

NEW USES FOR FORMER SCHOOL SITES

INFORMATION PACK

Purpose:

The following papers are intended to provide people who have registered to attend an Options Workshop on either 24, 25 or 27 September 2007 with information about the purpose, content and structure of the workshop.

This information pack contains the agenda for the workshops, background information about the consultations, including the overall approach to consultation, a list of the sites included in the consultation and an outline of some of the issues to be discussed so that you can consider them prior to the workshop.

Each of the Options Workshop will have the same agenda and the same format.

If you would like additional information you may like to look on the project website:

www.purdon.com.au/formerschoolsites

Alternatively you can contact us at the following:

Ph: 02 6257 1511

Fax: 02 6248 8347

E: formerschoolsites@purdon.com.au

In addition to the information contained in this document, plans and other material will be provided at the workshop.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Purpose of the Workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to:

- introduce the project – the purpose, timeframe and activities
- provide contextual information relating to the surplus sites and the district
- present and obtain feedback on generic options (these are available on the website and also will be available at each table at the workshop)
- identify any other options and tangible outcomes as a result of the project
- identify community needs

'Finger food' and light refreshments will be available at the commencement of each Workshop.

Facilitators

The facilitators for each workshop are:

- Tuggeranong (24 September) - **Rob Purdon** (Purdon Associates)
- Belconnen (25 September) - **Lucy Cole-Edelstein** (Elton Consulting)
- Woden/Weston Creek (27 September) - **Rob Purdon** (Purdon Associates)



District Workshop Agenda

Item	Time	
1	5.45 - 6 pm	Welcome, registration and refreshments (Facilitator)
2	6pm - 6.10	Welcome and introductions (Facilitator) Purpose of the Workshop, Format, Housekeeping
3	6.10 - 6.30	Presentation 1 – Overview (Chris Purdon, Director, Purdon Associates) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background• Project purpose, approach and sites• Context, project principles and objectives• Community needs, demographics• Challenges and opportunities
4	6.30 - 7.00	Small group discussion of Community Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing unmet needs?• Emerging needs?• Distribution of facilities?• What uses would provide new opportunities for the community?
5	7.00 - 7.20	Report back from small groups (Facilitator)
6	7.20 - 7.30	Break – (Tea, coffee)
8	7.30 – 7.45	Presentation 2 – Generic Site Options (Chris Purdon) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explanation of 4 options• Territory Plan and permissible uses• Challenges and opportunities
9	7.45 – 8.15	Small Group Discussions Discussion of Generic Options <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengths and weaknesses• Are they appropriate options• What options could be added• What could be deleted• Management of facilities
10	8.15 – 8.45	Report back from small groups (Facilitator)
11	8.45 – 9.00	Summary and Next steps (Facilitator) Thank you and close



Background to the Project

Over the last 12 years Territory governments have closed a number of school sites and used them for alternative purposes or sold them. In late 2006, the ACT Government announced that 23 schools would either close at the end of 2006 or at some time over the next 3 years.

Of these, the Government has engaged consultants to undertake a process to determine the future use of 16 schools (6 preschools and 10 primary schools) closed at the end of 2006 or proposed to be closed over the next few years. In addition, two schools which were closed several years ago and have been since used for community and government purposes are to be included in the consultation process (Table 1). These schools or former schools are located on 15 sites.

Table 1: The Sites

Belconnen	Woden/Weston Creek	Tuggeranong	Other
Giralang Preschool	Rivett Primary School	Macarthur Preschool	
Mackellar Preschool		Mount Neighbour (Kambah) Primary School	
Cook Preschool Cook Primary School	Melrose Primary School	Village Creek (Kambah) Preschool Village Creek Primary School	(Former) Downer Primary School
Flynn Primary School	(Former) North Curtin Primary School		Hall Primary School
Holt Preschool Holt Primary School	Weston Creek Primary School		Tharwa Primary School

Following receipt of recommendations from the consultants, the ACT Government will make decisions on the future use of the sites included in the consultation process in early 2008.

The ACT Government has made a number of commitments when initiating this project:

- at least four buildings (or their equivalent) will be retained for community use
- the Government does not support renting the sites to non-government schools
- the Government does not support re-use of all of any former school site for open space**
- Rivett and Mt Neighbour (Kambah) primary schools are to be released and the government has a preference for the development of aged care facilities on these sites
- Macarthur, Giralang and McKellar preschools are to be released with their current land use policy (Community Facilities)

The consultants are required to take these into account during the project.

**** The former school sites do not include the adjacent neighbourhood ovals, which are open space**



Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the project is to make recommendations about the future use of 15 former school sites by:

- consulting with the community
- undertaking site investigations

The project is considering broad options for the future use of the former school sites. It is acknowledged that there is considerable interest from community organisations who are seeking space in the facilities **but the project will not be making recommendations as to which organisations should occupy this space.**

Approach

The approach to the project consists of both community consultations and site investigations.

The consultations will consist of:

- the Options Workshops
- local Community Information Sessions
- opportunities to comment on both general issues and individual sites

The site investigations will consist of:

- traffic and engineering investigations
- landscape assessment
- economic analysis
- assessment of the generic options as they apply to each site

Together the outcomes of the community consultations and the site investigations will inform the development of recommendations about the future use of each site.

