



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL

Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA (Chair), Mr Mark Parton MLA (Deputy Chair)

Mr Michael Petterson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Planning for the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency Centre (SPIRE) and the Canberra Hospital campus and immediate surrounds.

Submission Number: 24 - D. Smith

Date Authorised for Publication: 26 February 2020

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - PUR](#)
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into planning for SPIRE
Date: Sunday, 23 February 2020 8:51:27 PM

To the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into Planning for the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency Centre (SPIRE) and the Canberra Hospital campus and immediate surrounds.

In view of the fact that, like so many in our community, I struggle to make the time and find the energy to lend my voice to the various important issues we face (especially in the wake of the extraordinary circumstances of the past few months), my submission is essentially seconding the concerns and arguments put forward by the Woden Valley Community Council, as per forwarded media release dated 27 January 2020.

I note that the closing date for submissions to the Inquiry has been extended to today, Sunday 23 February 2020.

I don't think the current SPIRE site selection is appropriate. It seems vastly inferior to earlier plans.

The ACT government should give due respect to the Canberra community and consult with it on all key infrastructure projects upfront, always allowing reasonable time for considered input from the community councils. It is outrageous that the ACT government deliberately decided not to consult the community upfront on the SPIRE project.

My chief concern is that all SPIRE project decisions be made to achieve an outcome that is best for Canberra community in the longer term. This includes making the wisest investment of precious public monies that we can, which should take into account the total anticipated health needs of the ACT and surrounding region well into the future.

Fundamentally, emergency access to The Canberra Hospital (TCH) needs to be from Yamba Drive, and the helipad should be positioned such that the flow to emergency is optimised and the negative noise impact on residences near TCH (i.e. within a pre-determined radius, e.g. less than 500m) be minimised and those residences offered appropriate noise insulation.

Yours faithfully.

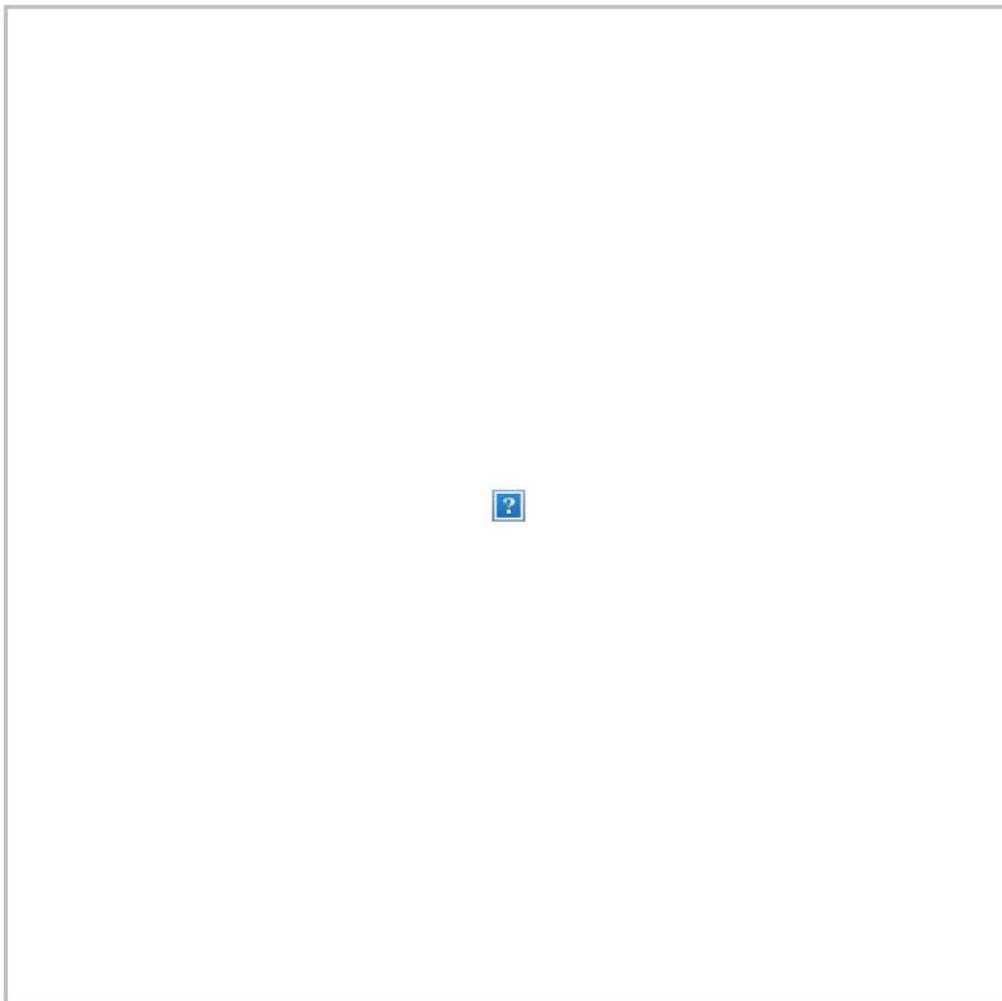
Ms Dione Smith
[REDACTED]
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: President WVCC [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, 27 Jan 2020 at 11:02

