

### 1. Introduction

The western Greenway community panel was established by the ACT Government to draw on community expertise and ensure the right questions were asked and relevant voices heard about any potential development between the Tuggeranong town centre and Murrumbidgee River.

Establishment of the community panel followed an initial phase of community consultation held from March to May 2016. That consultation culminated in the release of a report that highlighted the community's strong support for the protection of the Murrumbidgee River and the maintenance of community facilities located in the area.

The community panel was chaired by Dr David Shorthouse. A list of community groups and their representatives who participated in meetings of the community panel is at **Attachment 1**.

The panel met for the first time on Wednesday 27 July 2016 and considered the proposed Terms of Reference, a draft work-plan, and issues identified by members of the panel that in their opinion needed to be explored.

At subsequent meetings of the panel, presentations were given by ACT Government officers on the following topics:

- sport and recreation infrastructure in the area (Active Canberra)
- flora, fauna and ecological connectivity in the area (Environment and Planning Directorate)
- river corridor and Canberra Nature Park land management (Environment and Planning Directorate)
- ACT Planning Strategy (Environment and Planning Directorate)
- Tuggeranong town centre master plan (Environment and Planning Directorate)
- Role of the Land Development Agency (Land Development Agency)
- Tuggeranong waterways including the ACT Healthy Waterways Project. (ACT Basin Priority Project)

The work of the panel, including copies of presentations received and meeting minutes, is publicly available on the ACT Government's 'Your Say' website [www.yoursay.act.gov.au/western-greenway](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/western-greenway)

Following the initial three meetings of the community panel, it was agreed that a panel outcomes report would be prepared and presented to ACT Government. Following consideration of a draft, the Outcomes Report (this Report) was finalised at the fourth meeting of the panel on Wednesday 12 October 2016.

## 2. Issues considered

During the work of the community panel, members compiled a list of key issues that needed to be explored in more detail. These issues or the 'questions to be answered' about development in the area are listed below.

Theme	Issues to be considered
<b>River corridor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on the corridor</li> <li>• Environmental impacts on river and flora and fauna in the river corridor</li> <li>• Impacts of increased numbers of people in the area – litter, damage to environment etc</li> <li>• ACT Healthy Waterways project commitments</li> <li>• Access to the river by the community; loss of amenity</li> </ul>
<b>Water quality of the river</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater management</li> <li>• Erosion implications</li> <li>• ACT Healthy Waterways project commitments</li> </ul>
<b>Indigenous and European heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and documenting heritage in the area</li> <li>• Understanding the heritage values</li> <li>• Valuing and protecting heritage assets</li> </ul>
<b>Bushfire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management concerns</li> </ul>
<b>Impact on community and recreation assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement to relocate existing community assets and the impacts of that on community and sporting organisations</li> <li>• Traffic and road capacity</li> <li>• Security concerns, vandalism, associated with increased visitation and activities</li> <li>• Measuring and valuing the community use of the area and associated infrastructure</li> <li>• Bicentennial National Trail</li> <li>• Centenary Trail</li> <li>• Impacts on future development opportunities by community organisations</li> <li>• Opportunities for additional recreational activities in the area</li> </ul>
<b>Economic benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for positive investment in Tuggeranong</li> <li>• Impact on Hyperdome</li> <li>• Employment benefits</li> <li>• Tourism opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Housing options</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity required in Tuggeranong</li> <li>• Potential for an Eco Village</li> </ul>
<b>Relationship with broader ACT Government strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy lifestyle policy</li> <li>• Sport and recreation</li> <li>• Urban renewal</li> <li>• Revenue generation policies linked to urban development</li> <li>• Western Greenway becoming a precedent for urban development on the western side of Murrumbidgee River</li> </ul>

- Threatened species protection priorities
- ACT Healthy Waterways project
- Planning reports – Tuggeranong town centre master plan and ACT Planning Strategy
- National Capital Plan and the National Capital Open Space System

### 3. Panel outcomes

The western Greenway community panel provides the following views to the ACT Government about any development of land between the Tuggeranong town centre and the Murrumbidgee River (the location):

