

WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- *Your Local Voice* -

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Established 1991

10 February 2005

Mr. Ted Quinlan MLA
Deputy Chief Minister and Treasurer
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

ATTENTION:

Fay Prowse
Budget Consultation
Department of Treasury
Financial and Budgetary Management Branch
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Treasurer

2005-2006 Budget Consultation

Thank you for the letter of 17 December 2004 inviting the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC) to contribute to the consultation process for the ACT Government's 2005-2006 Budget.

The WCCC has contributed to the ACT Government Budget each year since our inception in 1991. We again submit on behalf of the residents of Weston Creek the attached submission for consideration and debate. Weston Creek residents have raised issues included in the submission either at our meetings through 2004 or at our 'Make A Wish For Weston Creek' activity at the Weston Creek Spring Fair held at Coleman Court in September 2004.

Recovery from the 18 January 2003 bushfires remains the local community's prime concern and the WCCC wishes to express its appreciation of government's application of budget and resources to this task to-date; together with on-going and future commitments. The following activities and measures are noted in particular:

- Work of the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce headed by Sandy Hollway;
- Recovering and securing the ACT's water supply by ACTEW Corporation;
- Strengthening of emergency service capabilities with the formation of the Emergency Services Authority and implementation of the McCleod Inquiry recommendations; and
- Expeditious work by planning authorities in both facilitating redevelopment of destroyed homes as well as providing revised planning direction for the area between Scrivener Dam and the Murrumbidgee River.

We remain conscious of the heavy ongoing impact that the bushfires have on the ACT Government Budget and have again framed and constrained our submission accordingly. For instance, although Weston Creek remains short-changed in terms of community facilities such as swimming pool, library and decent community centre (the deficiencies of the current centre being manifestly obvious) the WCCC recognises that the best opportunity for provision of such facilities may be coincident with the potential establishment of the Molonglo Valley residential area.

Similarly further development opportunities for the Cooleman Court precinct may depend on its recognition as the hub of the expanded Weston Creek district, that is, it becomes the 'Erindale of Molonglo'. The WCCC strongly encourages government to have such scenarios examined in its detailed planning for Molonglo; even to the extent that this may lead to some shift in the 'geographic centre of-mass' of Weston Creek towards an axis centred on Cotter Road. Of course, residents of Weston Creek would like this to be achieved in ways that would not compromise proximity to either bushland or recreational areas at the foot of Mt Stromlo.

However the above comments are made in the context of the recently released ABS data which indicates a predicted substantial slowing of Canberra's rate of growth and possibly a decline in Canberra population. This may remove the need for the Molonglo Valley for decades into the future and its rehabilitation without houses needs a sensible and realistic Government scenario.

The attachment to this letter details others works the WCCC considers should be undertaken in the short to medium term regardless of budget constraint. The list is arranged in accordance with the different services delivered by the ACT Government.

In earlier years consultation with the WCCC by government on its budget was conducted by way of face to face meetings. WCCC welcomes the consultative mechanism employed by the current government; but considers that its usefulness would be increased if a post-budget feedback component could be added.

This could only be done efficiently if a proposal tagging and tracking protocol could be devised. WCCC would welcome an opportunity to explore this with officers of the Budget Consultation team.

Members of the WCCC committee are available to discuss any of the issues included our submission.

Yours sincerely

(signed)

Jeff Carl
Chairperson
Weston Creek Community Council

Weston Creek Community Council
BUDGET SUBMISSION - 2005-2006

Parking and Transport

Cotter Road - Streeton Drive intersection - completion of carriage duplication to allow both Weston Creek bound lanes of Cotter Road to turn left into Streeton Drive. This will require some changes to the intersection to enable vehicles to turn right from Cotter Road into Streeton Drive in safety. **The highest priority should be given to this work.**

WCCC still waits on the development of a **formal traffic management plan** for the area of Weston bounded by Streeton Drive (including the Dixon Drive intersection) - Unwin Place and Hickey Court. A study known as the Broadacre Estate Study has been completed on this area, but is yet to be released.

Sherratt Place - Off-street car-parking - increase the number of car parking spaces between the netball courts and the oval. The WCCC attended on-site meetings with the Roads ACT consultant and awaits public release of the final report.

Eucumbene Drive - Hard-surface of an area of nature-strip near the Hindmarsh Drive intersection to accommodate vehicles of people who use Narrabundah Hill for recreation.

Hindmarsh Drive - Eucumbene Drive intersection - review, redesign and fund the provision of the alternative access to the riding school - provide treed embankments to shield Duffy and Chapman residents from noise and light of traffic movements at the intersection.

Cotter Road - provide **street lighting** between the Curtin traffic lights and the intersection with the Tuggeranong Parkway (while these works are in Curtin, Weston Creek residents would be the main beneficiaries).

Streeton Drive - funds be provided for an **on-road cycle path** running from Darwinia Terrace to Dixon Drive with appropriate treatment to make the Mulley Street intersection bicycle friendly and safe.

Environmental Amenity

Restoration of the Molonglo River Corridor from Scrivener Dam to the Murrumbidgee River -initiate a project to commence restoration work together with provision of walking and hiking trails. This work would provide a readily accessible high-class recreational amenity and would not seem to be dependent on any planning decisions. Furthermore it would complement any future decisions on zoo expansion and arboretum establishment, could attract funding from non ACT government sources and could involve grass-root community organisations.

Narrabundah Hill replanting - WCCC would like to see the replanting of vegetation, consistent with fire abatement zoning requirements. **This should proceed as a matter of priority.**

Cotter Recreational Area - redevelopment of Cotter Hotel - WCCC would welcome early actions by government to re-establish family friendly facilities such as the Cotter Hotel or even a small motel. Government may like to consider promoting private sector eco-tourism ventures that complement the forestry, nature reserve, space exploration and water catchment activities undertaken throughout the area.

Urban Services

WCCC would like to see the establishment of a **local centre master plan** for the **Duffy local shopping centre as a matter of priority.** The public consultation processes required for the master plan will contribute greatly to community rebuilding.

Weed control in the bushfire damaged areas surrounding Weston Creek remains an issue of concern to the local community. WCCC requests that **weed control programs**, coordinated and administered by ACT Forests and Environment ACT, be supported and **fully funded by the government.**
