

WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Your Local Voice -

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Established 1991

(Weston Creek Citizens Council Inc. – Reg. No. A2637)

11 August 2005

Mr Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chief Minister

Report for the "*Taking it to the Streets*" program – Autumn 2005

As you know the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) receives an annual grant from the ACT Government for the work it does in consulting with the community about ACT government initiatives in Weston Creek and other matters. In return for receiving this annual grant the WCCC undertook to do all it could to attract members and be as representative as possible of our community.

We have always taken this responsibility very seriously.

In 2001, members of the Committee of the WCCC commenced a new outreach program that we called "*Taking it to the Streets*". The program included visits on Saturday mornings to every shopping centre in Weston Creek with two visits to Cooleman Court. We have continued this program over recent years and an increase in the number of Committee members has enabled us to speak to more residents whilst visiting each shopping centre only once. Our most recent program was conducted in autumn 2005.

This year our members spoke to 589 people. Many of these people said that they had heard of the WCCC and were familiar with our work. In addition we estimate that around 2,500 people would have seen our banners and A-frame. We believe that this is a good way of advertising our presence and the services that we provide our local community.

Various spreadsheets of the shopping centres that we visited are attached. They each show in general terms the number of people spoken to and the issues that they raised. You may be familiar with many of the issues raised but we pass these on for your information and possible action.

As in previous years, the shopping centre visiting program found that people were generally very content about living in Weston Creek. Graffiti and policing matters were major issues of complaint, along with the general run down nature of the local shops. This year, we also received a lot of comments on open space issues, including requests to remove dead trees from nature strips and the untidy and neglected appearance of open space areas. An issue of repeated comment was the need to rapidly replant and restore areas adjoining Weston Creek which were destroyed in the January 2003 bushfires.

Members of the Committee of the WCCC intend to continue our *"Taking it to the Streets"* program in autumn, 2006.

The WCCC will provide these comments and the spreadsheets to other Ministers within your government, as well as to the elected members from Molonglo. They will also be made available to residents through our website in accordance with our usual practice.

Yours sincerely

(signed)

Jeff Carl
Chairperson
Weston Creek Community Council

WESTON CREEK

SUMMARY AUTUMN 2005

Total number of interviews = 589

Issues which were mentioned several times by category

- * mentioned more frequently than others
- ** mentioned very frequently

SUBJECT	No.	COMMENT
Buses		Comments on new night services – most positive Need for a direct service to Civic
Lighting		* Better lighting on bike/foot paths
Roads/Footpaths		* Don't like bike path on Hindmarsh Drive / a waste of money * Speeding on roads – some specific ones mentioned Want footpaths repaired and some comment on the repairs already done Streeton Drive/Cotter Road intersection and Unwin Place and traffic Some black spots
Shops		** general comments about run down nature of shops Cleaning up needed Some specific comments re need for upgrade
Graffiti		** A lot of comments about graffiti wanting it stopped or removed
General Planning		* More medium density required and aged persons accommodation Where are the plans for shopping centres. ? no action Petrol station site at Duffy – action required Comments on City Centre Plan - for and against Retain Open Space Housing options for elderly needed Queries on progress with Stromlo Village proposal What is happening with Molonglo area Slow speed of building on vacant blocks Lots of individual issues
Transport		* No paid parking at Cooleman Court

		No paid parking at the Hospital
Police		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ** Major Area of Comment Speeding by yahoos - streets mentioned * Young Yahoos - lots of individual locations Drug users congregating Vandalism More police patrols please
Open Space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ** Lots of comments about trees –remove dead trees particularly in nature strips, plant a lot more trees ** Open spaces untidy and neglected ** Replanting of trees in burnt out areas eg Narrabundah Hill, area between Dixon Drive and Cotter Road Noise from Skate Park

There are lots of issues which are in individual suburb comments. Often comments are very specific to a site.

