



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Meredith Hunter MLA (Deputy Chair)

Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA, John Hargreaves MLA, Caroline Le Couteur MLA

### COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

1. Name of organisation John Flynn Community Group and Flynn Primary School P&C

2. Name of contact person & telephone and email contact details Cathy Nicoll,

3. Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT 2011-2012 Budget?

1. Construction of a childcare centre at Flynn at a cost of \$4 million has already started
2. Further development at a cost of another \$4 million is now proposed
3. The total cost of development at Flynn is now more than \$8 million

Comment We are concerned that the redevelopment of Flynn, now costing some \$8 million, will come at the expense of the needs of the local community. The budget proposals continue to undermine the Flynn community proposal for a sustainable, local community centre that protects the heritage value of the school and meets local needs..

4. Did you provide a budget submission to the Government?

Yes (go to question five)      No (go to question six)

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

Yes      No      Comment The Flynn community has provided its proposal for a

multi-use community centre that protects the heritage and meets local needs, with the aim of replacing the social functionality of the school. Despite commitments from government to negotiate this proposal, this has not happened.

6. What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas listed in question three?

Comment The budget proposal has failed to deliver the best use of \$8 million or safeguard heritage values. The Flynn community groups still have a proposal on the table, but decisions continue to be made without engaging with that proposal or the heritage values identified. The government has said in meetings that it sees Flynn Primary School as a regional facility—which is what the \$4 million childcare centre is. We therefore have every reason to believe the additional \$4 million will be used to further exclude the Flynn community from its only community facility.

Just before the estimates hearing last year, Flynn was promised involvement in all site masterplanning before the matter would proceed further, and we had been told there would be a tender for the childcare provider. This did not happen. Since the announcement of specific tenants, there have been meetings with the Flynn community, but no sign from DHCS that the engagement is genuine. DHCS officers appear to be implementing their solution regardless.

7. Are there any particular issues you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

Yes

No

8. Please provide a brief outline of the issue/s, in order of priority.
1. We have no confidence that the process around spending an additional \$4 million will be any better than the process used to spend the \$ 4 million on a childcare centre that impacts heritage values and brings almost no additional regional benefit and is not designed to bring anything extra to the Flynn community.
  
  2. The \$8 million could be better spent at Flynn to deliver a viable and sustainable community centre that protects heritage and meets community needs across all age groups through a social business model. Our understanding is that the community access will be limited to renting the school hall (presumably for a considerable fee). This reduces the community access space significantly from what we had when the school was open, and it will limit the capacity of the so-called hub to inject much needed social capital into Flynn.
  
  3. Despite the promise of millions of dollars, there is every indication from the process with DHCS so far that there is already a proposal in mind and that it will not protect heritage value, will not be inclusive of the Flynn community, and it will not aim to rebuild the social functionality of the suburb. The process around these matters is now the subject of independent investigations.  
[Please append your organisation's budget analysis if available]
9. Does your organisation want to attend a hearing on 13May 2011?
- Yes  
 No

If you have indicated yes, the Committee Office will contact you by COB Tuesday 10 May to confirm details. (Please note however, that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups).

**Please return by 12.00 noon, Monday 9 May 2011**

Thank you

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