

Your local voice



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MINUTES PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 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, Louise Hughes

APOLOGIES: Michelle Weston, Dianna Terry,

7 signed in attendance. Plus: Guests Ben Bryant and Ellen Green, and WCCC committee members.

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs IN ATTENDANCE: None

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs APOLOGIES: None

Unique Facebook 125 views of meeting video.

MEETING OPENED: 7:41 pm.

Welcome to members and guests. Chair, Bill Gemmell

Chair advised that **Daniel Iglesias**, TCCS Executive Branch Manager, **Urban Open Space Strategy** was unable to attend, and negotiations are under way to organize an online presentation before the submission due date.

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.

7:44 pm GUESTS: Ben Bryant from **ICON Water** and Ellen Green from **SEC Newgate**.

PRESENTATION: See also Power Point presentation.

ICON Water wastewater treatment renewal projects.

- Infrastructure and technology are aging (some around 50-60 years old).
- Canberra's population is growing.
- There is a need to upgrade or replace parts of the treatment plant.
- ICON has a solutions approach with a pragmatic balance of cost, risk and performance. Needs to be socially acceptable and sustainable.
- Secondary membrane bioreactor (MBR) will produce high quality effluent with a smaller plant footprint.
- Biosolids treatment project – production of a carbon rich product called biochar.
- There has been some community consultation including 3 meetings of a citizen's panel.
- Now in second phase of community consultation which includes an online survey which is currently open and has had over 5 000 responses.

DISCUSSION. Sample questions and comments from the audience.

Q: Where is the existing plant? A: Holt, West Belconnen. Information on the website about the network, maps etc.

Q: Is any energy being harvested? A: There is mini hydro at Stromlo and solar systems. It is anticipated that the system will be fully self-sufficient with energy.

Q: Is there a cost benefit analysis? A: \$212 Million over 5 years. There is a fact sheet on costs over the life of the

System and this will be shared on the website.

Q: There are lots of things (virus, bugs etc), going down the drains, how does it not end up in the bio char A: It is being cooked and destroying pathogens and bugs.

Q: Is the fertiliser going to be made available to community groups, parks and so on A: Not sure. Currently research is being undertaken but there is potential.

Q: Water may be a major problem for the ACT with climate issues. A thank you email was read to the group, outlining concerns and thanking ICON water for their initiatives.

Chair thanked the presenters.

8:17 pm MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs

An invitation is always extended to all Murrumbidgee MLAs for the WCCC public meetings.

None present.

8:18 pm GENERAL MEETING

- Minutes of the meeting of May 2023

Moved: Roger Tomlins Seconded: Liam Foley. Passed

- Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of May 2023

None

CHAIR REPORT - Overview on the review of and draft WCCC Constitution

- Newsletter circulated and emailed to members.
- ACT Budget is very disappointing for Weston Creek. Council has been selected for the Inquiry. Please let us know if you would like anything passed on.
- Shared Emergency Services Centre is proposed for an area that is a fire buffer zone.
- Lack of policing presence still a concern for the area.
- Running of the public meeting can be difficult. Council is looking at options. There may be some changes to the requirements if the Deed of Grant. Council is open to suggestions.
- Concerns with the Telstra pits. Some of these in Weston Creek have been left exposed and may have asbestos. This is unacceptable.

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 8:25 pm

NEXT WCCC PUBLIC MEETING:

At 7:30pm Wednesday 30 August 2023. VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre.

GUEST: Major Projects Canberra and TCCS to talk about Stage 2B Light Rail design.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A PUBLIC MEETING IN JULY 2023.