

Your local voice



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MINUTES PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 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.

APOLOGIES: Dianna Terry, Roger Tomlins.

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAS IN ATTENDANCE: Emma Davidson MLA. **MLA in ATTENDANCE:** Peter Cain MLA

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs APOLOGIES: None

MEETING OPENED: 7:35 pm. 9 signed in attendance. Plus 2 representatives from **Major Projects Canberra**, and 5 WCCC committee members. Unique Facebook 65 views of meeting video (as of 25 October 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.

GUESTS: **Major Projects Canberra Team officials** to talk about Light Rail design. See also Powerpoint.

PRESENTATION:

- Overview of light rail stage 2A to Woden and the raising of London Circuit.
- Early utility works are close to being completed, about a week and a half.
- There is a temporary sidetrack on the western sidetrack of Commonwealth Avenue. Demolition of the south bound bridge is underway, and fill will be added.
- Completion date early next year.
- The next small step of the project is the green track for light rail stage 2A. There will be plantings and turf. Completion hopefully Christmas and then on display for 12 months as a prototype.
- The existing depot at Mitchell is being expanded. This will house 5 new vehicles fitted with CESS. The depot will provide space to retrofit the existing LRVs.
- Update on Stage 2A, Completion 2027:
 - works approval and development approval has been granted.
 - There will be a stop on Canberra Avenue. There will be a terminus at Commonwealth Park.
 - North of Lake Burley Griffin, there will be temporary traffic management at Parkes Way due to construction.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- Q: Would be better if you could see the works, rather than it being behind shade cloth. A: There will be opportunities. It is also to reduce dust.
- Q: When will the current works be completed? A: Stage 2B A; end of 2024. Intention then new contractor will break ground 2025, taking to end of 2027.
- Q: There is a Disruption Task force, how is this going for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists? A: Temporary traffic proposals gets presented and endorsed at a forum (including this team and TCCS) before approval.

- Concerns:
 - Access to light rail stations and complying with Disability Standards is an issue. Trip hazards.
 - There is also interest in the Deakin area and getting to health services.
 - Needs to go all around London Circuit, to the airport, and the hospital.
 - Poor access to institutions is an equity issue.
 - Consideration needs to be given to closer stops or shuttle buses to connect to various venues.
 - Need to see the whole plan.
- Stage 2B consultation will be next year.
- Q: If the Police Station moves, will the right hand turns change? A: General movement will be left turn. Right turn only under lights in an emergency.
- Q: Why raising London Circuit and not over City Hill? A: Heritage area. Also, for activating the area, employment growth and businesses.

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs

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

EMMA DAVIDSON MLA:

- Funding is available from Community Services Directorate for senior's grants. It is open until 10 October.

DISCUSSION:

Community engagement and decision making. How should Governments engage with Community Councils?

- Volunteering and workload are issues.
- Concerns include: community attendance, presence of MLAs, are community groups being listened to?
- Engagement from Directorates has been poor.
- Slow response times to community feedback. Lack of recognition and acknowledgement.
- Can Government organize the community meetings?

PETER CAIN MLA: Ginninderra MLA, Shadow Planning Minister.

- Planning Committee will be looking at District Strategies, Territory Plan and Hearings.
- Community consultation on planning has been poor.
- Thanked the work of Community Councils.

COMMENTS:

- Q: The Planning Governance Review terms of reference have not been made available.
- Q: The dual role of the Chief Planner is of concern. A: Shows there is a need for an independent body.
- Send your ideas on how Canberra can be better to Peter Cain MLA.

GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of August 2023

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of August 2023

Moved: Rosemary Brasch. Seconded: Val Bland Accepted: Yes.

CHAIR REPORT.

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

- AGM next meeting in October. The Committee positions will be spilled. Nominate if you are interested in joining. Nominations are available at the meeting and on the WCCC website.
- Some successes have been the garden party at Fetherston Gardens and the Women's Forum.
- Next year will be interesting with elections coming up. Council has organized election member forums.

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance. **CLOSE OF MEETING: 9:13 pm**

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING: At 7:30pm **Wednesday 25 OCTOBER 2023.** VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre.
General Business and Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Please note that Committee nominations can be found on the Weston Creek Community Council website.