

*Your local voice*

■ ■ ■ weston creek  
■ ■ ■ community  
■ ■ ■ council

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Member for Murrumbidgee  
ACT Legislative Assembly,  
G.P.O. Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

17 April 2017

Dear ,

### **Lack of Consultation on Public Housing in Weston Creek and Molonglo**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC), the Weston Creek Community and Molonglo Communities, in relation to the proposals to place Public Housing in specific locations in Weston Creek and Molonglo. These decisions were made by the Public Housing Renewal Task Force on Public Housing and the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development.

Sadly, these decisions have been made without any prior consultation with the existing communities. You would be aware of this from the publicity generated by the issue over the past few weeks. Our communities will welcome Public Housing but there is an issue of imposing this on communities without any consultation or chance to contribute to a good outcome for both old and new residents.

Council and the community are also concerned about the use of Community Facility Land for “normal” housing. *This planned use of land was obviously on the Agenda in 2015 and we question why the community was not informed of this and given the opportunity to comment. This is a city wide issue and affects all areas of Canberra, not just Weston Creek and Molonglo, and in some areas it will have a significant impact.*

At the meeting held by the Weston Creek Community Council on Thursday 6 April, at which some 280 residents attended, Council received considerable comments. These were both written and verbal and I have attached a summary of these for your information.

One comment from a resident of Weston Creek seems to encapsulate the feeling of the community about the lack of consultation as shown below,

*“As a resident of Rivett I am disappointed by the location and density of the proposed development. I am more disappointed by the way I was informed of the government’s decision.*

*For us, the residents, I feel that the government has denied us*

- *The right to be consulted*
- *The right to be respected*
- *The right to be heard*

*For the people who are disadvantaged, I feel the government has denied them*

- *The right to accessible transport*
- *The right to adequate services*
- *The right to adequate working opportunities*

*For the Government, I feel the Government has denied itself*

- *The opportunity to work hand in hand with the community*
- *The opportunity to have a genuine open conversation over the matter*
- *And importantly, the right to achieve a better outcome for all of us.*

I feel it important that I raise this with you as a member of the ACT Legislative Assembly so that you are aware of how this issue, particularly the tardy and restricted “consultation”, is affecting our communities and the impact it could have on the wider Canberra community.

I, and others on our Council, remain available to discuss this matter at any time.

Yours Sincerely

Tom Anderson  
Chair  
Weston Creek Community Council