



SOUTHERN MEMORIAL PARK

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

The ACT Government is building a new cemetery for the southside to meet the needs of our growing city.

We recognise as our city grows it also becomes more culturally diverse so we need to provide cemetery and crematoria services which all Canberrans can access. A draft masterplan was prepared in 2012 and in 2021 we completed work to revise and update the masterplan and prepare concept designs for the first stage of construction works.

Key features of the masterplan include:

- a bush cemetery for the bush capital
- a high quality and welcoming visitor experience
- flexibility to enable different faith and cultural groups to practice their specific rituals
- interment in three broad categories: 'traditional' lawn and monumental burials, 'natural' burials which is an emerging trend and a memorial garden for ashes
- botanical gardens with a focus on drought tolerant local native plants.

We want to create a public space that goes beyond its immediate objective and creates a space that families, friends and loved ones can gather, share memories and build community.

THE CONVERSATION

Online survey

A YourSay page went live on Wednesday 14 April 2021 containing the revised masterplan and the design for the first stage of works. An online YourSay survey was open during the consultation period from Wednesday 14 April until Monday 7 June 2021 for the local community to provide feedback on what elements should be prioritised in the design as well as how we should name the various spaces within the Southern Memorial Park.

Members of the local community also provided feedback via email.

Six pop-up sessions were held in Weston Creek, Woden and Tuggeranong

Members of the project team and Canberra Memorial Parks were in attendance to talk through the masterplan and designs for the first stage of works with the community and answer any questions they had. Two pop-up sessions were held in each region throughout May and June 2021.

We also presented to the Tuggeranong Community Council on Tuesday 1 June 2021.



WHO WE ENGAGED

Feedback was received from a range of stakeholders including local businesses, community groups and residents.

Around 100 key stakeholders were invited to provide feedback via a targeted email, including community councils and organisations in the surrounding regions. To ensure a diverse cross section of the community was able to provide feedback, pop-up sessions were held in Tuggeranong, Woden and Weston Creek, with over 230 attendees recorded across six sessions in three locations.

Around 56% of respondents were over the age of 50 with 56% also identifying as being from the Tuggeranong region*.

*Note: only 119 respondents provided information about their age and only 93 provided location data.

Key insights from the community

Naming Conventions

1. In ranking the options for naming conventions, 'plant species of cultural significance' was the preferred option.
2. There was also strong support for naming conventions to follow 'animal species of cultural significance.'

Visitor Experience

3. A well-maintained landscape was the primary consideration for respondents in creating a high-quality visitor experience.
4. Feedback displayed a strong preference for easy car parking to maintain a high-quality visitor experience.
5. There is strong support for quality paths to ensure ease of access across the Southern Memorial Park.

Recreational Facilities

6. The feedback highlights a consistent theme of **quality recreational facilities** to ensure the area is usable for a variety of recreational purposes.
7. Public toilets in Southern Memorial Park were ranked as the most desired facility.
8. Walking trails and picnic areas were ranked as the second and third most desired facilities.

Creating a 'bush cemetery'

9. There is strong support for a natural design which complements the layout of the land.
10. Feedback displayed a preference to use existing trees and use only locally native plants and trees.
11. Strong support also exists for the inclusion of memorial gardens for ashes and natural burials.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback received will be used in future phases of design work for the Southern Memorial Park.

Updates will continue to be provided via the YourSay page. If you have any questions about this project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email communityengagement@act.gov.au.



Key Timings

30 March to 29 May 2009: Consultation undertaken by the ACT Cemeteries Authority on a proposed future southern cemetery. This process identified Mugga Lane as the preferred option.

2012: Draft Southern Memorial Park Masterplan released.

December 2019: Work starts to revise the 2012 Masterplan.

February to September 2020: Investigations carried out including cultural heritage and ecological assessments, geotechnical investigations and traffic studies.

September 2020 to March 2021: Engagement sessions held with faith groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives.

14 April 2021: Revised Masterplan and stage one designs released for community consultation.

7 June 2021: Consultation closes.

October 2021: Funding is provided in the 2021-22 ACT Budget to progress detailed design for stage one.

December 2021: What We Heard report released to the community. [We are here]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

1,500+

We reached 1,541 people via
YourSay

6

We held six pop-ups across
Tuggeranong, Woden and
Weston Creek

122

We received 122 completed
surveys

11

We received 11 written
submissions, including from
two community councils.

100+

We sent emails to over 100
key stakeholders

7,000+

We reached 7,771 people on
social media with an 8.8\$
engagement rate

230

We spoke to 230 individuals
at our pop-ups

1

We presented to the
Tuggeranong Community
Council.