

SUBMISSION

2018-2019 ACT BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

Community led proposal for a playground and barbecue facilities at the Waramanga Shops

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Community led submission: Proposal for a community playspace at the Waramanga shops

SUBMISSION FOR A PLAYGROUND AT THE WARAMANGA SHOPS

Forewords in support of this proposal

Bec Cody MLA, ACT Legislative Assembly



Playgrounds are an important part of family life in Canberra. They encourage outdoor recreational leisure time and social connection for children, while playing a role in reducing childhood obesity.

Playgrounds offer conditions and an environment to children for play that is unexpected and random resulting in child development and advancement of motor skills and a rich imagination. There is much more to a playground than a slide and swings. In reality, playgrounds symbolise one of the most important parts of a child's early development.

As a mother of two boys, I know the importance of playgrounds and open spaces for communities to gather. I met with members of the community to discuss the proposed playground in Waramanga and during my meeting with a local community member, other neighbours also came out to discuss this project. There is widespread support for this community led-initiative and I fully endorse the effort the community has gone to in presenting their need for new playground infrastructure to government.

Giulia Jones MLA, Member for Murrumbidgee, Shadow Minister for Women, Shadow Minister for Corrections, Shadow Minister for Police and Emergency Services, ACT Legislative Assembly



Local parks and playgrounds are so important and valuable to families and communities.

Community playgrounds contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of many families across Canberra.

The residents of Waramanga and Weston Creek have petitioned and campaigned for playground facilities for their local community. This proposal by the local community, for a fully enclosed and fenced play space behind the Waramanga Medical Centre, would greatly improve the local amenity for families.

As Shadow Minister for Women, I have seen how quality parks and playgrounds contribute to the wellbeing of mothers. These play spaces provide mothers and families with the opportunity to play with their children, give them some time to exercise, and give the parent or carer time to decompress as well as socialise with likeminded people. This is so important for healthy and happy families and community.

In our increasingly busy lives and communities, taking time to slow down and spend constructive time together should be a priority. As such, even if Government funds for playgrounds are limited, there should be serious consideration given to communities being allowed to raise funds to get parks like this one up and going.

I welcome this proposal by the local Waramanga community, and I commend them for their efforts – in particular Elizabeth Hoyt, who is exactly the kind of generous and concerned community member we need to build the Canberra of the future.

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Caroline Le Couteur MLA, ACT Legislative Assembly, ACT Greens spokesperson for Planning, Territory and Municipal Services, Business and Economic Development



The Waramanga Community has shown great community spirit in driving their proposal for a playground at the shops. The Block Party they hosted in October 2017 showcased the Waramanga community spirit and the real need for new infrastructure to support the growing number of young families in the area.

The community and local shops would really benefit from a playground and improved local facilities and I would really love to see kids playing at the shops all the time.

I applaud the Waramanga community's push for a playground at the Waramanga shops and congratulate them on their outstanding effort.

Chris Steel MLA, ACT Legislative Assembly



Children's play is the fundamental vehicle for children's learning in the early years – the most rapid period of neurobiological development in a child's lifetime.

While open-ended opportunities for play are good for children, evidence shows that when an adult or educator engages in scaffolding play – providing explanation, questioning and the channelling of the children's interests in these environments – this can be especially effective for children's cognitive skill development.

Prior to entering politics, I was an education advocate, at peak body Early Childhood Australia and know how important playgrounds are for development. There couldn't be a more important task for any incoming Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly than ensuring more young children have access to play based early learning.

I would like to commend Elizabeth Hoyt, who has worked hard to build support in the Waramanga and Weston Creek community for the playground project, for her work in developing a detailed proposal to government. I look forward to continuing to work with her and the Waramanga community on the project.

Tom Anderson, Chair of the Weston Creek Community Council



A playground at the Waramanga shops would bring more people to the area and would be well used by all the young families that go to the numerous schools in the area. A playground and updated facilities will add value to the shops and it will be a good location for young families to use the playground and seating area.

Because of the new gates around the playgrounds at nearby schools, there is a real need for the ACT Government to invest in families and the Waramanga community. Everyone should have access to a local playground to support the development of their children.

This proposal is a community led initiative that has immense support, which is highlighted by the hundreds of people that signed the petition earlier this year. In addition, the Waramanga Block Party, which residents hope to make a regular event, underscores the need for new playground infrastructure at the shops.

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1.1 Background

Unlike other local shops, the Waramanga Shops has no playground or barbecue facilities for residents and users of the shops to enjoy. Studies show playgrounds increase health, social connection, aid the environment and have positive impacts on the local economy.

A number of couples and young families are moving to Waramanga because of its abundance of good schools, childcare centres and quick access to other key areas of Canberra via Hindmarsh Drive and the Tuggeranong Parkway. According to 2016 Census data, there are 697 families that live in Waramanga and the median age of the population is 40 highlighting the number of young couples with families living in the area.

Waramanga has received limited investment over the past decade. Given the changing demographic of Waramanga, it is important the ACT Government maintains the appropriate levels and quality of playgrounds and social green spaces to keep up with the growth in the area.

Various studies indicate many benefits that playgrounds and community play spaces provide. Four major benefits are that they increase health, social connection, aid the environment and have significant positive impacts on the local economy.