SUBURB... Fisher

DATE...26 February 2005

Total number of interviews = 22

SUBJECT	No.	COMMENT
No comment	5	•
Very happy in suburb	8	•
Buses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 people took bus timetables • No bus shelters at government OAP units • Resident of Araluen complex says Bus service is NBG. No bus stop in front of the complex . ACTION representative came to a meeting said that it would be fixed but it hasn't
Lighting		•
Roads	1	• Complaint about lack of footpaths near units in Yambina Crescent. She said that paths had been promised by Alan Thompson and Bill Wood
Graffiti		•
Shops		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would not like to see any more shops shut • Parking at a premium on Friday evenings. This is made worse by OAP construction had taken away much needed car space.
General Planning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to redevelopment of old Serbian club at Cooleman Court. He stated that 'community space is being incorrectly used. • Pilbara Place. Resident says it is Heritage Listed. It won the Sulman prize. Despite this why was a neighbour allowed to extend house without adequate consultation with neighbours? • Development notices were not prominently displayed
Transport		•
Police		• My house was burgled whilst his 2 neighbours were home and one was outside the front washing his car
The Fire		• Tired of seeing same bushfire images on TV all the time. Every time there is a development in the bushfire enquiry they get shown again. He said' if it was you house burning down you might not wish to see it over and over.
Open space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'back paddocks' behind the shops need more trees • Some of trees in Pilbara Place need replacement • Some street gum trees are dangerous
General		• Paths are now OK

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike shop at Fisher attracts people from all over Canberra
Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
TOTAL		

Interviewer comment :

SUBURB... Chapman

DATE...12 March 2005

Total number of interviews = 8

SUBJECT	No.	COMMENT
No comment	3	
Very happy in suburb		
Buses		•
Lighting		•
Roads		• Safety issue at Unwin Place/ Streeton Drive junction at about 9am in morning. Suggested an overpass for children to use as a footpath on the police side has 2 entries to deal with. A zebra crossing would have to be a lot further up the road due to volume of traffic
Shops		•
General Planning		• Resident from Darrell Place concerned that can only have a chain link fence not Colorbond so no protection from fires, no security and no privacy
Graffiti		•
Transport		•
Police		• Resident from corner of Hindmarsh Drive and McInnes Street . Concerned about noisy youths, vandalism of street signs, letter boxes and garbage bins
The Fire		• Would like to see Coleman Ridge replanted but with oaks rather than eucalypts
Open space		•
General		• discussion on asbestos issue
Health		•
TOTAL		

Interviewer comment :

SUBURB... Rivett

DATE...19 March 2005

Total number of interviews = 79

SUBJECT	No.	COMMENT
No comment	27	
Very happy in suburb	18	
Buses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses are OK in peak periods don't use at other times • Like idea of new call up service • Would like more buses direct to Civic if possible
Lighting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike paths need lighting better and/or repair broken lights
Roads		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Brierly Street to traffic, should have done in first place • Don't like bike path idea for Hindmarsh Drive
Shops		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shops need cleaning up • 6 comments on what is happening on servo site ? • 3 comments on Rivett shops need upgrading • Public toilets needed at shops • Nice to have the bakery • Like having a newsagent they should be encouraged
General Planning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more medium density for older people who want to stay in area • 3 comments from people who thought that there was a plan for Rivett shops – what has happened?
Graffiti		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much graffiti especially around shopping centres • Bad graffiti at Cooleman Court • Graffiti needs cleaning off
Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please NO paid parking in Weston Creek
Police		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint about druggies in the area • 2 comments regarding speeding on Bangalay Crescent • 3 comments on the problem of young yahoos in cars • Response too slow

The Fire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicker re-planting of fire affected areas needed still nothing done other than shrubs on Streeton Drive • What is happening on Narrabundah hill? • Just because we didn't have too much fire damage we are being forgotten
Open space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of broken glass on paths, underpasses and at shops • Better mowing required with more clearing up after • Paths need work and repair they are doing other suburbs • Dead trees should be taken out of nature strip • School are having to pay to replace trees in the grounds. We are a small school at Rivett and can't afford this. Why can't Government pay?
General		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just moved here – seems quiet • Suburbs beginning to recover but still empty blocks • Area is good for getting everywhere • Why can't we have a swimming pool in Weston Creek?
Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
TOTAL		

Interviewer comment :

