

Minutes of the Westmead Community Voice Panel Meeting held at Westmead Progress Hall, 43 Hassall St, Westmead on Tuesday, 9 May 2023.

1. Open of Meeting and Acknowledgment to Country

The Meeting was opened by Council staff at 6:35pm.

Acknowledgement of the traditional owners of this land – the Darug People and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

In Attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Shona Porter, Executive Manager, City Strategy Christopher Manoski, Senior Coordinator, Place and Engagement Larissa Hubner, Coordinator, Urban Strategy and Planning Kaitlin McCaffery, Senior Strategic Planner Will Wang, Senior Strategic Planner Amruta Kumbhari, Strategic Planner Joshua Fattal, Place Making and Liason Officer Carol Karaki, Governance Manager Oscar Stanish, Urban Design Consultant, Architectus	Council Staff
Thirteen (13) Community Representatives	Community Voice Panel

Absent:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Two (2) Community Representatives	Community Voice Panel

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Nil to Report.

4. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were disclosed at this meeting.

5. Agenda Items

Governance Induction

CK undertook induction and covered the following topics for panel members:

- Terms of Reference

- Conflicts of Interest and Declaration
- Use of Council Information

Action: Council staff to send Conflict of Interest Form to all panel members

Council Introduction

The session commenced with SP introducing Council Staff working on the Westmead South Project, followed by an icebreaker activity

KC provided an overview of the Westmead South project, and outlined the timeline for future Community Voice Panel workshops this year.

Panel members requested that upcoming workshops be avoided during school holiday periods, conscious of other members with children. Council staff advised that the timeline of sessions presented were approximate dates and will be finalised in due course.

Action: Council staff to seek availabilities and confirm next meetings

Activity One – Westmead Motto Exercise

Council staff began the workshop with the first exercise, the Westmead Motto. This involved panel members discussing attributes or a motto that they feel expresses the three (3) most important values for the future of Westmead.

All members engaged in discussion in their groups and presented the following to describe how they might envision the future of Westmead to be:

Table One –

1. Place where people feel connected, to the land and one another
2. Open space – spacious
3. Around it is having its own identity and sense of belonging – not merging with Parramatta

Table Two –

1. Convenience – to parks, shops
2. Space – wide streets, open areas, parks around
3. Culturally diverse – sense of community

Table Three –

1. Community work – focus on family, open, equitable
2. Connection – sense of belonging, invested in the area, sense of ownerships of the area
3. Healthy – green, liveable, open, clean

Activity Two – World Conversations

The second engagement activity sought to understand place aspirations in other areas that panel members thought might benefit Westmead.

The first question for the Panel was 'Where have you been and wished that we had something like it near where you live/ in Westmead?'

Outcomes of this first question are summarised below:

Table One –

Members from Table One expressed a desire to see the following features throughout Westmead South:

- A suburb with safe roads and connectivity around the suburb
- Places to sit and relax
- Sporting facilities
- Toilets – have to go to the other side of Hawkesbury road or parra
- Gathering space – a large space where people in the community can gather – both indoor and outdoor – more than 60 people – there aren't any proper facilities for community gatherings
- Have spaces for kids, but not spaces for adults to relax – part of it has to be ownership from Council as well
- More Cafes
- Safe spaces for youth to relax and play in
- A community centre/hub
- Reimagining current open spaces to provide meaningful and multi purpose uses
- Providing opportunities for youth to be involved in having a sense of community.

When thinking about examples of places they have visited, the table suggested:

- Ashfield Community Garden
- Successful uses of community spaces– eg. Intimate Road Shows, Food Trucks, Eid and Diwali celebrations

Table One asked Council staff how many people have stayed in Westmead, expressing concern over the accuracy of current projections as they have observed a change in demographic.

Action: Council Staff to review and present demographic information to the Panel about how people are moving in and out of Westmead South and how this is factored into our strategic planning work.

Table Two –

Members from Table Two expressed a desire to see the following features throughout Westmead South:

- Dog parks
- Community resources – art gallery, habits for the community – kids, adults and the community
- Accessibility and walkability in the suburb – a place that is comfortable to walk through
- Safe to be approached and engage in evening activities
- Different spaces to spend time, meet people and be more active

Table Three –

Members from Table Three expressed a desire to see the following features throughout Westmead South:

- Dog parks
- Football spaces– current green space and not losing any green space
- Toy facilities – as the suburb redevelops, we need more kids open space facilities
- Social places for all – Activities and hubs for youth to go that hold value
- A reimagined Oakes Centre – not just a café, but a convenience hub for the community.

