



Communication Link

# Coombs and Wright Key Land Release Sites Community and Stakeholder Panel

Listening summary from workshop 1

16 March 2021

## Introduction and background on the Panel

The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) Coombs and Wright Key Land Release Sites Community and Stakeholder Panel convened for the first time at Charles Weston School on Saturday 13 March 2021. The Panel included local members of the Molonglo Valley community and stakeholder representatives. The workshop involved the following collaboration activities:

**Activity 1:** Describing what the people of Molonglo Valley value.

**Activity 2:** Describing the community's vision for the Molonglo Valley.

**Activity 3:** Identifying the community's aspirations for Sites A, B and C.

## Panel membership

Panel members that participated in the first workshop:

- Alison Hutchison
- Monique Brouwer
- Ryan Hemsley  
(Molonglo Valley Community Forum)
- Casey Armstrong  
(Woden Valley  
Community Services)
- Neemisha Amit
- Terri Guirguis  
(Charles Weston School P&C)
- (Name withheld)
- Rachna Kalani

The Panel was facilitated by Helen Leayr and Harley McNamara from Communication Link. Subject matter experts from the SLA included Simon Tennent and Ian Wood Bradley.

## Panel protocols

To ensure the Panel operated smoothly and effectively and to ensure all voices were heard equally, the Panel developed protocols for how the group would operate. The Panel listed seven priorities that framed the protocols:

1. Establish a 'parking lot' for information the Panel requires from the SLA.
2. Avoid 'group-think' and unconscious bias.
3. Open mindedness.
4. Understand our constraints.
5. No objectively wrong ideas.
6. Removing / understanding personal sensitivities.
7. It is about us – the community.

## What we heard

### Molonglo Valley values and vision activities

For Activity 1, the Panel was asked to note down what the people of Molonglo Valley value. The following overarching themes were established from this discussion:

- Economics and self-sufficiency
- Connections and access
- Family and liveability
- Opportunity, equity and multiculturalism



- Environment, open space and maintaining the 'Bush Capital' theme

For Activity 2, the Panel was asked to discuss the Molonglo Valley community's vision for their district. The following themes were raised:

- Spaces to connect to the Molonglo River, the surrounding valley and the hills.
- Connecting with each other
- Facilities and infrastructure that other ACT districts have
- Thriving and belonging community now and in the future
- Peaceful environment
- Find shops, eateries, and other social assets within a 15-minute walk.
- Accessible spaces and pedestrian friendly

### Community aspirations for Sites A, B and C.

For activity 3, the Panel was asked to discuss and note down the Molonglo Valley community's aspirations for Key Land Release Sites A, B and C. The following was noted in this discussion:

- Consider the permeability of the sites.
- Consider the heights of buildings along John Gorton Drive.
- Use high-quality design and refer designs to the National Capital Design Review Panel.
- Consider including a destination feature e.g. a butterfly house.
- Sites B and C should 'fill the gap' by linking the school, park and shops and cater to families and the school community.
- Site A could include green spaces and adult-focussed amenities/facilities like clubs and restaurants.
- The three sites sit amongst new and emerging sites like Koko as well as failing sites, like the Coombs shops – considering the context is important.
- Consider other places that sit around these sites and what gaps can be filled.
- Consider ways to make shops accessible. For example, how can children walk over safely from the school to get an ice cream at the shops. Ensure those with disability and mobility restrictions are catered for.
- 'Spaces are created' that reflect a living street and are 'sticky' to create places that people gather in place -making is a priority.
- Include public toilets.

### Next steps for meeting two.

Helen outlined to the Panel for workshop 2 on Saturday 20 March.

- Helen will commence drafting the framework for the Panel's report that will go to the SLA.
- 'Parking lot' questions have been recorded and responses will be emailed to the Panel.
- A write up of the 13 March workshop (this document) will be provided to Panel Members.
- Next week's workshop will include discussions about Site D and the SLA village and domain plan.

### Parking lot (questions for SLA to follow up on)

- Provide information on the upper and lower limits of dwelling allowances for each site.
- Provide information road/corridor widths.
- Provide data on number of residents vs the amount of access roads required, i.e. look at Kingston Foreshore where commercial space is further back.



- Provide information on the Stromlo Forest Park development.
- Provide Campbell, Kingston and Braddon demographics comparison to Coombs and Wright – successful layouts for business.
- Provide updated map of future Canberra Light rail network.
- Can the future development the suburb of Molonglo be included in our discussions?
- Can the government retain any of the sites?
- Employment - Places where businesses can operate?