SUBURB... Holder

DATE...2 April 2005

Total number of interviews = 80

SUBJECT	No.	COMMENT
No comment	24	
Very happy in suburb	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schooling OK
Buses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mulley Street – seat for elderly had been repaired but was worse than the original. It is too narrow to sit on for any length of time • Needed a bus timetable – one supplied • Poor bus connecting services from Weston Creek to city – especially late at night • I use the bus service all the time- no problems
Lighting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken lights on footpaths need repair
Roads		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint about the state of roads in Duffy. Poor maintenance and rubbish left behind • Potholes in Blackwood Terrace near bridge • Gutters in Franklin Street are broken on both sides • Cycle paths on roads is over the top • Drivers are always courteous • Fix the footpaths in Williamson Street • Annoying when they dig up roads in the middle of the day • Broken pavements
Graffiti		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Barclay Gardens • Graffiti is a problem
Shops		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I come here specially to visit the chemist • Where did the \$'s go in upgrading the shops? • I like the rejuvenation of the shops
General Planning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molonglo Development concerns me • Disappointed with Molonglo would prefer trees back • Stromlo Village – not enough information and not getting straight answers • Open up the forest for Bike riding • Where are the suburbs going in Stromlo would like some information

Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Police		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor vehicle repeatedly stolen He said it is due to out of control young people roaming the area late at night • Hooning around late at night by visiting young people in cars. Favourite place for them is Respite Care car park. Could a chain be installed across entrance or a security camera • Young hoons on Dixon Drive • Lack of security at Holder PS attracts undesirables, burnt out cars, drug dealing • Occasional damage to panels of my caravan • Break-ins late at night • Burnt posters on outside of shops • Cars broken into at shopping centre • Vandalism - Bricks hurled at my windows • Plants have been stolen from several houses in my street • It seems that law and order cannot be guaranteed lot of criminal damage • Would like to see some police cars to deal with the yahoos • Hooligans – I have been broken into and I think that the police know him • Hooligans – vandalism and lights broken at Barclay Gardens • Hoons creating a lot of destruction – destroyed electricity switch box, broke into car
The Fire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement planting of trees and shrubs needed around Grant Cameron centre. Person had voluntarily planted some himself. They are needed around car park and in nature strip
Open space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had complained about footpaths needed fixing but now being done • Lot of rubbish left by contractors and public generally e.g. Cotter Road/Mt Stromlo turnoff. Suggested use of surveillance cameras. • Footpaths are improved • 2 comments that the footpaths in Blackwood Terrace are not finished • Terribly neglected garden at Holder PS • Make removal of trees on private property easier please • Ovals need more maintenance particularly school ovals they are in bad order • Need to mow ALL around the school • Sheets of glass left in walkway between Cornish Place and Winton Place • Why don't they cut the grass on Holder oval
General		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canberra is quite a dirty place • Nothing in area for young people to do they need structured entertainment • No petrol station on north side of Weston Creek • Archery shop is the best in Australia • Lot of dogs yapping • Why don't they open up school again, nice to keep Stirling College open as a school

Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do something about Health • Fear if I need surgery will be a long wait
TOTAL		

Interviewer comment :

SUBURB... Duffy

DATE...9 April 2005

Total number of interviews = 78

SUBJECT	No.	COMMENT
No comment	22	•
Very happy in suburb	25	•
Buses		• Do not run often enough during the day at the weekend
Lighting		•
Roads		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads in bad state repairs not being done • Ramp from Cotter Road onto city bound Parkway is inadequate – we need a long merge lane. • 2 comments to please synchronise traffic lights on Hindmarsh drive • Footpaths broken all around suburb • Footpaths in front of new homes should be fixed ASAP. • Need 50kph signs at end of Burrinjuck Crescent • Government should tell people when roads and footpaths are going to be fixed
Graffiti		• Graffiti at shops needs cleaning up
Shops		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please do up the shops, the paving in particular • There should be a little shop at Weston • P.O. very handy • Shops need an upgrade • More shops and a coffee shop please • Footpaths need fixing • Gravel at side of shops is slippery • More plants needed • Large trees behind shops are dropping limbs
General Planning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 comments that the security fences around the service station site have fallen down • I am trying to deal with the planning regulations but am not getting a clear answer • Drives for new houses in Tanjil Loop will open into Tantangara St. This is dangerous as there will be 3-4 driveways very close together and by a 'T' intersection. I live only 100m away but was not given a chance to comment.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 comments regarding doing some thing with petrol station site • Townhouses on the service station site would be good • Residential OK on the service station site • Stromlo Village – resident who lives opposite favours retention of a screen of trees • Remove weeds on the service station site and clean up
Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Police		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids smashing glass • Too many hoons and hooligans on Burrinjuck Drive • Problem with kids doing burnouts
The Fire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About time something is done with the service station site • We want the forest back • Have just rebuilt so are getting used to area again • Need to put pressure on people who haven't built yet • Would like to see government force people to rebuild, sympathetic but blocks shouldn't be left vacant • 2 comments that people would like some information about what is happening on Narrabundah Hill • Government did a good job after the fires • Bushfires held up my extension and then building prices rocketed, has had to wait for them to stabilise
Open space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In area adjacent to school a lot of trees have been ripped out and the school has to pay for replacements on a very small budget. Why can't CUPP pay for the trees? • Some trees in Glenmaggie Street are dropping limbs, parking area cordoned off
General		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater – adjacent to 44 Burdekin Street is blocked, resident has cleaned out leaves but is still blocked • Keep playgrounds in schools • Annoyed with people getting DSS handouts • Lot of youths in area no policy to provide activities for them • Government is doing a good job • Stop tradesman starting work before 7a.m. • Weston Creek needs a library and a swimming pool • Stormwater drains need cleaning
Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
TOTAL		

