



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

## Australian Men's Shed Association New South Wales

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### **Budget Consultation Submission**

I represent all the Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and Community Sheds in the A.C.T. that are members of the Australian Men's Shed Association. A.C.T. sheds fall under the NSW State association framework for geographical convenience, hence the title, which may be misleading.

In June 2014 Purdon Planning submitted a report into the feasibility of Men's Sheds within the ACT.

I would like to suggest that the budget make an allocation for an update on this report considering how much change has occurred in the meantime and how much is expected through the new planning policy and district strategies.

One of the conclusions was that the demographics at the time could support 49 shed. At this stage we only have 17. Therefore, I would propose a budget allocation to establish property to accommodate at least one new shed per year for the next 10 years.

I have identified 2 locations that could be considered.

1. Tuggeranong Homestead
2. Lanyon Homestead

While both of these sites are heritage listed, they need considerable support in maintenance and upkeep. Having a shed on site would provide access to a group of volunteers with skills to help. There would also be synergy between community wellbeing and heritage support.

The Australian Men's Shed Association is supported by the Federal Department of Health, because it has been seen to produce health benefits. More sheds in A.C.T. are needed to increase these benefits.

Regards,

*Jim Thornton*