The next question ‘What out of the following considerations would you prioritise as part of the transformation of Hawkesbury Road?’ was put forward to the panel, including the below initial suggestions:

- Improved community spaces
- Walking and cycling links
- Speed limit reduced to 30km per hour around Schools
- Tree canopy expansion
- Increased bus services

Members discussed and listed the above key points in order of priority. During discussions, most panel members identified improved community spaces and walking and cycling links as their top priorities. This was followed by a mix of tree canopy expansion, increased bus services as their third or fourth priority. All tables had identified limiting the speed limit to 30km around school zones to be the lowest priority amongst the others.

A group member from Table one highlighted that there needs to be more recognition for Hawkesbury Road as one of the main roads in the precinct. Another group member from Table two explained that when speed limits are reduced, particularly for roads like Hawkesbury Road, the traffic will spill onto neighbouring streets. Considering that Hawkesbury Road is used in both directions, this can become an issue for streets adjacent to Hawkesbury Road.

Westmead Background

LH provided a presentation on the background of the Westmead South strategic planning work that has been undertaken to date by the State Government and agencies.

This covered Westmead’s regional role as a health and innovation district, and the key drivers of change for Westmead South. LH further provided an update on the status of Council’s planning activities for Westmead South, including procuring the following for detailed technical studies to support the master plan and planning proposal:

- First Nations
- Urban Design
- Stormwater/Hydraulics (Water Quality, Flooding and Stormwater)
- Economics
- Traffic and Transport
- First Nation

- Utilities and Services/ Infrastructure Funding
- SMART Places
- Air Quality and Acoustic Assessment
- Heritage Impact Assessment

A panel member asked Council Staff if there has been any commitment from the State Government regarding the exact number of dwellings that need to be provided for Westmead South. SP responded that there is no particular dwelling target, however, the State Government has shown housing growth in the area, which aligns with the significant State Government investment in the area. When planning where our future population will live, Council staff needs to consider proximity to jobs, transport, and open space when planning for this future community.

Another panel member asked Council Staff if there are any similar plans for increased residential development in areas immediately adjacent to Westmead North – such as Northmead. SP highlighted that Westmead South is primarily the residential precinct, however, in areas such as Northmead, it is anticipated that there will be some levels of residential development. Further adding, that Parramatta North has been identified as a precinct by the City of Parramatta, however there has not been a commitment to the number of dwellings that will be delivered.

SP noted that this information is available on Council's website, and will be uploaded onto the Westmead South Community Voice Panel 'Have Your Say' page.

Another panel member asked Council staff if, as a Community Voice Panel member, they have scope to advocate for reduced scale of housing. SP advised that one of the main outcomes of the Panel is to hear feedback directly from the community and also through individual submissions, which will be considered alongside the other submissions received, technical studies and investment in Westmead as a Global Health and Innovation Precinct.

Action: Council staff to upload strategic planning documents alongside workshop minutes.

Activity Three – Put the dot on the spot

Council Staff commenced the final exercise for the workshop. This exercise involved panel members interacting with picture boards and placing stickers onto maps of Westmead South. The Panel were asked to show locations most suitable for future housing and types of open space functions.

Topic One – Future Housing

Westmead South Precinct is projected to have 5k-15k additional population over the next 20 years. A question was put forward to the panel, 'Where do you think are the most appropriate locations for additional housing to accommodate the projected population growth?' This was followed by an instruction to place a green sticker on where they would like to see this in the precinct.

The outcomes of this exercise showed that the panel would see housing to accommodate the projected population growth along the northern and eastern boundary of the precinct.

This was also followed by targeted growth along the southern boundary of the precinct, along Great Western Highway.

Topic Two – Open Space functions

Examples of open space functions were listed on a board. The question was put forward to the panel of 'Which one(s) you think that are beneficial to you; however are NOT available now?'. This was similarly followed by an instruction to place a green sticker next to the functions on the board or add any missing ones in the blank column.

The outcomes of this exercise showed that the panel expressed a desire to see:

- Children and adult play facilities
- Community facilities such as BBQ areas, public toilets, and amenities
- Outdoor spaces and facilities such as Off leash dog parks, walking and cycling tracks

Missing open space functions that were proposed by the panel include:

- Need for a Community Centre or facility
- Public Art
- Sports Facility

Wrap up and Next Steps

Council staff wrapped up the workshop with a timeline of future Community Voice Panel sessions throughout the year and what they aim to cover. This was followed by an overview of ongoing and proposed work for the development of the Westmead South Master Plan.

Council staff concluded the workshop with a Q&A session for the panel to ask any questions they may have about the Community Voice Panel and future sessions.

A panel member sought clarification about the number of members on the panel, noting that two were absent from today's workshop. SP advised that the Community Voice Panel Terms of Reference outlines the requirements around attendance – If a member is unable to attend, an apology is to be provided to the Council prior to the meeting. A member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without submitting a satisfactory explanation will forfeit their place on the Community Voice Panel.

6. Next Meeting

Date to be confirmed.

7. Close of Business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:30pm.