Historically, users of the Waramanga shops were able to use the playgrounds at Arawang Primary School and St John Vianney's, however, these playgrounds are now gated and inaccessible for the public to access. Unlike other local shops across Canberra are no facilities for families to enjoy when they visit the Waramanga shops.

1.1.1 Community Need

Waramanga residents need a place that children of all abilities and cultures can enjoy – a community space to enjoy birthdays, weekend barbecues and special events. The proposed playground will contain a mix of all-accessible and all ages play equipment including exercise infrastructure so it is inclusive and provides a space that anyone can enjoy. It will be a place where children with disabilities can play in the same space with equipment as other children. It will also be fenced so that parents can bring their family to the area without fears and concerns for the security of their children.

The proposed area will contain seats, barbecues and a shaded area so residents can bring their families and enjoy special events in the area. There will be shade to ensure kids stay safe in the hot sun. These aspects will help build community cohesion and bring much needed vibrancy back to the local area.

The Waramanga community playground is something that children and families will be able to enjoy for generations to come. It will be a destination choice for local residents and all Canberran residents to enjoy. It will highlight the importance that Australians place on inclusive, healthy and active lifestyles as well as on supporting thriving and happy family life.

Located at the back of the Waramanga Medical Centre, this new community space will support local shop owners and boost the local community. Too often, small local shops struggle to compete with major shopping centres with their huge profit margins. A community playspace will help the local shops attract more customers and will boost local tourism. The playspace will enable parents

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to spend more time at the grocery store, local café, chemist or newsagent and will give Waramanga the transformation it needs to continue to thrive. The vibrant Waramanga shopping precinct is surrounded by local schools and has a number of different local shops including a doctors surgery, IGA, Chinese restaurant, café, bakery, hair dressers, chemist, beauty salon, news agent and post office, meaning the shops are always bustling with parents and children and highlighting how well used this playspace will be by the local community. There are no public restroom facilities anywhere in Waramanga.

1.1.2 Key Principles

Investing in a Waramanga community playspace is vital for local residents and is important for:

1. Tackling childhood obesity by getting kids active
2. Backing local small businesses located at the Waramanga Shops
3. Building community cohesion and a community hub for people to connect
4. Supporting cognitive and social development
5. Confronting post-natal depression
6. Supporting inclusivity and family wellbeing

Dr Kristy Goodwin – Australian health researcher in support of the Waramanga playground proposal

“Outdoor play is essential for optimal health and development of children. Given the saturation of digital screens in children's lives, families need access to playgrounds, parks and play spaces to ensure that children's play and subsequent health and wellbeing isn't compromised. The provision of a local playground in Waramanga is vital to enable families to encourage children's play and is one way that local councils can support kids' physical health requirements. An established body of research confirms that many Australian children are now leading sedentary lives and a simple way to combat this trend is via access to playgrounds. Research also corroborates that outdoor play (i.e. 'green time') is vital for healthy visual development, to support circadian rhythms (which support children's sleep) and helps to calm overloaded nervous and sensory systems which often result from increased use of digital technologies.”

Dr Kristy Goodwin is one of Australia's leading digital parenting experts (and mum who also deals with her kids' techno-tantrums!). She's the author of *Raising Your Child in a Digital World*, speaker, researcher and media commentator.

1.2 Community Consultations to Inform this Submission

To inform this community led submission four stages of community consultations were held:

1. Community consultations were held at the Waramanga Shops in April and May 2017. Residents signed a petition in support of the proposal. Over 400 people signed the petition for a new playground, barbecue and seating and shaded area at the shops. This petition was presented to the ACT Government and tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 8 June 2017;
2. the Weston Creek Community Council Meeting at the Raiders Club, Liardet St in Weston on Wednesday 26 April 2017;
3. the Weston Creek Community Council Meeting at the Raiders Club, Liardet St in Weston on Wednesday 27 September 2017; and
4. the community led Waramanga Block Party picnic day held on the grass at the proposed playground location on Saturday 28 October 2017.

CONSULTATIONS STAGE ONE - April / May Consultations

The first round of consultations held in April and May 2017 at the Waramanga shops resulted in over 400 people signing the petition for the proposal for the playground and seating and shaded area. These results were presented to the ACT Government and the petition was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 8 June 2017.

Refer to the ACT Legislative Assembly Hansard transcript here:

<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2017/week06/2116.htm>

Nearly 300 signatures were collected in less than a week, demonstrating the significant community support for this initiative. Many respondents felt very strongly about the need to have a playground at the shops and expressed concerns why other shops had a playground but Waramanga did not. Many residents raised similar concerns that a new playground was necessary for the area, as they no longer had access to the nearby playgrounds, which had gates preventing access.

Some of the main and recurring themes of the comments included:

- “Waramanga has no playground, we need one!”
- “Very good idea, the area especially needs it now that the school play equipment is fenced”
- “Excellent – couldn’t happen sooner”
- “Lovely little centre, a park for children would be great”
- “Use the space for us (it’s currently dead space at the back of the Medical Centre)”
- “Great for families and local businesses”
- “Would greatly improve community living”
- “Would improve the centre and bring more people”

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- “We obviously need it”
- “It would be great for birthdays, we have to travel to other parts of Canberra to celebrate special events”
- We have a lovely group of shops here and a playground would be great for the “community”.

