



CSIRO Ginninderra Field Station Site

Consultation Report

Community Drop-in Sessions - August 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises community consultation undertaken by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in August 2016, in relation to sustainable urban development at the former Ginninderra Field Station site.

Consultation during this time continued to target priority stakeholders, in particular residents of the suburbs adjacent to the site. The purpose of this consultation was twofold: to ensure key stakeholders received up-to-date information about the progress of plans for the site; and to invite community feedback and ideas in order to shape the vision and early planning for sustainable urban development at Ginninderra. Two neighbourhood drop-in sessions were held on 25 August and 27 August 2016.

In August 2015, CSIRO requested the National Capital Authority to include the Ginninderra Field Station site as 'Urban Area' under National Capital Plan Amendment 86. This request was followed by a first phase of community consultation (August to October 2015), which included three drop-in sessions for residents of neighbouring suburbs, held in September 2015.

In May 2016 then Minister for Major Projects, Territories and Local Government Paul Fletcher announced the inclusion of the Ginninderra Field Station site as 'Urban Area' under National Capital Plan Amendment 86. CSIRO has since begun work to identify a suitable development partner to jointly progress plans for sustainable urban development at the site.

The two neighbourhood drop-in sessions held in August 2016 were an opportunity for CSIRO to seek targeted feedback and ideas about issues that were identified as important by community members in the first phase of consultation. These include housing, conservation, roads and transport, and community facilities. Additional feedback at the August 2016 drop-in sessions covered issues including the community consultation process, the impact of future development on residents of surrounding suburbs, and CSIRO's role in relation to planning regimes.

Engagement by the community in these sessions was both strong and constructive, and provided a variety of ideas for further consideration as planning for site progresses, and confirmed the importance to the community of:

- Maintenance of a natural environment with green open spaces
- Link between the new area and existing suburbs and key natural features
- Attractive housing with a mix of block sizes, suited to the situation of different demographics
- Sustainable living embedded in the housing and other facilities
- A good range of community facilities and services within the development
- Improved traffic arrangements

As with all of its engagement with the community, CSIRO is committed to taking on board the comments received in future planning and design processes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
Purpose of this report.....	3
Approach to community consultation	3
Community consultation in August 2016.....	4
Issues raised in consultations.....	5
Housing feedback and ideas	6
Conservation feedback and ideas	6
Community facilities feedback and ideas	6
Roads and transport feedback and ideas	7
Attitudes toward sustainable urban development at Ginninderra	7
CSIRO use of community feedback.....	8
Responses to comments and questions	8
Feedback to inform detailed planning	8
Proposed further consultation	8
Continued consultation with local residents	8
Ongoing consultation with community groups	9

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to outline the community consultation process undertaken by the CSIRO in August 2016. This consultation followed the inclusion of the Ginninderra Field Station site as 'Urban Area' under National Capital Plan Amendment 86, in May 2016.

Specifically, the report outlines:

- a) CSIRO's approach to community consultation.
- b) The scope and nature of the community consultations during this period.
- c) Issues and questions raised in community consultations.
- d) CSIRO's approach to using feedback.
- e) Plans for further consultation with residents and community groups.

Approach to community consultation

In August 2016, community consultation continued to be led by Mark Wallis, CSIRO General Manager of Property and Infrastructure, with support from other senior CSIRO science and management representatives. This has ensured continuity in the CSIRO's engagement with the community, and is a deliberate approach adopted to ensure that the community can meet and discuss issues and ideas directly with the proponent of the change.

Support for the consultation process continued to be provided by Strategic Development Associates, a strategy and engagement consultancy. The approach included the following key elements:

- Building personal connections with community members
- Listening and being open to ideas and suggestions from the community
- Directly inviting concerns to be raised early
- Providing interested community members the opportunity for ongoing communication

Strategic Development Associates is guided by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) which has developed a spectrum to help ensure the level of community engagement is tailored to the process at hand. The spectrum has five levels:

- Inform
- Consult
- Involve
- Collaborate
- Empower

During this period the consultation process continued to work primarily at the “inform”, “consult” and “involve” levels. There may be opportunities to “collaborate” in subsequent stages, as more detailed planning for future sustainable urban development takes place.

Community consultation in August 2016

Two drop-in sessions were held in August 2016 in Evatt and Nicholls (Gold Creek). While the sessions were open to all visitors, they were primarily targeted at residents of the eight suburbs directly adjacent to the Ginninderra Field Station site - Fraser, Spence, Evatt, Mackellar, Giralang, Crace, Nicholls and Hall. Potential future residents of the Ginninderra site, including those currently resident in neighbouring suburbs, were an important secondary stakeholder group expected to attend. Residents of the eight neighbouring suburbs received an invitation to attend delivered by post to each household, along with a project update. The drop-in sessions were also advertised in the Canberra Times and on the Ginninderra website (<http://ginninderraproject.com.au/>).