SUBURB... Waramanga

DATE...23 April 2005

Total number of interviews = 84

SUBJECT	No.	COMMENT
No comment	38	
Very happy in suburb	12	
Buses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't like night time service Don't use buses as cars too convenient
Lighting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street lights too dim especially by bus stops More lights on bike paths needed
Roads		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't like on road bike tracks, particularly the ones along Hindmarsh Drive. Spend the money on hospitals- a matter of priorities
Shops		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shops need cleaning up Coleman Court is grubby – area between Community Centre and shops is bad Can we have a butchers shop in Waramanga The shops are good Good to see upgrading of Coleman Court Shopping at Waramanga is good There is good access for the disabled except to P.O. box Waramanga shops need upgrading Public toilets needed at shops
General Planning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need for more medium density for older people who want to stay in area
Graffiti		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too much graffiti especially around shopping centres Bad graffiti at Coleman Court Graffiti needs cleaning off
Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too many cars Please NO paid parking in Weston Creek
Police		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaint about druggies in particular they leave syringes in lane behind Coleman Court servo

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larakia Street is used as a speedway – police cant do anything • Too many hoons
The Fire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see burnt out areas rebuilt more quickly. Narrabundah Hill looks particularly awful. • Quicker re-planting of fire affected areas needed
Open space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of broken glass on paths , underpasses and at shops • Better mowing required with more clearing up after • Trees need attention especially dead ones e.g. Nemerang Crescent • When it rains footpath between schools floods • Paths need work and repair • Trees should be taken out of nature strip
General	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a member of Neighbourhood Watch • Why cant we have front fences ? I had to pull mine down • Happy with parks and playgrounds • New just finding out about the place • Suburbs beginning to show their age • We are spoilt • We need extra social services • Area is really central • Why cant we have a swimming pool in Weston Creek ?
Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
TOTAL	108	

Interviewer comment :

SUBURB... Cooleman Court

DATE...30 April 2005

Total number of interviews = 238

SUBJECT	No.	COMMENT
No comment	73	
Very happy in suburb	59	•
Buses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buses are OK • Like idea of new service
Lighting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • smashed lights on bike path • Lights on bike paths need to be improved • More lighting around gym at Cooleman • Light underpasses better – leading to Cooleman
Roads		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brierley Street should be closed from Roundabout to Servo • Need roundabout at Hilder/ Mcinnes traffic still too fast, cars lose it • Finish Gungahlin Expressway • Done a lot of work on bike paths on roads but they are dangerous where they cross traffic. • 4 comments that people would like 2 left-turning lanes round into Streeton Drive from Cotter Road • 2 comments that getting in and out from Streeton Drive to Orana school is very difficult • A few speed humps around shops would be good • Parking on Streeton Drive on Saturday for netball is a problem • Silly proposal to duplicate bike path along Hindmarsh
Graffiti		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 comments on the graffiti problem • Suggestion – spray cans should only be sold at hardware stores and should have to register and show drivers licence • Nothing done about it • Know its difficult but do something it's a disgrace • One thing that offends me is graffiti
Shops		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose and Crown pub needs tidy up • Needs to be markets once a month at Cooleman • Shoe shop closing down is bad particularly for older people • Woolworths trolleys are everywhere at Cooleman Court – they need cleaning up • Woden looks rundown