Residents also started a public advocacy video campaign (link provided below), which received hundreds of hits. The video was to raise awareness on the need for a playground and was referenced in media coverage of the issue including the *Canberra Chronicle* and *Queanbeyan Age*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjUNmpp2JJI>

CONSULTATIONS STAGE TWO - Weston Creek Community Council Meeting Consultations on 26 April 2017

The second stage of consultations were held at the Weston Creek Community Council Meeting at the Raiders Club, Liardet St in Weston on Wednesday 26 April 2017. This meeting was well attended by around 70 residents. This meeting was well attended due to interest in the proposed public housing developments in Weston Creek, which was also on the agenda that night.

A PowerPoint slide was shown to residents, provided at Attachment A.

Community residents voiced strong supportive of the initiative. Not one resident expressed any concerns for the proposal.

In addition to the playground infrastructure, Weston Creek residents also raised the need for extra parking, a toilet block, seating, and shade areas to be built. Residents agreed that the shady trees at the back of the Waramanga Medical Centre would provide nice shade for new tables and chairs so families could picnic there. Several people highlighted the need for a new toilet facility as the lack of a toilet block at the shops meant that people could only make quick stops while doing their shopping. One resident said that exercise equipment, in addition to the proposed playground, would mean that the infrastructure would be for all ages and would could be used by community members regardless of age.

Ms Giulia Jones MLA was present at this meeting and was supportive of the proposal. She highlighted the need for young mothers to have a place to go where they could meet other young mums on maternity leave and the need to have more gated and safe playgrounds in Canberra. She committed to setting up a meeting with the board of directors of Boundless, organisers of the all-access playground on the lake, which was held the following month.

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CONSULTATIONS STAGE THREE – Weston Creek Community Council Meeting Consultations on Wednesday 27 September 2017

The third round of community consultations was held at the Weston Creek Community Council Meeting Consultations on Wednesday 27 September 2017 at the Raiders Club, Liardet St in Weston. Community members were updated on the proposal, outcomes from meetings and discussions with Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS), discussions with Minister Fitzharris's Office, and plans for the upcoming Waramanga Block Party.

Residents again reiterated their strong support for the proposal and some members committed to making hampers for Waramanga Block Party for a raffle.

One member again raised the need for a toilet block in addition to the playground proposal, but added that this would mean that ongoing maintenance would be needed for upkeep on the facility.

Members discussed strategies to promote the event and distribute the poster for the picnic day, provided at Attachment B.

CONSULTATIONS STAGE FOUR - Community Consultations at the Waramanga Block Party on 28 October 2017

The Waramanga Block Party was held on Saturday 28th of October 2017. The purpose of the event was to bring Waramanga residents together for a community picnic day and to inform the fourth and final stage of consultations for the Waramanga playground proposal. The Block Party was held behind the Waramanga Medical Centre, the proposed site for the new playground and barbecue facilities.

The event was attended by over a hundred local residents who turned out in support of the playground. It was a catalyst for discussions about holding similar community events and residents decided to hold a Waramanga Christmas Block Party in December 2017. Residents discussed the need for a playground, barbecues, and tables and chairs to support these events going forward.

Waramanga shop owners (Waramanga Beauty Spot, the Waramanga Post Office and Newsagent, the Waramanga Chemist and What Café) kindly donated gifts, hampers and gift certificates. The local IGA also donated food and drinks items in support of the event. Community residents also donated food and small gifts in support of the event. The breadth of support that was shown by community members in support of the event is testimony to the incredible local backing for this initiative and calls for the Government to support it.

There were music, games and prizes for the kids, a sausage sizzle and soft drinks. Community residents also organised markets and stalls, including toy stalls for the children, brick a brac and the Badimara Scouts Group. Community residents also brought their picnic rugs and picnic hampers to share food, community spirit and to get to know one another.

A number of children lined up for the play equipment that was provided on the day for the children, highlighting the indisputable need for a playground on the site.

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The key purposed of the Block Party was to hold the fourth and final stage of consultations to inform the development of the Waramanga Playground. A random sample of face-to-face video interviews were conducted with attendees at the Block Party. In total eighteen video interviews were conducted. Community residents reiterated the need for this “very important idea”, that was “much needed” and that would be “well used by our family”. Transcripts from all eighteen video interviews held with local residents are at [Attachment C](#).

A video compiled from the event, highlighting the consultations and face-to-face videos that took place, may be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqT0vJ1gHP4&feature=youtu.be>

