

## MOUNT NEIGHBOUR SCHOOL SITE

LOCAL CONSULTATION SESSION (29 OCTOBER 2007)

### INITIAL SUMMARY

#### 1. Introduction

A community information display was held on Monday 29 October 2007 from 4.30pm – 7.30pm at the Baptist Church in Kambah to discuss possible options relating to the sale for the former school site

These notes summarise the key outcomes from discussions held throughout the consultation, but do not imply that the participants supported closure of the primary school.

#### 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 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 Mount Neighbour 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 session was to:

- consider the site assessment and land use for the Mount Neighbour site.
- comment on the possible development option for the site within the context of the site being sold for Aged Care Development.
- 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
- Project Timetable Flowchart
- Project Objectives
- Options Workshops (District) Outcomes
- Building Condition Summary
- Population Characteristics
- Social Infrastructure Plan
- Territory Plan Extract (Community Facility)
- Territory Plan Extract Map
- Planning Processes Flowchart
- Typical Development Types'
- Site Air Photo
- Suburb Air Photo
- Site Analysis Plan
- Site Photos
- 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 consultation session. Most of the attendees were residents of Kambah. Representatives from several some community groups also attended including Save Our Schools, Concerned Residents of West Kambah (CROWK), Health care consumers, Fusion Australia, T3, Supaprod inc.

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

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

- Many opposed the decision to sell the site, and disagreed with the use of the building condition report as the basis for this sale.
- Some were concerned about the time available for input, considering that the site should be held until the community could fully assess future needs.
- There was generally consistent support for an aged care development, although the major issue was the scale, density and height of development.
- If aged care accommodation was to proceed, it should be a condition of development that the lessee include inter-generational activities on or adjacent to the site, that the built form be attractive and inclusive, and that the development be made into a best-practice example of sustainability
- Consistent support for some community facilities to be provided that were public in ownership and management.
- Existing playground and pathways were important and should be retained
- Opposition to medium and high density development.
- Opposition to rezoning for residential use.
- A broader planning approach including the whole of Kambah was needed.
- Additional traffic from re-development was a concern.
- A ‘private’ community facility is not the best outcome for the community.
- Tree planting along the northern side of the site was undertaken by school community for Prince Charles visit.
- Local need for community multi-purpose facility, meeting rooms, medical facility, library, community education, day care.
- Inclusion of a local committee in the preparation of a development Brief for the site, and or inclusion as an advisory panel/reference group in the assessment process.

**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 then included into the final report to Government.**

**7 November 2007**

