

GHD logo

Have your say on the future use of community sites

GHD Stakeholder Solutions today announced the beginning of its consultation process on the future use of eight community sites throughout the ACT.

GHD Principal Planner, Mr Viv Straw, says the program of consultation focuses on the future use of eight community sites including those in Cook, Weston Creek, Melrose (Chifley), Village Creek (Kambah), North Curtin, Holt, Mount Neighbour (Kambah) and Rivett.

“The ACT government recently received recommendations from Purdon Associates who undertook extensive consultation and investigation into the future uses of the eight sites in 2007,” Mr Straw says.

“GHD will be working to inform the Canberra community about these recommendations along with any government decisions, and to seek the community's views on the recommended future land use options for the sites.

Mr Straw says that for six of the eight sites, Cook, Melrose, Weston, Holt, North Curtin, and Village Creek, community views will be sought on a range of housing options, in line with the Purdon recommendations.

“The government has already decided that the Mount Neighbour and Rivett sites will be used for aged care accommodation, so GHD will consult with the community about the type and form that this accommodation may take,” he says.

Mr Straw says the consultation process begins today with the launch of a dedicated website, email enquiry and telephone hot line. Local shopping centre information booths and site-specific consultation forums will also be included in the process.

In the lead up to the forums, GHD will also advertise in the *Canberra Times* and *Chronicle*, and undertake local letterbox drops in each of the nearby neighbourhoods.

Relevant community councils will also be consulted as part of the process, and market research will be conducted through a telephone survey to ensure the voices of local community surrounding the eight sites are heard.

Regional community facilities

As part of the ACT Government's \$24 million budget initiative to enhance local facilities, the government has also announced that three regional community facilities, nine neighbourhood halls and eight community parks will be established across the ACT.

The Department of Territory and Municipal Services has called for expressions of interest from community groups who wish to be accommodated in new or refurbished community facilities and a separate consultation process on the construction of the community parks will commence shortly.

Where buildings are to be kept and refurbished, a process has commenced to select architects and builders to undertake the work.

“Our consultation website www.bangthetable.com/communitysites provides a discussion forum, contains a library of supporting documents, frequently asked questions and the dates for all consultation activities,” Mr Straw says.

“Community members can also provide a formal submission to GHD via the website.”

Mr Straw says members of the public are invited to share their views and comments by emailing GHD at listenact@ghd.com.au or by phoning (02) 62561222.

GHD will present the community's views to government in mid-August 2008.

Consultation timeline:

Cook and Weston Creek	16 June to 28 June
Melrose and Village Creek	23 June to 5 July
North Curtin and Holt	30 June to 12 July
Mount Neighbour and Rivett	7 July to 19 July

**For more interviews, photographs or more information, contact
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