



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2015-16

MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA (CHAIR), MS MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), DR CHRIS BOURKE MLA, MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

**SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE
ACT BUDGET 2015-16
PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 2 JUNE 2015**

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to committees@parliament.act.gov.au by **12.00pm Friday 5 June 2015**. If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please append additional comments.

1. Full name of group/organisation:

Belconnen Community Council

2. Name of contact person for this survey and their telephone number and email address:

Tara Cheyne, Chair, 0433 176 662, hello@belcouncil.org.au

3. Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?

Yes (If yes, please email it to the Committee Secretariat with your completed survey and analysis.)

No – see below

4. Please list, in order of priority, your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2015-2016 (you can expand on these in Question 5):

- a. Appropriate consideration of timing of land release in the Town Centre, including rezoning of land in the services and trade area for possible residential use.
- b. Ensuring ongoing and greater private investment and public service presence in the Belconnen Town Centre and beyond
- c. Providing greater connectivity in the Town Centre and to suburbs adjacent to it

5. Please detail your views on the ACT Budget in relation to your three priority areas?

The rezoning of land in the Services and Trade area along Lathlain St is proposed, but there has not yet been community consultation on this issue. It was apparent from extensive community consultation performed by our organisation ahead of and during consultation for the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan that this may not be a popular move in the community. It may have long term economic impacts upon existing businesses in the Services and Trades area, that are noisy and operate out of hours including panel beaters, engineering workshops and live music venues. None of these businesses have any problems with noise complaints as there are no residents in the services and trades area. We would appreciate further detail on the intention for this land and consideration for surrounding businesses.

The BCC is pleased to see the investment in connecting footpaths and cycleways. Our view is that there would be a small further investment to widen footpaths and to link footpaths and cycleways in the Town Centre to footpaths and cycleways to suburbs adjacent to the Town Centre.

We would appreciate more clarification if there are any budget measures which promote ongoing investment in the Town Centre.

6. Are there any other particular issues with the ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

Yes No

a. If yes, please comment/attach further details:

See below.

7. Did you provide a budget submission to the ACT Government?

Yes (go to question 8) No (go to question 9.)

8. Do you think that the ACT Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

Yes No **Yes, some.**

a. If yes, please comment

The ACT Government appears to have appropriately considered the timing of residential land release in the Town Centre, with the Labor Club site being the only site released in 2015-16, and (indicatively) the Water Police site being released in 2016-17, the Remand Centre site being released in 2017-18 and the surface car park adjacent to the bus interchange and the Belconnen Community Services being released in 2018-19. This was a priority for the Belconnen Community Council because oversupply of housing is detrimental socially and economically.

Margaret Timpson Park—a central site in the Town Centre—is in need of some minor rejuvenation but does not currently have play equipment. It would be useful to clarify what is proposed for Margaret Timpson Park within the parks maintenance measure. In addition, it would be useful to clarify if any of the parks measure, the tree maintenance measure or the urban trees study measure will address the increasing spread of ivy along Lake Ginninderra peninsula and the elm leaf beetle infestation across Canberra—both of which have the potential to devastate significant areas of flora.

The Belconnen Arts Centre is an asset to the Belconnen Town Centre and support for its completion is bipartisan. The expansion and completion of this important community and cultural facility will ensure it continues to have a positive transformational impact on the Belconnen Town Centre and broader region, particularly in terms of urban renewal, and economic and social benefits. We note that completion of the Belconnen Arts Centre does not appear in the forward budget but does have \$25,000 committed for further feasibility studies.

We note that the ACT Government intends to better connect cycleways and pathways in the Belconnen Town Centre and from West Belconnen to the city. This is an important measure, and one we raised in our submission to the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan. Given this work is already proceeding, we recommend it would be extremely timely to also widen at least some key footpaths and cycleways. In particular, many areas around Lake Ginninderra are too narrow to support the volume and diversity of use (cycling, running, walking, dog walking, skateboarding). Providing greater connectivity in the Town Centre should also be expanded to connect the Town Centre to suburbs **adjacent** to it, particularly Bruce.

9. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 12 June 2015, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes No

If you indicate yes, and the Committee decides to invite you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Support Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 10 June 2015 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups/organisations.

Thank you for contributing to the inquiry.