The two drop-in sessions aimed to provide opportunities for community members to be updated by senior CSIRO scientific and management representatives about the progress of plans for the site, and to provide ideas and feedback to inform the emerging vision and early planning for sustainable urban development at Ginninderra.

The sessions were designed to build on the previous neighbourhood drop-in sessions held in September 2015. These initial sessions provided residents of neighbouring suburbs, and the general community, an early opportunity to be aware of and to provide comment on the CSIRO’s request to the National Capital Authority, in August 2015, to include the site as ‘Urban Area’ under National Capital Plan Amendment 86. The September 2015 drop-in sessions received a wide variety of feedback from community members, as detailed in the Phase 1 Consultation Report. Matters related to housing, conservation, community facilities, and roads and transport were identified as the key issues of interest and concern to people who attended these sessions.

Building on this feedback, the neighbourhood drop-in sessions held in August 2016 focused on the issues of housing, conservation, community facilities and roads and transport. Four “stations” at the events were each devoted to one of these issues. Each station was attended by CSIRO scientific or management staff and/or project consultants best placed to answer questions, provide an update on the progress of plans in each area, and to invite ideas and input. Senior CSIRO staff were also on hand to answer questions and discuss issues that fell outside the scope of the four stations.

The locations of the two sessions provided an opportunity on either side of the Barton Highway, and at different times of the day, to enable flexibility for residents to attend.

In addition, there was an opportunity for any interested person to send written comments and questions by email or via the Ginninderra website, or to make contact with CSIRO by phone.

Below is a summary of participation in the two drop-in sessions.

Evatt, 3.00-6.30 pm, Thursday 25 August

- Total attendees – **98**
- Attendees who registered as interested in becoming a future Ginninderra resident - **16**
- “Comments and Questions” sheets completed – **31**, including two submitted online
- Total requests to be included on email subscriber list – **47**

Gold Creek, 12.00-4.00 pm, Saturday 27 August

- Total attendees – **76**
- Attendees who registered as interested in becoming a future Ginninderra resident - **3**
- “Comments and Questions” sheets completed – **17**
- Total requests to be included on email subscriber list – **13**

In total 174 individuals participated in these community consultation opportunities, with 60 visitors requesting to receive future email updates about the Ginninderra project, and 48 completing questions and comments sheets.

Note that many of the 48 questions and comments sheets provided comments about more than one area, and that some of the comments and questions sheets are likely to reflect feedback from more than one member of a household.

Issues raised in consultations

A large number of issues were raised in the consultations with community members. The recurring issues raised in questions and comments sheets provided at the August 2016 drop-in sessions were, in descending order of frequency:

- Housing – 24 comments/questions.
- Community Facilities – 21 comments/ questions.
- Conservation – 19 comments/ questions.
- Roads and Transport – 8 comments/ questions
- CSIRO’s consultation with the community – 5 comments/ questions
- Impact of urban development on residents of neighbouring suburbs – 4 comments/ questions
- CSIRO’s role in development at the Ginninderra Field Station site – 3 comments/ questions
- Other: International design competition (1 comment); Impact of development at Ginninderra on ACT electoral boundaries (1 question).

Across these overarching themes, the most commonly occurring specific issues about which comments and questions were received were:

- The preservation of the natural environment, open spaces and trees – 13 comments/ questions.

- Housing style and density – 12 comments/ questions.
- Recreation, open space and sporting facilities that could be included in future development at Ginninderra – 11 comments/ questions.
- Inclusion of housing for older people or people “down-sizing” – 10 comments/ questions.
- Wildlife conservation, affordable housing and sustainable urban development initiatives – each with 5 comments/ questions.

Note that while 48 questions and comments sheets were completed, many feedback forms included more than one comment or question. A total of 86 comments and questions were provided on 48 comments and question sheets. These have been disaggregated and grouped as related to housing, conservation, community facilities, roads and transport or other topics. Some comments and questions have been assessed as relating to more than one area.

Housing feedback and ideas

Within the 24 comments and questions related to housing, the recurring themes listed in descending frequency were:

- Housing style and density (12)
- Housing for downsizers and for older people (10)
- Affordability (5)
- Environmentally sustainable housing initiatives (3)

Conservation feedback and ideas

Within the 19 comments and questions provided about conservation the recurring issues in descending order of frequency were:

- Preservation of the existing natural environment, open spaces and trees (13)
- Wildlife conservation (5)
- Sustainable urban development initiatives (5)

Issues related to preservation of the existing natural environment, open spaces and trees were the single most frequently appearing issue in the comments and questions forms, reflecting the importance of this area to sustainable urban development at the site.

