

RIVETT SCHOOL SITE
LOCAL CONSULTATION SESSION
(23 OCTOBER 2007)
INITIAL SUMMARY

1. Introduction

A community information display was held on Tuesday 23 October 2007 from 4.30pm – 7.30pm at the Weston Creek Community Centre in Weston to discuss possible options relating to the sale for the former school site.

These notes summarise the key outcomes from discussions held at the consultation, but do not imply that all 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 Rivett 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 Rivett 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:

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| • 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 40 people attended the consultation session. Most of the attendees were residents of Rivett. Representatives from several some community groups including Warehouse Circus (current tenants of the building), Communities @ Work, and the Reformed Church were also present.

5. Key issues

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

- Some questioned the basis for the decision to sell the site based on the building condition report. It was noted that the Warehouse circus currently have many more children in the building than the previous school use.
- Many participants expressed strong support for inclusion of community uses in any future development. For example, aged care could include a community based facility to benefit the occupants and the local community
- Many opposed rezoning for townhouses or other residential development
- There was generally consistent support for an aged care development, although some observed that there is already an aged care facility in Rivett and any additional facilities would not increase diversity
- Support for mixed development to enliven the suburb.
- The existing school hall is being used and should be allowed to continue to be used for community activity
- Redevelopment should not be multi-story (no higher than 2 storeys); should include conditions to retain most of the trees and grass; include, or rebuild, existing playground; plus maintain pedestrian access through the site
- Strong support for community facility development that houses current tenants (Warehouse Circus and Noah's Ark) plus other community groups allowing a mix of aged, youth, migrant and disability groups.

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 into the final report to Government.

7 November 2007

