

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

The logo for Woden Valley Community Council Inc. features a stylized green and blue graphic of a valley or hills to the right of the text.

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Greg Tantala
Community Engagement
Economic Development Directorate
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Dear Greg

Mawson Stormwater Project

The Woden Valley Community Council (WVCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Mawson Stormwater Project.

We support the proposed works ‘in principle,’ as part of a long-term plan to improve the ecological amenity of Yarralumla Creek. In our view, a program of flood mitigation in this catchment is long overdue. We consider however, the proposed wetland development, just one small pond, as being grossly inadequate for this waterway.

We note that the Yarralumla Creek catchment was included for investigation in the Canberra Urban Waterways Rehabilitation project (that included significant Australian Government funding) and we are disappointed that no projects to implement wetlands within this catchment were undertaken as part of this initiative.

We wish to point out that in April 2010, the then Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Mr Simon Corbell, advised a public meeting of the WVCC, that a number of sites had been identified for building detention/retention ponds on Yarralumla Creek. Potential sites included: near Carruthers Street, Curtin; along Athllon Drive, Mawson; and near the Woden Green development (although the location of the latter was considered problematic).

The Minister envisaged the project's Woden plans would be considered in the 2011-12 ACT Government budget.

WVCC is also concerned that planning of important infrastructure in Woden Valley is proceeding without, in our view, adequate coordination between Economic Development Directorate (EDD) Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD).

Our understanding is that the ESDD will be undertaking a Woden/Mawson/Athllon Drive master planning process, following the ACT election and the formation of a new government.

It is vital that the stormwater and wetland works be considered as part of a Master Planning process, including full community consultation regarding any further development along Athllon Drive. We trust that the proposed development forms the first stage of a long term program of flood mitigation and wetland development along the waterways of Woden.

In concluding I would like to record the WVCC's appreciation to Patrick Paynter and the EDD team for their presentation at the Council's September meeting on this project. We also note and acknowledge the extensive community consultation that has been undertaken by you and your colleagues and look forward to participating in further dialogue as this project progresses.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jenny Stewart
President