



Communication Link

Weston Creek District Planning Workshop

ACT Planning Review and Reform Project

15 June 2021



Introduction

The ACT Government is currently reviewing the ACT planning system. The ACT Planning Review and Reform Project is considering the introduction of District level planning to provide more planning guidance at a District level and allow for the distinctive character of each District to be reflected in the planning system.

The ACT Government has identified eight urban Districts and a District Planning workshop is being conducted in each of these Districts.

Communication Link has been engaged by the ACT Government to facilitate these workshops and report to the Government on what was heard. This report summarises the key feedback gathered from the Weston Creek community

The Weston Creek District Planning Workshop was held on Thursday 10 June and was attended by eight people. The workshop was also offered online via Zoom and an interactive collaboration platform called Mural. There were no attendees online for this workshop.

Of the people that attended, there was a broad range of ages represented with the most common age bracket represented being 30 – 39. In terms of suburbs represented, participants from Holder and Weston were the most common.

What we heard

The District Planning workshop gathered community feedback related to each of the themes identified in the ACT Planning Strategy 2018.

The most common areas of feedback provided by the community of Weston Creek are identified against these themes in the following sections.

Liveable

The following questions were asked about liveability:

- What suggestions do you have for how the type of housing and where it is located could be different in your District in the future?
- Are there changes needed to recreational areas, outdoor public spaces and/or community facilities to cater for future needs of people in your District? Where should this occur?
- What community facilities (including schools) are needed to cater for the future needs of the people in your District? Where could they be located?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 1 overleaf.



Table 1. Community suggestions on future planning for a liveable district

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|  <p>Community assets and infrastructure</p> <p>Maintain and expand community meeting spaces for community-based activities.</p> |  <p>Parks and playgrounds</p> <p>Include a playground with toilets, seating, oval, shade and nearby a café.</p> |  <p>Footpaths and cycleways</p> <p>Maintain and upgrade existing cycleways and walking paths.</p> |
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Other reoccurring themes included:

- Maintain low-density planning

Diverse

The following questions were asked about being diverse:

- How might future changes impact the commercial or retail areas within your District? What changes might impact on the town centre, group centres and local centres?
- Are there places that are considered significant to the community in your District that should be considered differently in the future? Where are they located?
- What characteristics and features are unique to your District that should be considered when planning the future?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. Community suggestions on future planning for a diverse district

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|  <p>Parks, open space and recreation</p> <p>Maintain and enhance natural and recreational areas including Coolo Park, the skate park.</p> |  <p>Planning density</p> <p>Maintain a village atmosphere by limiting the size and scale of buildings.</p> |  <p>Preserve local history</p> <p>Maintain Weston Creek's history by recognising First Nations People in Weston Creek and protecting Weston Homestead.</p> |
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Accessible

The following questions were asked about accessibility:

- What areas in your District should be considered to improve peoples' ability to walk and cycle?
- What are the long-term travel needs for public transport and cars for your District?
- Are there road connections to other ACT Districts or regional NSW that should be considered in your District?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 3.



Table 3. Community suggestions on future planning for an accessible district

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|  Buses Suggestions for improvements to bus services including a park and ride service at Duffy, direct buses to Belconnen, more rapid services, electric buses and better amenities for waiting passengers. |  Cycle paths Improving local cycle paths including a new cycle way along Streeton Drive and on both sides of Hindmarsh Drive. |
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Compact and efficient

The following questions were asked about a compact and efficient city:

- When considering the additional residents that will live in your District in the future, what aspects of your District need to be considered to make sure it is a pleasant place to live?
- What areas should be priorities for open spaces and public places in your District?
- What views from outdoor public places are special in your District and should be considered in future planning?

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4. Community suggestions on future planning for a compact and efficient district

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|  Local planning to suit Plan for places that will suit the people of Weston Creek into the future for example catering for a downsizing population and managing COVID-19 challenges. |  Community meeting spaces Enhance and maintain spaces where the community can meet, for example the local shops and parks, Featherstone Gardens. Create 'liveable meeting spaces'. |  Building density, height and design Building heights and density should be limited and design should be of good quality and not repetitive. |
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Sustainable and resilient

The following questions were asked about sustainability and resilience:

- Consider the following areas in your District and describe what elements should be prioritised as these areas change in the future:
- Investigation areas for potential future suburbs
- Government land identified for sale and private development
- Urban intensification areas within existing suburbs
- Major sites in important areas identified for development by the government.

The most common feedback from workshop participants is summarised in Table 5.



Table 5. Community suggestions on future planning for a sustainable and resilient district

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|  Recreation areas Create more recreation areas that include green and open spaces and connect people with nature. |  Coleman Court Upgrade Coleman court and the general shopping area |  Energy Efficient buildings Encourage energy efficient solutions including batteries and solar for homes and vehicle charging stations |
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Next steps

The Weston Creek District Planning Workshop is one of eight workshops being held across Canberra during June 2020.

This report has been drafted based on a preliminary analysis of the data gathered from participants. An overarching consultation report will be prepared at the conclusion of all District planning workshops. Reporting back to the community on what was heard in the District Planning Workshops and how that input is informing proposed policy changes will occur later in 2021.



Figure 1. Community members from Weston Creek during the District Planning Workshop.