Subject: WVCC Media Release - Inquiry into planning for SPIRE - submissions due by 14 February 2020

To: [REDACTED]



MEDIA RELEASE

27 January 2020

Inquiry into planning for SPIRE - submissions due by 14 February 2020

Key points

- Cart before the horse – the Palmer Street site for SPIRE (Emergency) was chosen prior to a Precinct Plan being developed for the future growth of the Canberra Hospital campus
- An options analysis should investigate the effectiveness of access to the emergency and patient flows around the campus for various sites, including Building 3 on Yamba Drive
- Garran residents have expressed strong concerns about the safety of school children from ambulance movements on a residential street, traffic congestion and parking difficulties
- Residents are concerned about the lack of consultation and clarity around the site selection
- A Legislative Assembly Committee is undertaking an Inquiry into the planning for SPIRE and the hospital precinct, and encourages residents to lodge a submission outlining their views

The \$500 million Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency ([SPIRE](#)) is a much

needed acute care facility for Canberra and the surrounding regions and the WVCC supports its construction on the Canberra Hospital campus.

It is important that this acute care facility is located to achieve [hospital wide patient flows](#) as the hospital is developed to meet the health needs of the growing population. Effective patient flows improve health outcomes and provide a better experience for patients and staff.

In 2009, under the [Your Health – Our Priority initiative](#), the ACT Government provided \$300 million to begin work on a ten year plan to support our frontline health staff in delivering cutting edge health services by providing them with access to emerging technologies and optimal capital infrastructure. Under this initiative the Emergency building was [centrally located on Building 3](#) with access from Yamba Drive, there was a medi-hotel and a training and education precinct in addition to the ANU medical school.

In the [2016 election](#), \$500 million was provided for the emergency building which was moved to the current helipad site and named SPIRE.

In December 2018, the former ACT Minister for Health issued a [media release](#) announcing that SPIRE will be built between Hospital Road and Palmer Street, stating that the advantage of this location is the minimal disruption to critical care services during the building phase.

The range of old buildings on the site provides options to plan for the staged development of a world class health precinct. This could include the development of the 5.5 hectare former Woden Valley High School site for complementary allied health services, including a hydrotherapy pool.

Garran residents have expressed strong concerns about the proposed site's safety (especially for primary school children due to ambulance movements on Palmer Street), traffic congestion and parking shortages.

The broader community has raised concerns about the lack of a precinct plan to ensure the emergency building is sited in the best position for efficient ambulance access, effective patient flows and connectivity to the rest of the precinct, including the wards, parking, accommodation and green peaceful places.

The ACT Government's Local Community Reference Group has attracted close to 60 registrations reflecting the significant community interest in SPIRE. It is not clear how the ACT Government will ensure the Group is representative of the community's views given the site is not for discussion and the group will be reduced to around 15 people.

The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal is undertaking an [Inquiry into the planning for SPIRE and the Canberra Hospital campus](#). Submissions are due on 14 February 2020. For more information go to www.wvcc.org.au and the Legislative Assembly website ([link to website](#))

For enquiries please contact Fiona Carrick at president@wvcc.org.au





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