

On 27 July, the western Greenway community panel met for the first time with representatives of Environment Planning Directorate (EPD) to discuss future uses of the area to the west of the Tuggeranong Hyperdome. Members of the community panel included representatives from environmental groups, community and recreational organisations, the Tuggeranong Community Council and local business. The community panel is chaired by Dr David Shorthouse.

This is a short summary of what was explored at this meeting. Minutes of the meeting will also be prepared and distributed.

Members of the community panel were welcomed to the meeting by Dorte Ekelund, Director General, EPD and thanked for their participation in this process.

In the Minister for Planning's Statement of Planning Intent a commitment was made to provide early and ongoing engagement with the community. The meeting was reminded that the community panel has been convened to ensure all the relevant voices are heard, all of the right questions are asked and that answers to those questions are clear and robust.

The priority for the first meeting of the community panel was to agree on Terms of Reference for the group, a work-plan going forward and to document participants' key issues. A work-plan was presented to the meeting and agreed. The work-plan features five stages:

1. Understand everyone's concerns in order to identify the key questions that need to be answered about the site.
2. Review of and presentations on existing data from government and non-government sources and identify any remaining gaps in our knowledge about the area.
3. Consider the research briefs and understand the approach to be undertaken by experts tasked with addressing the gaps in our knowledge about the area.
4. Additional studies to be undertaken as required.
5. Presentations on outcomes of those studies and documenting the views of the panel to provide feedback to government.

There were a range of issues raised by community panel members. All issues will be documented and considered by the panel, however have been broadly grouped below as a summary.

- Impact on the river corridor and surrounding environment and wildlife.
- Impact on community and recreation assets already located there; including any need to relocate, traffic impacts and security impacts of more people in the area.
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- Understanding, identifying and valuing Indigenous and European heritage and culture in the area.
- Apparent conflict between development in this area and the aspirations of other ACT Government policies and initiatives, such as healthy lifestyle, sport and recreation, urban infill and the Murray Darling Basin Plan.
- Water quality of the river and stormwater management in the area.
- The importance of positive investment in Tuggeranong to generate economic benefits.
- The need for more housing options in the Tuggeranong Valley.

### **Next steps**

Community panel members were encouraged to provide suggestions of additional organisations that should be represented on the Panel and to provide further issues to be added to the list.

Gary Rake, Deputy Director General EPD undertook to provide an annotated version of an early feasibility study developed by Purdon Planning as part of the information to be discussed at the next meeting.

EPD will draw together the questions from the meeting and invite subject matter experts to respond to these questions at the next meeting which will be held during August.