Community facilities feedback and ideas

Respondents made a variety of suggestions about community facilities that they would value in a sustainable urban development at Ginninderra. Among these suggestions were:

- Recreation, open space and sporting facilities (11)
- Cafes, restaurants and entertainment venues (4)
- Community gardens (4)
- Retail services (3)
- Access to heritage sites (2)

- Inclusion of a commercial market garden as a local employment opportunity (2)
- Religious facilities (1)
- Medical service (1)
- Community hall (1)

Roads and transport feedback and ideas

All 8 comments and questions sheets related to **roads and transport** raised traffic issues. Of these, 3 also raised other transport issues - 1 sheet suggested that Ginninderra could be connected to other destinations in the ACT via light rail, while 2 sheets suggested improved cycling infrastructure between Ginninderra and other destinations.

Attitudes toward sustainable urban development at Ginninderra

The overall attitude of respondents toward future sustainable urban development at the Ginninderra Field Station site, as reflected in submitted comments and questions sheets, can be grouped in the following way, i.e. those who:

- 1) ***Are positive about the opportunities that sustainable urban development at Ginninderra creates*** (including with caveats or preferences about what form this development should take).
- 2) ***Are accepting of sustainable urban development at Ginninderra*** (including with caveats or preferences about what form this development should take).
- 3) ***Are concerned about sustainable urban development at Ginninderra*** (focused on caveats about forms of development that would be opposed).

Written feedback reflected a range of attitudes across these three groups, with 28 comments or questions assessed as fitting primarily under Group 1, 12 primarily under Group 2 and 14 primarily under Group 3. Some responses sat across two or three groups. For example some respondents who expressed concern about urban development at Ginninderra were also optimistic about or accepting of particular possibilities created by change at the site, such as new community facilities. It should be noted that some responses categorised as positive about the opportunities created by sustainable urban development are positive only with caveats on the type of sustainable urban development envisaged by the respondents. Respondents across all three groups provided constructive suggestions about an approach to sustainable urban development at Ginninderra that these respondents would value. Four sheets were grouped as unclear in their attitude toward sustainable urban development at Ginninderra.

This categorisation of responses can be compared with that from the first community drop-in sessions held in September 2015, at which point responses were grouped as reflecting attitudes of **wanting to maintain the status quo** (14), **accepting the inevitability of some change** (27) and **welcoming the change to urban** (with some caveats) (14).

CSIRO use of community feedback

As in the first phase of community consultation undertaken between August and October 2015, the most striking element of this consultation process continues to be the high level of community interest in participating in the planning and design of a future sustainable urban development at Ginninderra.

Responses to comments and questions

Following the August 2016 consultation sessions, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section of the Ginninderra Project website (<http://ginninderraproject.com.au/>) has been updated to reflect comments and questions raised by community members at these sessions. This allows all interested community members to see the CSIRO's responses to matters raised by themselves and by others.

Feedback to inform detailed planning

Comments and feedback provided by community members will be essential in informing CSIRO's approach to the detailed planning of a new sustainable urban development at Ginninderra. Feedback and ideas provided in this phase of community consultation have confirmed the importance to the community of matters including:

- Maintenance of a natural environment with green open spaces
- Link between the new area and existing suburbs and key natural features (eg Mt Rogers)
- Attractive housing with a mix of block sizes, suited to the situation of different demographics
- Sustainable living embedded in the housing and other facilities
- A good range of community facilities and services within the development
- Improved traffic arrangements

It is anticipated that there will be significant future opportunities for members of the community to participate in more detailed planning related to these areas.

The CSIRO remains extremely grateful for the interest, energy and ideas of both local residents and other interested community members and groups.

Proposed further consultation

Continued consultation with local residents

Consultation will continue to take place including through the following methods:

- website (<http://ginninderraproject.com.au/>) which provides both updated information and opportunities for ongoing feedback;
- distribution of a regular electronic Newsletter to interested community members (self-identified);

- correspondence on specific issues by email or phone; and
- offer to meet in person with a senior CSIRO staff member.

Ongoing consultation with community groups

CSIRO appreciates the engagement of key community groups at both the local level and territory-wide. To date CSIRO has met with resident associations, environment groups, peak bodies and social service organisations.

Briefings and opportunities to meet will continue to be offered to other groups and institutions including schools, religious, sporting and community organisations. Groups and organisations with an interest in sustainable urban development at Ginninderra are encouraged to engage with the project including by visiting the website (<http://ginninderraproject.com.au/>) or by emailing requests for further information to enquiries@ginninderraproject.com.au.