#### Housing, office or similar urban development

- Based on the information provided, the community panel is not convinced that there is any priority for urban development in the western Greenway location.
- The location includes a number of areas that are inappropriate for urban development. This overarching conclusion is based on the presentations the panel has received, the views of community organisations represented on the panel, and the discussions at the community panel's meetings.
- The ACT Government should consider providing the community with information on other areas for potential housing development in Tuggeranong.
- The ACT Government should consider prioritising housing development in areas already identified for that purpose in the Tuggeranong town centre master plan.
- The community panel recognises that the future viability of Tuggeranong's town centre, local jobs and economy is important and the ACT Government should continue to discuss with the community ways to ensure the economic and social fabric of Tuggeranong is enhanced and improved.
- The community panel noted the outcomes of a recent Tuggeranong Community Council survey that identified three priorities: improved water quality, local jobs and the economy, and a more vibrant town centre.

#### Environment and water

- The existing boundaries to the Murrumbidgee River Corridor identified in ACT planning documents are not based on recent scientific understanding. It is important that the boundary of the river corridor be based on natural resource management criteria with an appropriate separation between the corridor and other land uses.
- Regardless of any changed use of land in western Greenway, there are aspects of protecting the biodiversity assets in the river corridor in this area that are not well understood. While the panel members are not qualified to critically establish or review terms of reference for ecological studies, members wish to be consulted about any proposed studies.
- The community panel considers it important for consideration to be given to stormwater management in western Greenway, particularly for some existing community facilities and the need to protect the quality of water flowing directly into the Murrumbidgee River.

### Recreation

- The western Greenway area should continue to provide sport and recreation opportunities for the residents of Tuggeranong and there may be potential for increased scope or diversity.
- The ACT Government should continue current programs and discussions with community organisations with facilities in western Greenway to identify long-term priorities. There is potential for enhanced infrastructure which can provide economic and social benefits to the town centre.
- The location and boundaries of existing community facilities, including the Bicentennial National Trail and Centenary Trail, need to be clarified and confirmed in accordance with the shared needs and competing requirements of those facilities..
- There are some community and sporting groups, such as Vikings Group, who wish to expand their use of the location consistent with the Tuggeranong town centre master plan. The ACT Government should consider options for this.

### Cultural Heritage

- The Indigenous heritage in the area has never been systematically mapped and assessed (as is also the case with much of the ACT); consideration should be given to improving documentation of the heritage values of the location. A particular and early emphasis should be given to understanding of western Greenway's heritage values in the context of the ACT region.
- It is noted there are several items of European heritage in the location that are on the ACT Heritage Register.

## 4. Next steps

The community panel requests that information on its work on western Greenway remain available online as part of the ACT Government's discussions with the Tuggeranong community.

The community panel believes that this Outcomes Report concludes its work, unless the ACT Government seeks further clarification on the matters raised in this report.

The community panel's Outcomes Report highlights the importance of early and effective community engagement.

## **Attachment 1 – Community panel representatives**

Chairperson – David Shorthouse

ACT Heritage Council – David Flannery, Dianne Firth

Australia Capital Territory Equestrian Association – Christine Lawrence

Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation – Wally Bell

Canberra Off Road Cyclists – Mike Brennan

Conservation Council of the ACT and Region – Larry O’Loughlin

Council on the Aging – Jenny Mobbs

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects – Deb Matthews

Australia Institute of Architects – Sheila Hughes

Greenway residents – Narelle Kelly

Save the Murrumbidgee Corridor group – Matthew Frawley

Southern ACT Catchment Group – Miranda Gardner

Tuggeranong Hawks – Annette Ellis, Kym Lovett

Tuggeranong Archery Club – Gary Hobson, Kevin Watts, Steve Caldicott, Ian Crawford

Tuggeranong Community Council – Glenys Patulny, Beverly Flint

Tuggeranong Dog Training Club – Amanda Bateup

Tuggeranong Region Business Forum – Nick Tsoulis

Tuggeranong Hyperdome – Jeremy Wilson

Vikings – Hugh Howarth

YWCA – Suella Jarvis (YWCA withdrew from panel following meeting #1)

ICON Water – Nicole Vonarx, Owen Gould (participated in the workshops as observers on behalf of ICON Water and not as representatives of a community organisation)