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 comments that we need a pedestrian ramp out of Woolworths across to carpark • Cleanup needed at Cooleman Court • Revamp Cooleman Court not just tidy • 2 comments on Cooleman Court being a terrific shopping centre • Café seats block access in centre, dangerous for older people
General Planning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing at Tanjil Loop should be a mix of public and private • Housing in Tanjil Loop needs to get started as the site is all weeds • Civic looking tacky but not necessarily a supporter of Jim Snow • Need a dragway to stop people racing on streets • Plan for City – traffic N to S should go in tunnel • City area – what to do should be decided quickly and in the public interest is the main consideration • Should build in City Centre • Tennis Club – spare block next door. There is an approach from the Committee to buy they should not be allowed to profit from it. It is public land • Against high density around shopping centres • DV 200 – Waramanga should leave development where it is at • Retain open spaces especially small parks • 3 comments questioning whether there will be houses in Molonglo • Need more housing options for older people • What is happening to Stromlo village? • Rebuilt houses are enormous – no open space
Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 comments to keep free parking • 2 comments – NO pay parking at Hospital • Too much pay parking is destroying Canberra by removing free parking • 3 comments – NO pay parking at Cooleman • Suggest parking passes for people who park regularly at Canberra Hospital • Will there be special parking for disabled people?
Police		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem with a person riding a mini bike around Weston • Burnouts in Weston • Fighting at Weston at 2 am • Debris left after a car accident has not been cleared up • Speeding through suburbs • Tullaroop Street – speeding every day • Police are out in front of other things but this shouldn't happen • Unregistered motor bikes driving around parks – Embley St is bad at weekends • Police never around to complain to

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular patrols please • Hoons on Ballarat Street • 2 comments regarding vandals in general • 2 comments to stop skateboarders at Trenergy Court • Police should patrol parks eg Croton Street. Kids have parties in the park with grog • Letter box vandalism
The Fire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister has not been proactive – should be more concerned about people who stayed • 4 comments regarding the slow speed of building on empty blocks • 8 comments on what are they doing with the land that was burnt out – in particular land between Dixon Drive and Cotter Road – and the Stromlo area • Block in McCubbin Street would like to see some work start • McCubbin Street block – we know has been approved why no building • Would like Government to be honest about the bushfire • 3 comments to do something about burnt out recreation areas, dust and wind • 2 comments that we want our forests back
Open space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise from skate park • Bad language over loud speaker at skate park • Footpaths in Duffy are dangerous • People are cutting down trees around houses – not good – can they do this? • Trees should be planted at Duffy shops • What is happening with the service station site at Duffy? • When are the trees on Narrabundah hill going to be planted? • Untidiness of nature strips • 3 comments from Holder/Duffy – need trees to stop wind • We need some trees • 4 comments asking can we have our forests back? • Need a footpath on Streeton Drive East side from Mulley Street junction • Side of Dixon Drive needs spraying for weeds • Green grass is needed • Maintain small green areas in suburbs • Lot of dead trees in nature strips • More trees around Cooleman Court • Trees that have been taken out of nature strips eg Garanya Street – like them replaced • Lots of small parks look tatty and dead trees need removing • 2 comments to improve general maintenance of laneways
General		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is happening to the Childcare centre? • 4 comments – Rebuild our child care centre • Worried about climate change

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need lot of emphasis on recycling • Stop junk mail • Government doesn't do all it should • Not heard about WCCC • Dogs off leashes should be policed • 3 comments that the WCCC do a marvellous job • Rivett temporary child care centre is causing traffic problems • We want a change of government • Where do young people have to go in Canberra? Not enough facilities • Childcare is too expensive. Workers really earn their money • Government is OK • New forests depot looks ugly and isolated
Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for special education should include some for respite care to maintain health of carers • Pharmaceutical benefits is a great big lie – sometimes my bill is \$100 per month
TOTAL		

Interviewer comment : There has been break between our last shopping centre visit and this series. It seems that the population has aged and we saw many more aged people this time. Many of them are now retired and had problems being carers or being cared for. Also there have been many more visitors to Weston Creek than we realised before. Many people were from adjoining districts – especially Tuggeranong – and from the north side and even farther a field from NSW.