



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2016-17

MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA (CHAIR), MR JAYSON HINDER MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MS JOY BURCH MLA, MR STEVE DOSZPOT MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE
ACT BUDGET 2016-17 PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 7 JUNE 2016

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to committees@parliament.act.gov.au by **3.00pm Friday 10 June 2016**. If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please append additional comments.

1. Full name of group/organisation: Crace Community Association

2. Name of contact person for this survey and their telephone number and email address:

David Pollard, [REDACTED]

3. Please provide a brief overview of your organisation/group and its purpose.

The Crace Community Association (CCA) represents the extended community of the Gungahlin suburb of Crace. While Crace residents and businesses are the core of our community demographic, we are inclusive of anyone wishing to participate. We often have residents from neighbouring suburbs such as Palmerston, Nicholls and beyond attend our events and participate in online discussions, etc. Our purpose is to foster the sense of community that is already strong within Crace. In addition, we have unintentionally become a community voice on issues local to our suburb. We also participate in the Gungahlin Community Council to be represented in our wider region.

4. Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?

Yes (If yes, please email it to the Committee Secretariat with your completed survey.)

No

5. Please list, in order of priority, your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2016-2017 (you can expand on these in Question 6):

- a. Environment and active lifestyle
- b. Green Waste
- c. Responsible and efficient spending of government funds

6. Please provide detail of your views on the ACT Budget in relation to your three priority areas?

a. Within our suburb, the biggest concerns regarding making active lifestyle choices revolve around keeping our public spaces clean and tidy. The new solar-powered "smart bins" being trialled will be a welcome addition to neighbourhoods. Public consultation as to the placement of bins is sought before simply replacing existing bins. Bins should be placed to encourage use of public spaces, rather than centrally located at shops, etc.

New public transport initiatives and spending on public playgrounds, especially shade sails in our local parks, are welcome additions to the budget.

We still have a strong preference for a dog park near Crace, and again recommend considering a space near the potential Nudurr Drive extension.

b. The introduction of a green waste scheme with a pilot to begin next year goes beyond our request for a feasibility study. It is hoped that this pilot is carefully considered for initial and ongoing expense, impact on local business, and viability. While there is a community call for green waste bins, there is also a voice against spending government funds on this activity, given local businesses already address this requirement.

c. As mentioned in item 6b, the introduction of such schemes at the green waste are welcome, though all previous reports from the Labor government have stated that such a scheme would not be feasible. If there is new evidence that the scheme is indeed feasible, this has not been transparently and effectively communicated to community. This is exactly the type of spending highlighted as worrying in our submission.

Another major concern for Crace residents is the unsupported public spaces that we have. These were put in place by the land developers CIC Australia with the agreement of government, though nobody is prepared to maintain them moving forwards. Responses from government indicate that they are not prepared or funded to maintain the public spaces that we have.

While the upgrades to playgrounds and parks are welcome, ongoing support for these upgrades must be provided. The government has stated a fiscal strategy of seeking efficient, long term benefit rather than short term "election sweeteners", though without a commitment to maintain our existing public spaces before new ones are added/upgraded, this does not appear to be entirely the case.

7. Are there any other particular issues with the ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

Yes No

a. If yes, please comment/attach further details:

8. Did you provide a budget submission to the ACT Government?

Yes (go to question 9) No (go to question 10)

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

Yes No

a. If yes, please comment

A significant focus of our submission surrounded waste management, both residential green waste, and litter in public spaces, especially along walking paths. The pilot green waste bins address that issue directly, while the trial of solar-powered "smart bins" we hope will go towards addressing the issue of litter in public spaces. We have been advised that a major barrier to having more suburban bins is the ongoing cost of collection, and we hope that smart bins reduces that barrier to the point that the community can have bins where they are needed the most.

The budget also includes spending on public transport initiatives, playground and public space spending, and healthy choices in schools that all go towards making it easier for families to make healthy lifestyle choices.

10. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 17 June 2016, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes No

If you indicate yes, and the Committee selects you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Support Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 15 June 2016 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups/organisations.

Thank you for contributing to the inquiry.
