

# NOTES FROM THE ACT COUNCIL OF P&C ASSOCIATIONS HOT TOPICS/GENERAL MEETING OF 22 June 2021 via Zoom



Attendance 32: including delegates from 27 schools. & 3 EDU staff

Acknowledgement of country made and delegates welcomed and speakers introduced.

1. **Briefing on the planning and capital works frameworks for ACT Public schools** by Deb Efthymiades, Deputy director General System Policy & Reform, with Vanessa Attridge and Andrew Parkinson from EDU. Deb referred to the ACT Infrastructure Plan pages 44-45 on education and noted that it is still accurate but to be reviewed this year. It covers new schools, expansions and major improvements. She noted the continued growth in public school enrolments over the last 10 years and advised that Edu was collaborating with ANU to model multi region enrolments, with cohort transition tracking by school levels. This was custom modelling by school regions. She referred to the Demand Response Planning Process & Framework and the recent PEA changes for new shared zones, planning responses for 2022-24, 5 year window for delivering a new school and possible fast tracking, infrastructure investment priorities and the 3 streams of infrastructure responses – repairs & maintenance/upgrades/major works. In question time issues raised included Melrose high need for upgrade, no definition of short term for relocatables, Gungahlin College overcrowding and PEA sharing with Dickson, toilets included with large numbers of relocatables, Yarralumla hazardous material rectification. Budgets for repair and maintenance, Council's lobbying for 1 billion to upgrade all older schools, Kaleen HS and the imbalance of funding between new and older schools, joint projects between schools and their P&Cs but need to do the red tape, P&Cs should not need to fund the kit out of relocatables in their schools – EDU to investigate this and report back.
2. **Update on the: ACT Education Act review.** Council has been asked to provide comments on amendments to the Education Act for the registration and regulation of non-government schools and suspensions. We haven't seen these changes yet. Our feedback will:
  - o support consistency in reporting of suspensions and exclusions across all schools (government and non-government); and
  - o support legislative changes which makes it easier for EDU to take regulatory action against non-government schools for failure to meet obligations under the Education Act, as well as other ACT and Commonwealth legislation.

**: EDU's Next Phase of the Future of Education process.** Council feedback will highlight the parent perspective. That is, that parents want to know what changes they might expect, what phase two will look and feel like in their school? (noting that feedback is drafted and ready to go).
2. **Discuss issues with school cleaning.** Following issues reported by some delegates, Council raised with EDU the matter of poor standard cleaning of schools & meeting was arranged on 18 June to discuss these concerns. EDU appreciated Council's raising these concerns and agreed to investigate and report back. P&Cs with concerns about toilet cleaning could send photos of them to Terry for our further lobbying of EDU.
3. **Update on Reconciliation activities.** Council is to conduct a Bush Garden Design competition in 3<sup>rd</sup> term but which will be launched during NAIDOC week 4-11 July. P&Cs were encouraged to promote NAIDOC week and volunteers welcomed to join Council's RAP working group.
4. **Discuss renewing your P&C insurance.** Insurance renewal forms should have been returned to Civic Insurance by 1 June. Delays in returning these forms could delay the bulk insurance coverage that we have negotiated with the insurers. Any P&C with outstanding questions about their insurance should contact Terry.
5. **Discuss P&C Council Affiliation Fees for the 2021-22 Financial year.** Council was able to assist P&Cs struggling financially in the current financial year, because of the government's cash boost payments. We will not have the same access to support funding in the new FY. Any P&C/PPA still struggling financially should contact Terry.
6. **Report on meeting with the EDU Senior Executive Team 28 May.** Matters raised included Council's infrastructure and budget submissions, inclusive education and suspensions, school cleaning.
7. **Issues from P&C Associations.**
  - a. Single use plastic bags ban – Council has provided information on this via Communicator and website and it was confirmed that P&Cs/PPAs would have to comply by 1 July.
  - b. School banking – there was no further information on this, it is being phased out as contracts or arrangements with schools/P&Cs expire.

8. **Any other business.** Council was approached by Greens MLA Johnathan Davis seeking advice as to whether any members/parents had raised the need for better civics and democracy education in our schools. He was planning to raise the issue in a Legislative Assembly motion. We had advised that this had not been raised within the Council. Anyone wishing to do so was advised to contact the Council office and have it placed on a future meeting or Policy Conference agenda.
  
9. **Next meeting.** The next General Meeting is programmed for 27 July but this will be confirmed later. Otherwise, it will be 24 August.