



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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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:** 20 - Weston Creek Community Council

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*Your local voice*

■ ■ ■ weston creek  
■ ■ ■ community  
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Ms Annemeike Jongsma,  
Secretary,  
Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal,  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

23 February 2020

By E-mail: [LACommitteePUR@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteePUR@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Ms Jongsma,

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

The Weston Creek Community Council welcomes the opportunity to make a Submission to this Inquiry.

Council and the Weston Creek and Molonglo communities recognise that the \$500 million Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency (SPIRE) is a much needed acute care facility for Canberra and the surrounding regions.

However, we question the proposed location of the building on the north-east corner of the Hospital campus on the corner of two suburban streets and opposite the Garran Primary School.

While we are looking at the location of the SPIRE Building, we should also look at the benefits of incorporating the 5.5 hectare former CIT site into the Hospital Precinct to provide many ancillary services so that the main site can be used for the more hospital services.

I recall a presentation to a Council Public meeting on 27 May 2015 by Paul Carmody from ACT Health where the proposal was for a central location of the surgical centre. Surely this is where the location should be so that it is much

more accessible internally and externally. The external access should be via-ambulance access from the main arterial road, Yamba Drive while the internal access should be from the various wards and associated facilities to a centrally located anchor building to ensure effective patient flows and interfaces with existing services

The SPIRE building provides an opportunity to plan the campus and the interfaces with existing campus services (and the broader precinct) to achieve better health outcomes. It is the anchor of the campus and includes medical imaging, a surgical inpatient unit, an intensive care unit, an acute cardiac care unit and a mental health short stay unit. A variety of patients which would be better suited with a Central location.

It is both surprising and disappointing that the Palmer Street site for SPIRE has been chosen with the ambulance access on a single lane residential street and opposite a primary school with 40km/h speed limits. There are a number of issues associated with this including safety, traffic congestion, parking shortages and increased noise around this area from both Ambulance and helicopter let alone those trying to reach the building.

One last point is the proposal to use the site more intensively during both the construction phase and when fully operational does not appear to have regard to the mobility needs of people unable to access the site using a private motor vehicle. If the December 2019 Hospital Road closure arrangements are the standard to expect during construction, then I anticipate this community will be severely disappointed

One glaring omission too is need for Government to guarantee same platform connections at the Woden bus interchange, as a minimum, for Weston Creek and Molonglo residents.

It is difficult for our Council to support this development on this site but we remain available to appear at any Public Hearings.

Yours sincerely

Tom Anderson  
Chair  
Weston Creek Community Council