1.3 Working with TCCS and the ACT Government

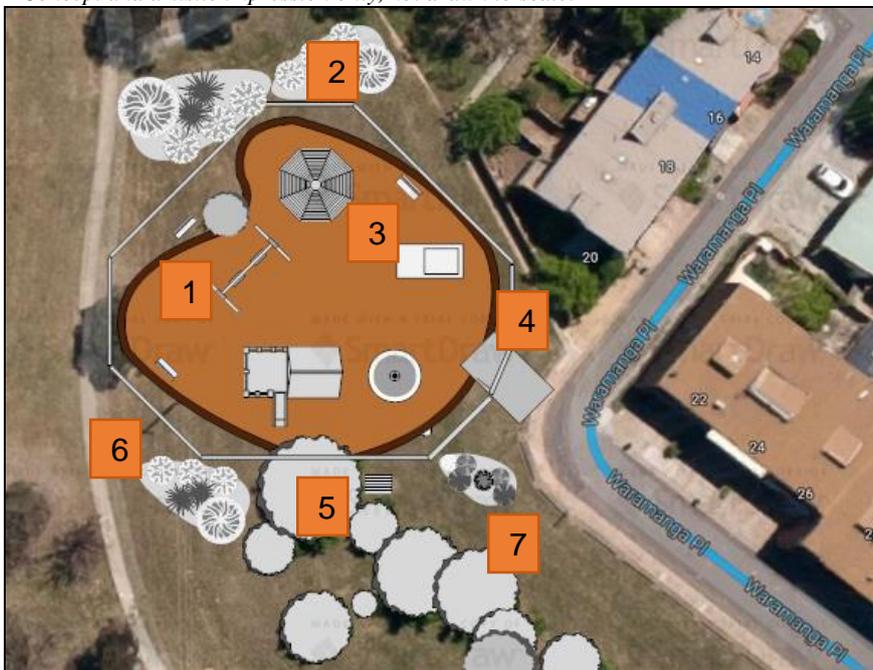
Waramanga community members have held a number of meetings and discussions with Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) representatives.

On 27 April 2017, TCCS representatives visited the proposed site to discuss the proposal with community residents, Dan Hoyt and Elizabeth Hoyt. TCCS conducted a site assessment and “dial before you dig asset analysis” of the proposed location for the playground and new facilities and it was assessed as suitable. There are no major water or power lines that coincide with the proposed location of the playground.

Community residents have been working closely with local members of the legislative assembly, board members of the Weston Creek Community Council and TCCS. A proposed design, developed in collaboration with TCCS, is at Attachment D. Community residents have also been working with TCCS to develop costings for this proposal. TCCS will be providing you with a brief and costings in conjunction with this submission.

The proposed playspace will be located at the back of the Waramanga Medical Centre (as shown below). It will draw on the existing established trees, which will provide shade and greenery for families. There will be extra parks allocated, including disabled parks, to improve accessibility and promote inclusivity to the Playspace for all families.

** Concept and artistic impression only, not drawn to scale.*



1. Fully enclosed and fenced playground for complete security for children and families
2. Nature based play and landscaping
3. Internal seating and shaded area for parents and children
4. Child safety fencing and gate
5. Tables and chairs/ shaded area
6. Table and chairs viewing point with shade and barbecues
7. All ages exercise equipment

Recommendations to the Minister for Transport and City Services, Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Recommendation 1: To build a playground and community space, including exercise equipment to promote all ages use, on the lawns behind the Waramanga Medical Centre. The proposed playspace would be similar in design and scale to the playspace at the Chifley shops, which has become a central meeting point for local families (example photos provided below).

Recommendation 2: To build a community space with tables and chairs for picnics, barbecues and shade sails to complement the playground and support community development.

Recommendation 3: To build toilet facilities to be used by the community and customers of the Waramanga shopping precinct.

Exact costings for these recommendations will be provided by TCCS separately.

The Waramanga community playspace proposal is based on the same principles as the Chifley playground. This development has played a key role in building the social connection between local residents and enhancing the cognitive growth of local children. The Chifley Playspace has essentials like a toilet block, a range of playground and exercise equipment and play areas for all ages, as well as great places to picnic. The main play area features climbing frames, nets, and walls, and a small fortress style playground. There is another section that has a fun slide, ladders and other climbing activities. Another section has swings and there is nature based play as well. There is also a cute red train that children love playing in. In addition to this, on the other side of the oval there is a range of different exercise equipment to promote healthy lifestyles.

Pictured: Some of the play equipment and facilities at the Chifley Playspace (not all equipment pictured).



1.4 Media to Date on the Waramanga Playground Proposal

The petition and community led proposal have generated significant media coverage, including on local newspapers, radio stations and social media.

The *Canberra Chronicle* gave front-page coverage on the push for a playground in Waramanga on two separate occasions. It has also been covered by the *Queanbeyan Age* and 2CC Canberra radio and 1WAYFM radio stations as well (refer to media links below).

Both YouTube videos have cumulatively received hundreds of hits, which highlights the immense need and community support for this proposal.

Coverage includes, but is not limited to:

Canberra Chronicle

“Almost Playtime”, Canberra Chronicle – front page and page three, 26 September 2017

“Playground Push”, Canberra Chronicle – Front page, 2 May 2017

Queanbeyan Chronicle

<http://www.queanbeyanagechronicle.com.au/story/4622898/calls-for-new-playground-grows/?cs=12>.

2CC Radio Podcast -

<http://2cc.net.au/podcasts/7655-finally-some-progress-on-a-second-servo-for-weston-creek.html?platform=hootsuite>

Weston Creek Community Council Website

<http://www.wccc.com.au/waramanga-playground-needed/>

<https://westoncreek.org.au/the-warramanga-block-party/>

YouTube Video – Don’t leave Waramanga behind, Waramanga needs a Playground

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjUNmpp2JJI>

YouTube Video – Waramanga Block Party – Community Consultations for Proposed Playground

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqT0vJ1gHP4&feature=youtu.be>

1WayFM radio Station and Website

Interview with Elizabeth Hoyt on Thursday 26 October 2017

Advertising for Waramanga block party – 1WAY FM

www.1wayfm.com.au/events/waramanga-block-party

Articles and media relating to the Waramanga playground proposal are at Attachment E.

