

Redeveloping the

Cook

community site



COMMUNITY FORUM OUTCOMES

JULY 2008

The ACT Government has decided to create a new community site in Cook. GHD has been independently engaged to consult with the community on its future use. The community are invited to make submissions at community stalls, community forums or by phone, post or email until 31 July 2008.

Summary of community forum held 26 June 2008 - Cook community site

It should be noted that the following findings are not conclusive and should be read in conjunction with future reports.

Within the appropriate and inappropriate uses, there may be contradictions as not all **forum participants** shared the same views.

In general terms, the **forum participants valued:**

- Green space around existing development.
- The sites links with other urban land uses, like the schools, shopping centre and community facilities which link back to residential areas.
- Its importance as a meeting place for the community and for both active and passive recreation.

It was generally considered that the Purdon recommendations for this site are not a desirable land use outcome. Activities that were considered by the forum participants to be **appropriate** for this site included:

- Keeping the open space, but any reference to "enhancement of the open space" was not to be used. Maintenance of the land as an active part of the existing open space could continue.
- Keeping all the mature trees and shrubs and planting more to support bird life, especially for endangered Swift Parrot.
- Creating an overall plan for the open and green space, but not by the ACT Planning and Land Authority.
- Recognising the site as an arts hub in the not too distant future and integrating the hub's activities into the open space.
- Other options such as community gardens, playground, dog park, a space for solar collection (on the roofs of the existing building), or a small-scale retirement village. (There was

limited support for the preschool/child care, supported or cooperative housing, and creation of a solar farm. However any built environment would be required to be "deeply sustainable". There was some support within the existing buildings for a medical centre and the community hall facility on this site).

The forum participants were keen to make the following points:

- Security and safety facilities should be improved, including passive deterrence and security lighting.
- Cook has no other open space of this size and integrity. Open space is necessary for children and family to play. Necessary for health and well-being.

Activities that were considered **not appropriate** included:

- Facilities that would sterilise the future use of the site as a school.
- Anything that would create a structure or walls and attract graffiti.
- Barriers or structures between the existing buildings and the "open space" (ie: No "Berlin Wall").
- Commercial or industrial land use, aged care facilities and housing.

An overwhelming view was that the site should not be touched or sold until "genuine consultation" could take place in October.

Your feedback is valuable and will help the ACT Government decide on the future of the Cook site. If you were unable to make the forum, or think that your views have not been accurately represented, you can still have your say.

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