

Your local voice



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MINUTES PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2023

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

COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Gemmell (Chair), Michelle Bourdet, Louise Hughes, Liam Foley, Michelle Weston. **APOLOGIES:** Dianna Terry, Roger Tomlins.

31 signed in attendance plus guests.

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Cocks MLA. **MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs APOLOGIES:** None
Unique Facebook 131 views of meeting video.

The meeting will be webcast live via our Facebook pages. Questions that we received before the event or via listeners will be presented to the speakers on the night. If asking in person, please remember to stay on topic, with a succinct question and in a courteous manner.

MEETING OPENED: 7:30 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.

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA:

7:31 pm Welcome to members and guests

GUESTS: Mr. Jimmy Varghese, Secretary, St Athanasius Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, outlining a proposal for a future DA on Block 23, Section 28 Rivett.

PRESENTATION: See also Power Point presentation.

- Outlining a proposal for a Church building in Rivett prior to DA lodgment and seeking community insights.
- Background - Christian orthodox group, hailing from India.
- Current challenges - finding a permanent space to meet, costs of leasing and storage and keeping their community intact.
- Future aspirations – food pantries and soup kitchen services, elderly support and enhancing support for local charities.
- Group are proposing a phased approach. Phase 1 is a Church build including on-site parking. Hyperspace has been engaged for plans.
- Please reach out to the group if you have any questions.

DISCUSSION. Sample questions and comments from the audience.

- Q: A parent from the childcare centre raised concerns about access to the childcare centre and Noah's Ark, noise, and will street be closed during construction. A: A temporary traffic management plan will be put in place. Main meeting times will be Sunday after construction.
- Operating in good faith. A: Church group is very keen to work with the broad community.
- A copy of the presentation will be uploaded to WCCC website.

Chair thanked the presenters and wished them well.

8:02 pm MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs

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

ED COCKS MLA

- Good to see people come to community meetings with a good neighbour approach to engaging.
- In the Legislative Assembly currently there is a topic with payroll tax for GPs. Ed Cocks MLA is concerned that some services in Weston Creek may not be able to stay in operation.

Questions from the floor:

- Clarifying the process of implementing this tax. A: Will a petition be put online? A: looking at options.
- Q: Bus layover DA does not have facilities for passengers. A: There are decisions in the transport space that don't make sense, including longer journeys.
- Q: Concerns around the wildfire smoke issue needing clarity and being delayed. A: concern from both sides of the debate. Ed Cocks MLA is keen to hear community thoughts.
- Q: Cycle and shared paths/network need upgrading. A: Ed Cocks MLA is happy to write a letter and advocate on this issue
- Q: With an election coming up, have policies been thought of on education A: Absolutely.
- Q: Will we see the Planning Governance Review, terms of reference. A: Potential for this review being delayed. Keeping an eye on this. Peter Cain MLA is following.

8:25 pm GENERAL MEETING

- Minutes of the meeting of June 2023

Moved: Rosemary Drabsch Seconded: Val Bland. Passed

- Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of June 2023. None

CHAIR REPORT

- Newsletter circulated and emailed to WCCC mailing lists.
- From the floor issues raised:
 - Costs of registration for caravans and bikes.
 - What are the changes for parking for cars and buses. Ed Cocks MLA will follow up.
 - After the construction on the corner of Coolo Park will the area be restored?
 - Traffic lights are working well but there has been an increase in people running the lights, especially trucks. Cameras may be needed.

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance. 8:42 pm: Meeting close.

NEXT WCCC PUBLIC MEETING:

At 7:30pm Wednesday 27 September 2023. VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre.
GUEST: Major Projects Canberra and TCCS to talk about Light Rail design.