Contact Details

To discuss any aspects of this proposal in more detail, please contact:

Elizabeth Hoyt

Local Waramanga resident

Email: Elizabeth.Hoyt@pmc.gov.au

Phone: 0428 948 380

Tessa Roberts

Contract Supervisor - Transport Canberra and City Services

Email: Tessa.Roberts@act.gov.au

Phone: (02) 6207 5034

Tom Anderson

Chair of the Weston Creek Community Council

Email: tomanderson9994@msn.com

Phone: (02) 6287 3845

Attachment A – PowerPoint Slides, Stage Two of Community Consultations

PETITION TO BUILD A COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL AREA IN WARAMANGA



EXISTING FACILITIES IN WARAMANGA

- Ageing assets
- Not conveniently located
- Only accessible by poorly maintained paths
- No parking
- Only used by immediate residents
- Facilities do not help build a sense of community
- Facilities do not generate tourism to the area or shops
- Unlike other areas there is nothing at the local shops!

WARAMANGA NEEDS A COMMUNITY SPACE

- Good for local businesses
- Will bring vibrancy to the community
- Other local shops have a playground
- Playgrounds at local schools are gated
- Good for cognitive and social development
- Will help tackle childhood obesity and get kids active
- Graffiti on the walls are an eye sore
- Decrease crime and vandalism
- Waramanga is consistently missing out – e.g. Canberra rail, public housing

A COMMUNITY SPACE IN WARAMANGA

- Examples - Fetherston gardens and Shirley Play Space
- Something for all residents to enjoy
 - BBQ, seating and shaded area
 - Toilet block
 - All ages, all accessible playground
 - Nature based play
 - Indigenous themed playground and recreational area – Currently nothing like this in Canberra!

PETITION AT THE WARAMANGA SHOPS

- Over 200 signatures, some of the comments include:
 - "Waramanga has no playground, we need one!"
 - "Very good idea, the area especially needs it now that the school play equipment is fenced"
 - "Excellent – couldn't happen sooner"
 - "Lovely little centre, a park for children would be great"
 - "Use the space for us" (currently dead space behind Medical Centre)
 - "Great for families and local businesses"
 - "Would greatly improve community living"
 - "Would improve the centre and bring more people"
 - "We obviously need it"
 - "We really need toilet facilities".

AN INDIGENOUS THEMED PLAYGROUND



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ACT GOVERNMENT SITE VISIT

"this is a great site for a community recreational area, but there is no funding for it"

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Federal, ACT and local government grants
- Community grants with a focus on:
 - Tackling childhood obesity
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Play based learning activities for children
 - Indigenous culture, art and history
- Bank grants
- Corporate sponsors
- Crowd funding
- Any other ideas?



NEXT STEPS

Send ideas to Elizabeth Hoyt

Email: ElizabethJHoyt@yahoo.com

Phone: 0428 948 380

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

Your local voice



Attachment B – Poster for the Waramanga Block Party



WARAMANGA COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

“THE WARAMANGA SHOPS NEED A PLAYGROUND – COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS”



WHEN: SATURDAY 28th of October 2017 TIME: 10AM – 3PM

WHERE: On the grass behind the Waramanga Medical Centre at the Waramanga shops

- Come and meet your neighbours and local community!
- Bring a picnic and some chairs.
- There will be food and drinks to purchase.
- Games for kids!
- Fundraising Raffle – all funds will go towards the playground.
- Markets and bric a brac. Come have a browse!
- We will be conducting consultations for the proposed Waramanga playground – Let the ACT Government know what you want and how important this is for the community!



- If you are interested in holding a stall call 0477 657 066 or email danhoyt78@gmail.com
- In case of rain block party will be held undercover at the shops.

Attachment C – Interview Transcripts from the Waramanga Block Party (taken verbatim)

Interview One

It is great to be here in Waramanga today and showcasing the Waramanga community and the real need for a playground on this site. It is really lovely to see all the kids here playing and I would really love to see them playing here all the time and every day. Therefore, I really support the Waramanga community's push for a playground at the Waramanga shops.

Interview Two

It is definitely worthwhile to have a playground here to bring people out so they can meet each other and have some fun.

Interview Three

It is a godsend when you have to take your baby to the shops and they get cranky it would be great to have a playground so you can just take them there for ten minutes in the playground and meet other people. I think it would be great. I think it really needs it. And the space is just sitting here not doing anything and it's a real shame to just let this land continue sitting here and not doing anything when it could be making lots of people really happy.

Interview Four

I am a Waramanga resident and I have been in Waramanga for 32 years and I own my own house and I would like to let people to know I am single, 53 and never married , never had any children. I live by myself and I am a really happy soul because Waramanga is a beautiful suburb and I think the government is doing a really great job and maintaining it as best as they can. But what I would really like to say to people is please remember that we were all children at one stage of our life and we all used to play at the playground so maybe that will help some of the people make the decision to support our community. I support the children's playground event though I am single. Thank you all. Enjoy Waramanga.

Interview Five

It's really lovely to come along here today to be part of this Waramanga block party and show that people from the neighborhood are here to try and show the government there is a real need for a playground here. Just look around and you can look behind me and see the fence that fences off the school playground so they cannot use that. It is a wonderful initiate. The community is behind it. The community council is behind it and we want a playground. So please in the budget this year, please fund a playground for the families of Waramanga.

Interview Six

Playgrounds are really important for children's development especially getting that hand eye coordination and building up their bodies at this young age. So for an area like Waramanga to not have a playground is actually really detrimental for the whole community. We have to think about that next generation and invest in a park. Actually, we wanted to take our daughter to the playground today and it would have been nice to take her to the playground just over there, but we cannot because it is gated off. I understand the need for increased security at the school, but the kids of Waramanga shouldn't miss out on a playground.

Interview Seven

Hello, we are Luke, Kate, Dave and Laura and we would like to have a park here with a lovely playground in this great area. I think it would really help bring the residents of Waramanga together and essentially no one using the space at the moment at all. At the moment we have to bring the play equipment with us if we want to play on something (points around to the play equipment) so I think the government should do something about that.

Interview Eight

Hi I am Jim and I live in Weston Creek and I walk past this school every day, Arawang Primary School every day with my wife and child. There used to be a perfectly fine playground and it's in the school and that's great, but now that playground is the school is fenced and the gates are locked and that is completely understandable but the kids have no place to play. We need a playground and we need a community for its own sake. The kids need a place to play and the parents need a place to take them. So let's do it, let's do it now.

Interview Nine

It's so important for kids and local families to get a playground at the shops. Playgrounds are really important for getting kids off screens. This is such an issue nowadays. The easiest way to get kids more active and more healthy is to provide them with options so they want to get outside playing. This will be good for the parents too. They will be able to get more shopping done while the kids are outside playing with other kids. In addition to a playground there should be exercise equipment so the space can be used by community members of all ages. Getting people active and encouraging families to spend more time outdoors is important for combatting depression and obesity. Building stronger, happier, healthier communities should be at the forefront of the government's agenda.

Interview Ten

We really appreciate what the community is trying to do here. I want to organize another block party for all the neighbors at Christmas time. We have such a great group of community members here, more than half with young families, so you've got to have the right facilities to support the growth of young people in the area. I really hope the government supports this initiative. It would be good to have some tables and chairs and barbecues. This would be really helpful for a Christmas Block Party and other events.

Interview Eleven

The government definitely needs to support this. We need some toilet blocks too. It's really annoying when you go to the shops and there are no toilets to use. Chifley has a toilet block. We should get one like theirs.

Interview Twelve

We've got the best local shops, not like some other local shops I've seen. So many people come here. I see so many kids just milling around the shops, which is dangerous. My two would get good use out of a new playground that is for sure.

Interview Thirteen

Just take a look around. So many kids have had such a great time on the playground here today. They love the seesaw. Think of how they would be if we had actual equipment here. I don't know why Waramanga doesn't have it's own playground. It's a very good idea.

Community led submission: Proposal for a community playspace at the Waramanga shops

Interview Fourteen

I am currently on maternity leave with my daughter and there is nowhere I can go in Waramanga to meet up with my mother's group. Waramanga really needs a playground and nice seating. These trees are the perfect place for that. The government also needs to fix up the local footpaths. It is really hard pushing a pram around here.

Interview Sixteen

Hi we are Hayley and Peter and we live on this block with our two girls. There are no playgrounds nearby for our children to enjoy. It's a real travesty. It is vital for our kid's development. The government needs to do something about this.

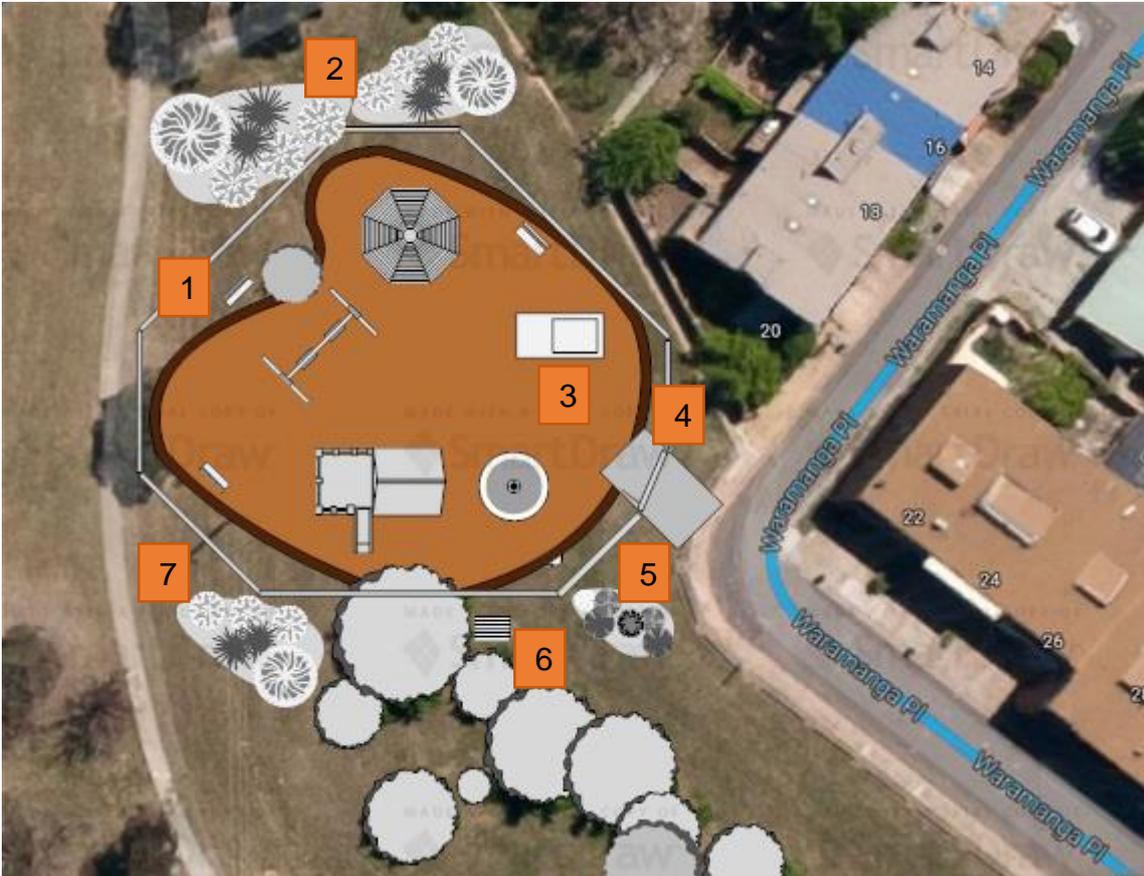
Interview Seventeen

It is important we get this. My rates and taxes are going up every year, but I never see the government doing any upgrades in our area. A playground would be great for local businesses too. Everyone would benefit from this.

Interview Eighteen

I live on this block and even though I don't have any kids I support this initiative, who wouldn't? I would definitely use the picnic tables and barbecue facilities though. That would be great.

Attachment D – Playground design developed in collaboration with TCCS



* Concept and artistic impression only, not drawn to scale.

1. Fully enclosed and fenced Playspace for complete security for children and families
2. Nature based Playspace
3. Internal seating and shaded area for parents and children
4. Child safety fencing and gate
5. Exercise equipment to promote all ages use
6. Sitting viewing point – tables, chairs and barbecue area
7. Grassy area for picnic tables and chairs

Attachment E – Media to Date on the Waramanga Playground Proposal

FREE

The Chronicle

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR CANBERRA AND QUEANBEYAN

Fashion stars strut the dogwalk during annual harvest festival

Dachshunds dressed in harvest-themed attire roamed among the gourmet market stalls at the Bungendore Harvest Festival on Saturday, before taking to the streets. The dachshund fashion parade and street walk attracted about 50 dogs and plenty of sausage dog enthusiasts. The crowds were thrilled to see so many dachshunds, and the dogs were happy with the attention.



STRUTTING THEIR STUFF: Suki, dressed as a bunch of grapes handmade by her owner, during the high stakes parade. Photo: Dion Georgopoulos

Playground push

BY ANDREW BROWN

WESTON Creek residents have launched a community campaign calling for a playground to be built near the Waramanga shops.

A petition for the proposal, which was signed by more than 300 residents, was presented to the ACT government following a recent meeting.

Residents are arguing Waramanga is being left behind compared to nearby suburbs such as Rivett and Chapman, which have had playgrounds built in communal areas in recent years.

Weston Creek Community Council chairman Tom Anderson said such an area near the shops would bring more people to Waramanga.

"We can add value to the shops, and it will be a good location to the playground," he said.

"The residents see this as a need because of the upgrade to the shops at Waramanga."

While the specifics of the plan or the amount of money needed for the proposal has not been finalised, initial talks have begun on establishing a playground.

With more young families moving into the Weston Creek area, Mr Anderson said spaces such as a playground in the area would be valuable.

"There's suddenly an influx of children and the school playground is out of action after school," he said.

"Parents will be able to go there after school while picking up the children, that would be the ideal situation."

As well as a petition, an online video has also been made highlighting the benefits of the proposal, which has already received several hundred views.

The video outlines there are many spaces nearby the shops in Waramanga for the future playground to be built.

Mr Anderson also said the playground would bring more business to nearby shops.

"It's an opportunity for both government and the community to work together to provide a valuable resource that will benefit a whole range of people from the children to the parents to the shopkeepers," he said.

"It will make it more attractive for people to sit there."

The community council hope discussions about the potential playground will continue as more residents sign the petition.

"We see this as a positive sign and that [ACT government] are looking at where it could be located," Mr Anderson said.

The proposal was discussed during a Weston Creek Community Council meeting on Wednesday.



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SUBMISSION FOR A PLAYGROUND AT THE WARAMANGA SHOPS

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COMMUNITY NEWS FOR CANBERRA AND QUEANBEYAN

Crazy games galore at Finnish embassy independence party

There were plenty of intriguing and unconventional games on offer at the Finnish embassy over the weekend. Toy horse racing, known as hobby horsing, wife-carrying and an air guitar competition were all part of the fun, with the embassy hosting a celebration ahead of Finland's centenary of independence.

