

**MACARTHUR PRESCHOOL SITE**  
**LOCAL CONSULTATION SESSION – 31 OCTOBER 2007**  
**INITIAL SUMMARY**

## **1. Introduction**

A community information display was held from 4.30pm – 7.30pm on Wednesday 31 October 2007 at the Chisholm Community Hall in Chisholm to discuss possible options relating to the sale for the former preschool site.

These notes summarise the key outcomes from the consultation, but it should be noted that participation was premised on the qualification that that it did not signify support for preschool closure or sale of the site.

## **2. Background**

In 2006 the ACT Government announced that 23 primary schools and preschools would be closed as part of its Schools Revitalisation Policy.

ACT Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) have appointed a consultant team led by Purdon Associates to undertake detailed site specific technical studies and local community consultation in order to identify optimal future uses for each site.

The consultation process is staged and provides opportunity for residents and other interested members of the community to attend local information displays and workshop sessions to provide feedback and discuss issues relevant to each of the former school sites. Technical findings together with feedback received through the consultations will be used by the consultant team to assess and make recommendations to TAMS about future uses for the former school sites.

TAMS have indicated that the Giralang site is to be sold. Therefore the session was structured to invite input from the community regarding what uses the site should be sold for.

## **3. Approach**

The purpose of the information display was to:

- consider the site assessment and land use for the Macarthur site
- comment on the possible development option for the site within the context of the site being sold
- consider other appropriate options or land uses.

The Community Information Session took the form of an informal display where interested people could drop-in at any convenient time over a period of three hours in the late afternoon and early evening.

The information displayed at the consultation session included:

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| • Metropolitan Context Plan                   | • Territory Plan Extract Map   |
| • Project Timetable Flowchart                 | • Planning Processes Flowchart |
| • Project Objectives                          | • Typical Development Types'   |
| • Options Workshops (District) Outcomes       | • Site Air Photo               |
| • Building Condition Summary                  | • Suburb Air Photo             |
| • Population Characteristics                  | • Site Analysis Plan           |
| • Social Infrastructure Plan                  | • Site Photos                  |
| • Territory Plan Extract (Community Facility) | • Development Option Plan      |



People attending the information session were encouraged to read and absorb the material in their own time. Specialist consultant team members attended the session to answer questions, provide information and receive information.

An opportunity to provide written feedback on the options being considered at the information sessions was also provided through the provision of a "feedback Form" provided to all participants. In addition, the feedback form was included in the information provided on the web site to enable others who could not attend the consultation session to have input.

Members of the community were also encouraged to provide feedback and comments via the website throughout the course of the project.

#### **4. Attendance**

Approximately 25 people attended the display, with most staying for approximately 1 hour to personally discuss matters with the consultant team and other community members.

#### **5. Key issues**

The following is a summary of matters raised by persons who attended the consultation session:

- Support for retention as a preschool as all other preschools in the area are at capacity.
- Support for a range of uses including: aged care hospice, medical centre, vet, child care centre, church, church hall, arts and crafts, community centre. Although there was also some strong opposition to any of these suggestions.
- Some support for conversion to open space or uses that complement the existing parkland.
- Consistent opposition to rezoning for housing, particularly higher density housing.
- Any new use must not impact on the existing suburb.
- Strong concerns over the perception that Government had already made decisions and would not respond to community input; therefore the consultation was not a genuine process.
- Concern over parking in the suburb by the tennis centre during major events.
- The community needs to benefit from the land sale.

**These notes reflect key issues and ideas raised during discussions with the consultant team during the course of the Information Display and are not intended to reflect all of the comments made, nor does it include any of the comments written on 'Feedback Sheets' provided to persons who attended the session.**

**Information from feedback sheets and other submissions will be analysed and incorporated into the site evaluation process by the consultant team and included in the final report to Government.**

**7 November 2007**

