnt from Gunghalin being positioned in the CBD and traffic impedes access.
- **Options and factors:** Sites considered included Molonglo group Centre, and corner John Gordon Drive and Cotter Road. The CBD areas cause vehicle queuing and interactions with vehicle and pedestrians.
- **Proposed location.** Approximately 10% of BLOCK 2 SECTION 58 DUFFY with a compact design. NCA have considered this option. Requires a change to the Territory Plan.
- **Concept plan:** Will provide facilities for ambulance fire and rescue services with a compact footprint.
- **Next steps:** Public consultation on amendments to precinct map and code, undertake primary sketch plan design, DA process, business case for detailed design and construction.

CONSULTATION IS OPEN, CLOSING ON 19 MAY 2023

DISCUSSION. Sample questions and comments from the audience.

- Q: Location of the Exit/entrance for facility. A: No access onto Dickson Drive, only access on Cotter Drive. Looking at strategies for traffic management, for example control of traffic lights.
- Q: Will the facility include police A: No, ACT Policing is a separate service.
- Q: Will the facilities in Phillip be closed? A: Phillip is in a key position. This new facility will be in addition to existing facilities.
- Q: Temptation to put driveway access on Dixon Drive a concern. A: There is a requirement to have a buffer area, green space and this will be maintained.
- Q: Why not Cotter and Eucumbene Drive. Why this site? A: There has been learnings that positioning in town centres make responding difficult. This potential site also caters for Molonglo.
- Q: There is concerns for cyclists. A: There will be a concept plan and will consult with TCCS.
- Q: Will it be funded in this year's budget? Not answered.
- Concerns of losing part of a fire buffer.
- Q: What is the size of the crew/s. A: 1 full time fire crew and in fire danger times that may increase. Ambulance is looking at 2 crews.
- Q: What are the plans for future proofing to only the 10% footprint of the area? A: Careful planning.
- Q: Moving towards electrified fleet. Will this facility lead to greater grid reliability for Weston Creek?
- Q: Will there be a maintenance workshop on site? A: Not at Molonglo.

ACT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Led by the Chair, Bill Gemmell.

- Reflecting on achievements, lots has been achieved and is still happening.
- Seeking any comments for input into the WCCC letter to the 2023-24 Budget Consultation. WCCC focus:
 - Governance and liability – with a better investment in quality planning and cost of living
 - Environment, climate, and wellbeing – again requesting an air monitoring station, protection of green spaces
 - Supporting jobs and economic growth – particularly around Weston Group Centre
 - Health sports recreation facilities – indoor sports facility, therapy pool
 - Community connectedness and transport – improved active travel, safe and well-maintained environment

DISCUSSION. Sample questions and comments from the audience.

- Concerns about protecting our biodiversity and native wildlife. There is a need to extend the cat containment area to Weston Creek.
- Appreciative of the cycle ways in Canberra.
- General infrastructure in Weston Creek is old and there is a need to maintain public spaces, footpaths, the Weston Creek sign. This would not be expensive.
- Emphasis needed on the upgrades to Weston Group Centre, including alfresco dining, which would improve economic potential.
- Overview of Brierly Street given.
- What is happening with *Coolo Park*? WCCC looks forward to reverting this back to open green space. Liberals and Green support this. This is included as an issue in the WCCC Budget letter.

Send any suggestions to info@westoncreek.org.au

8:35 pm MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs

We always have an open invitation to all Murrumbidgee MLAs to speak at the WCCC public meetings.
None in attendance.

8:38 pm GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of February 2023

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

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

CHAIR REPORT.

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

Also, on the Power-point at the meeting, reference was made to:

- A submission to the Planning Review written by the Canberra Town Planning group has made an argument for developing the Labor Club site and surrounding lot of land at Stirling. The Chair brought this to the community's attention.
- Volunteers for the Weston Creek Community Council Committee are needed.

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 8:40 pm

NEXT WCCC PUBLIC MEETING:
At 7:30pm Wednesday 26 April 2023
VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre