

Old Canberra Brickworks and Environs Planning Strategy

Project Reference Group

Project overview, process & terms of reference

Background

The ACT Government, through the Land Development Agency (LDA), is working with a multidisciplinary team of planners and designers to prepare a planning strategy for Yarralumla-West Deakin – with a particular focus on the Old Canberra Brickworks site and surrounds ('the study area').

The Old Canberra Brickworks and Environs Planning Strategy will provide a framework for future land use, transport and other infrastructure improvements in the area. The planning strategy will address existing issues such as access, connectivity, transport and public space, appropriate protection and reuse of the existing structures and the scope for any residential development in the precinct – and identify how the study area can contribute in the best possible way to Canberra's future.

The study area is an important strategic site for Canberra – holding local, regional and national significance. Encompassing the Old Canberra Brickworks, the 60-hectare study area forms a major axis with Parliament House, the entryway to Government House, and is adjacent to the Australian Government Mint and residential areas. It is a key gateway into the city from Woden, Tuggeranong, and the proposed growth area of Molonglo.

Recognising the significance of the study area, LDA will develop the planning strategy through an extensive consultation process involving both local residents and the wider Canberra community.

Purpose/Terms of Reference

The Old Canberra Brickworks and Environs Project Reference Group will be known as the Project Reference Group.

The Project Reference Group will provide a forum to:

- provide advice and guidance to LDA and the project team
- test ideas
- gain a broad cross section of views to inform the planning process
- provide information to key community members which will allow them to disseminate information about the planning process to their organisations, associations and/or networks.

The Project Reference Group is not a decision-making body, however the Land Development Agency will take account of the Project Reference Group's discussion outcomes in its planning process.

Meetings

The Project Reference Group will meet initially for four two-hour meetings, held monthly from May 2010. The Project Reference Group will cease following the fourth and final meeting.

The meetings will be chaired by an independent facilitator from Elton Consulting.

The meetings will be arranged by Elton Consulting. Members will be notified in writing of actual meeting dates as they are determined. Whenever possible, members will receive written advice of any change to meeting details at least one week prior to the meeting.

Membership

Membership of the Project Reference Group has been finalised by the Land Development Agency. Members have been invited on the basis of having a demonstrated interest or links to the study area or connections with the local community. Specifically, the Project Reference Group membership comprises the following groups, businesses and individuals:

Community

- Yarralumla Residents Association (YRA) – two members
- Deakin Residents' Association – one member
- Community members – two members from Yarralumla – residential and business reps and one member from West Deakin
- Yarralumla Primary School P&C – one member

Interest groups

- Griffin Society – one member
- Pedal Power ACT – one member
- Canberra Pedestrians Forum – one member
- National Trust – one member
- ACT Institute of Architects – one member
- Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) - ACT Division President: Hamish Sinclair
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) – ACT Division – one member

Business

- Royal Canberra Golf Club – one member
- ACT & Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry – one member
- Canberra Business Council (CBC) – one member

The Project Reference Group represents a diverse range of stakeholders and it is therefore assumed that group members may hold diverse views. The purpose of this group is not necessarily to seek consensus on issues, but to ensure the process is informed by a wide variety of stakeholder views.

Employees of Elton Consulting and the Land Development Agency will also be present at all meetings in order to provide information to the Project Reference Group. Representatives from Heritage Council and/or TAMS and/or the Chief Minister's Office may attend these meetings and provide advice on an as needs basis.

Meetings will not be open to observers, except with the agreement of the Land Development Agency.

Process and Reporting

Elton Consulting has been engaged by the Land Development Agency to independently facilitate each of the four meetings as described above in order to ensure consistency, transparency and effectiveness in the Project Reference Group process. The facilitator will not represent the Project Reference Group or the views of the Project Reference Group or any other party.

Meetings will be informally, but professionally, facilitated to ensure discussions are focussed and systematic. This will ensure that all members of the Project Reference Group will have equal opportunity to contribute and provide feedback.

Elton Consulting is also supplying a note taker for the meetings and will arrange for meeting records (as distinct from formal minutes) to be distributed via the Land Development Agency to all Project Reference Group participants within five working days of each meeting. Meeting notes will provide a brief record of key discussion items and actions.

If members of the Project Reference Group have questions between meetings, they are invited to contact Elton Consulting. Queries will be forwarded to the appropriate member of the Project Team, as relevant.

Contact:

- Lauren Hendry Parsons Ph: 9387 2600, Email: lauren@elton.com.au

Terms of Participation

1. Representatives are asked to commit to attending all meetings.
2. The agenda for each meeting will be set by the Land Development Agency, taking into account issues raised at the previous meeting. Members shall receive an agenda not later than seven days of each meeting.
3. Project Reference Group members shall receive copies of relevant documentation with the agenda. Project Reference Group members are requested to make themselves familiar with this documentation to ensure effective and efficient communication ensues.
4. Where a response cannot be given at the meeting, questions shall be taken on notice and a reply given either via the meetings notes or at the next meeting.
5. No single member shall make public statements purporting to represent the views of the Project Reference Group. Members are encouraged to refer any media enquiries regarding the Project Reference Group or the renewal of the Old Canberra Brickworks and Environs to the Land Development Agency - Kristi Jorgensen on (02) 6207 7316, or alternatively on kristi.jorgensen@act.gov.au

Project Team

The LDA has assembled a team of experienced professionals to assist in the preparation of the planning strategy.

The team comprises:

- **Hill Thalys Architecture + Urban Projects**, a highly regarded design firm that has completed more than 450 projects, studies and commissions for government and the private sector. These include the Sustainable Sydney 2030 strategy and the winning design for the 22 hectare dockland renewal, Barangaroo, in central Sydney.
- **Jane Irwin Landscape Architects**, a firm experienced across all levels of urban design – from gardens to the shaping of new city locations. The firm places people at the centre of each project – based on a thorough understanding of the ways people shape, and are shaped by, the natural and built environment.
- **SMEC – Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation** was born from Australia's single biggest engineering project, the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric scheme and now ranks in the world's top 100 international engineering and design firms. SMEC has extensive local knowledge and has completed thousands of projects and delivered a vast range of management services across the globe.
- **Sphere Property** For more than 20 years SPC has been helping public and private sector clients to determine the most prudent way of managing their assets and delivering their projects.
- **Elton Consulting**, a specialist consultancy group with extensive experience in designing and delivering community and stakeholder engagement processes for land development and master planning projects. Elton Consulting understands the importance of thorough and robust consultation with stakeholders on planning issues.
- **Lovell Chen**, a contemporary architectural practice with more than 25 years' experience in design and heritage have also been commissioned to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Old Canberra Brickworks site.