



MEDIA *release*

Community Engagement Unit

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FUTURE USE OF FORMER SCHOOL SITES: SECOND SESSIONS - LOCAL CONSULTATIONS

Director of Property Group in Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Stephen Ryan, today announced the second round of local consultations for the future use of ten school sites across Canberra.

The second round of community displays will commence on Monday 19 November and include Hall, Flynn, Holt, Cook, Downer, North Curtin, Melrose (Chifley), Weston, Village Creek (Kambah) and Tharwa.

“This next round of consultations will seek community views on short-listed proposals being considered by the consultant team headed by Purdon Associates,” said Mr Ryan.

“The material on display and comments from the community and other user groups seeking accommodation will help inform the report being prepared by Purdons for the Government which is due in mid December this year.

“Purdons have identified a strong demand for use of school sites by the local community and a wide range of other organisations who have been looking for appropriate space,” said Mr Ryan.

However, local community needs are only one of several other considerations that Cabinet will have to address in deciding the future use of former school sites.

Mr Ryan said that other objectives include provision of accommodation for retirement living and affordable housing, as well as meeting the objectives of the Canberra Spatial Plan for more sustainable urban development.

Rob Purdon from Purdon Associates said that his team was looking forward to the next round of local consultations on this project.

“The previous community consultations have been positive and we are keen to develop the constructive contributions the community has provided to date”, Mr Purdon said.

“We are facing the difficult task of determining the most appropriate use for former school sites, given the need to respect local feelings and the need to accommodate very worthwhile user groups, balanced with other government priorities and goals.”

Mr Ryan said that the consultant team had clearly and concisely conveyed the main messages being made by local communities and user groups who had attended the consultations to date.

For further information, visit www.purdon.com.au/formerschoolsites or see local media advertisements and letterbox drops for details.

Statement ends: Sunday 18 November 2007

Further information: Nikki Hogan, telephone 0434 605 146.