Full story – page 4.



The Finnish Crazy Games Event 2017, Christian Borg 11 trying to beat the best time in hobbyhorsing. Photo: Dion Georgopoulos

Almost playtime

BY ANDREW BROWN

WARAMANGA could be one step closer to getting its first playground, with community meetings on the proposal scheduled for this week.

The meeting on September 27 at the Raiders Club will be the third in a series of four community consultations for the proposal, which would see a playground built near the shops in the Weston Creek suburb.

Momentum for the project has been growing within Waramanga for several months after a petition calling for the playground received more than 400 signatures.

The petition was then presented to the ACT government and tabled in the Legislative Assembly in June.

Weston Creek Community Council member Elizabeth Hoyt said the proposal was being actively considered by

the territory government.

"The Transport Canberra and Community Service's minister's officer has advised they are considering the proposal alongside other proposals for the 2017-18 budget," she said.

"We should be in pretty good standing if we are able to provide good community consultation as well as some costings and options for them."

It's estimated that a play-

ground envisaged by the community council for the area near the shops could cost \$350,000.

Ms Hoyt said the suburb was in desperate need of a playground area, with Waramanga being left behind compared to other suburbs in the region.

"There's this big, wide open space that's been sitting vacant there for 50 years, waiting for a playground to be built on it," she said.

"The only one in the suburb is where the school is but they're gated, so people can't use it on weekends."

As part of the design for the proposed playground, Ms Hoyt said it would include large shaded areas as well as multi-function play equipment.

"There would also be an emphasis on seating and shade so that children and families of all ages can enjoy the space," she said.

Community council chairman Tom Anderson said as well as providing facilities for the growing number of families in the region, it could also boost the nearby shops.

"We can add value to the shops and it will be a good location for young families to use the playground and seating area," he said.

YCCS has already drafted a design to the playground area.

Continued page 3

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SUBMISSION FOR A PLAYGROUND AT THE WARAMANGA SHOPS



PLAYGROUND NEEDED: Waramanga residents Dan Hoyt, Elizabeth Hoyt, Jim Wilson and Jillian Hosking-Wilson at the site of the proposed playground. Photo: Supplied

New building could 'kill' Manuka area

BY KATIE BURGESS

THE redevelopment of Stuart Flats will generate a 240 per cent increase in traffic around the Griffith site, tender documents for an adjacent demolition reveal.

However inner south Canberra residents say the modelling was not a complete picture and have renewed calls for a masterplan for Manuka.

The parcel of land on Light Street will be sold in 2018-19 as part of the federal asset recycling scheme, where governments get a bonus for selling off their ageing public assets.

The site allows for a mix of six-storey apartments and three-storey townhouses with a maximum of 492 homes. Currently there are 29 bedsitter and 117

two-bedroom flats on the 30,137 square-metre site.

The government will start consulting with tenants about the sale from next month, an ACT government spokesman said, with all to be in their new homes by early 2019.

The former Menslink building across the road will be demolished and sold separately, but at the same time as Stuart Flats sale. Tender documents for its demolition have shown the scale of traffic disruption expected from Stuart Flats redevelopment.

A 2016 traffic report showed while the tenants of the flats currently undertook about 876 trips per day, the redeveloped site would generate 2952 trips per day. The same analysis showed the site would also need 984 residential parking

spaces and 123 visitor spaces. It warned the Canberra Avenue, Lefroy and Eyre Streets intersection already operated at capacity and the redevelopment would have an "adverse" impact.

Griffith Narrabundah Community Council president Dr Leo Dobes said the modelling should be treated with caution, as its matrix did not include data about trip destinations. He said a masterplan needed to be developed for Manuka as the "piecemeal" approach to approving developments threatened to choke the suburb centre.

"Because they're doing it in a piecemeal way Manuka will end up like Kingston where there's no parking on the street. That'll kill Kingston eventually and it may end up killing Manuka."

Waramanga playground closer

(Continued from Page 1)

Ms Hoyt said a final decision on whether the project will get the green light could be made in a matter of months.

"If we can provide an outcome to the minister by November, and then they can use that to inform their

decisions for the 2017-18 budget that will be ongoing from November and December," she said.

The fourth and final community consultation on the project will be on October 28 at the Waramanga Block Party event.

Funds raised from the

block party will be used to help fund the playground's construction.

"Once we finalise the outcomes from the community consultations and submit it to the government, hopefully we will be able to get some positive feedback," Ms Hoyt said.

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Residents launch campaign for new playground in Waramanga



Andrew Brown

News



Playground wanted: The Weston Creek Community Council have said playgrounds such as the one in Rivett has brought more people to the area. Photo: YouTube

Weston Creek residents have launched a community campaign calling for a playground to be built near Waramanga shops.

A petition for the proposal, which was signed by more than 300 residents, was presented to the ACT government following a recent meeting.

Residents are arguing Waramanga is being left behind compared to nearby suburbs such as Rivett and Chapman, which have had playgrounds built in communal areas in recent years.

For the rest of the article refer here: <http://www.queanbeyanagechronicle.com.au/story/4622898/calls-for-new-playground-grows/?cs=12>.

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