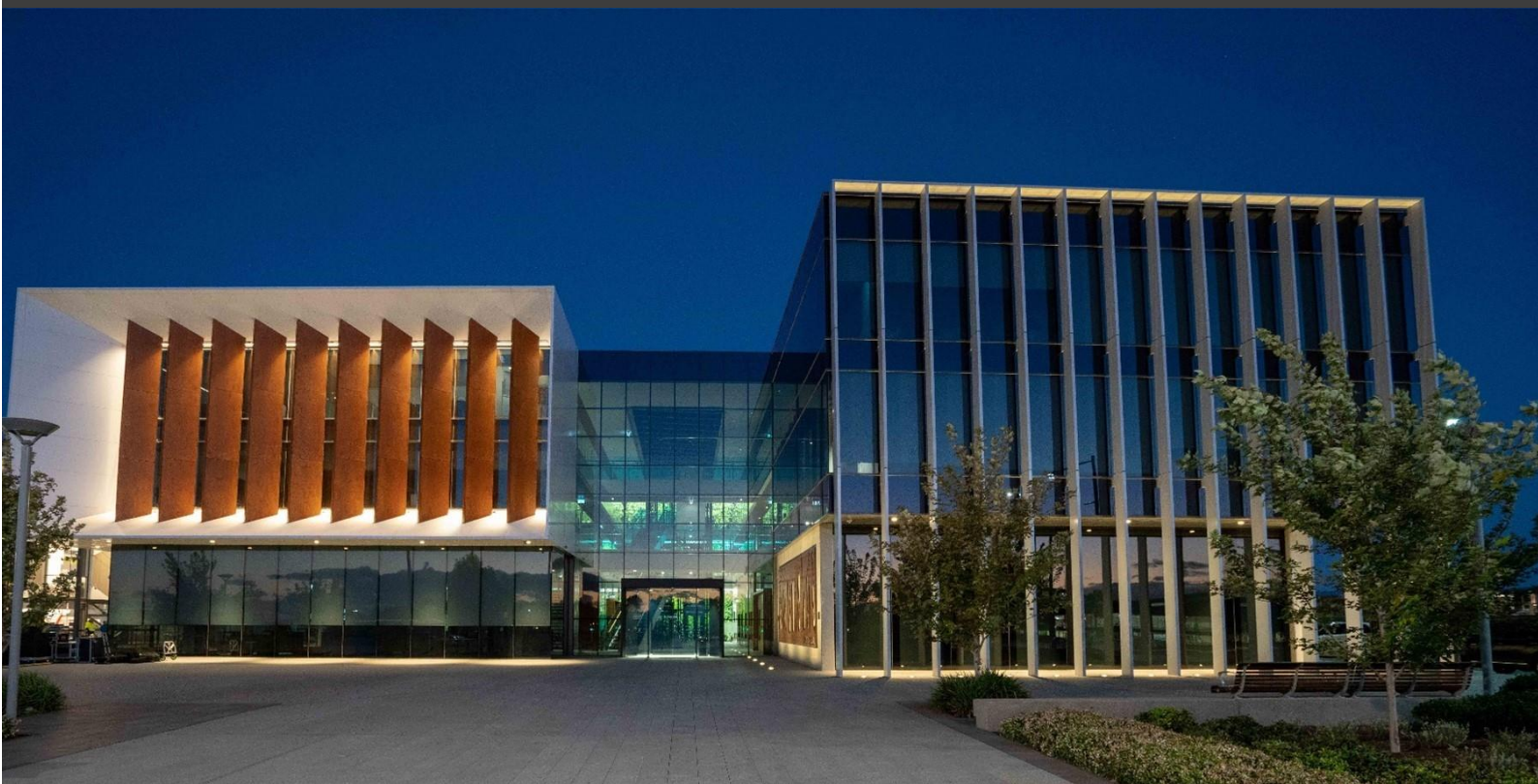


Minutes

Companion Animals Advisory Committee
Meeting
Camden Council
Administration Centre
70 Central Avenue, Oran Park

26 March 2024



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MEETING COMMENCED: 11:37AM**PRESENT**

Councillor Campbell (Chairperson), Dr Steven Ferguson, Dr Simone Maher (arrived at 12pm), Dr Derek Keeper, Ms Joanne Lawrence (arrived at 11:40am), Ms Sharon Richards, Ms Kate Kabrovski, Ms Cherie Davis (arrived at 11:40am).

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services, Team Leader Ranger Services, Companion Animals Ranger, Team Leader Sustainability, Team Leader Major Projects, Project Manager Major Projects, Client-Side Project Support Officer (CAS) and Governance Officer – Panel & Committees.

EXTERNALS IN ATTENDANCE

Scott Rowland (Sam Crawford Architects).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Councillor Campbell gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest noted.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Moved by Dr Steven Ferguson, seconded by Dr Derek Keeper.

The following apologies were noted:

- Councillor Symkowiak.
- Ms Colleen Richards.

CAAC01 Concept Design for the Camden Animal Shelter and Nursery**RESOLVED**

Moved by Dr Steven Ferguson, seconded by Dr Derek Keeper.

That the Companion Animals Advisory Committee receive the concept plan from the architects and provide feedback/comments.

Discussion/Action Items:

- Councillor Campbell reminded the Committee that the concept design options they have been provided with are confidential drafts and are not to be distributed.
- Councillor Campbell congratulated the architects on their process relating to working with Aboriginal communities when drafting this plan.
- Councillor Campbell enquired regarding the links to sunlight, with the two options having different solar reaches.

Team Leader Sustainability noted her team is considering both options, especially around development on the western boundary, but no position has been reached yet.

- Councillor Campbell noted that she is pleased with the consistency to align the capacity to care with the Cat Management Plan.
- Dr Derek Keeper noted that the vet area would be subject to licensing requirements and vet hospitals require limitations of escape. The layout displays the assessment areas well within view of the public viewing areas. Dr Derek Keeper enquired what extent of treatment is anticipated here, whether it will be triage and moved or treated onsite.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that Council is not proposing to have a vet clinic here; the extent of treatment will be minor in nature then moved offsite.

Scott Rowland noted that further options could be explored to reduce the vet area visibility to the public.

- Dr Steven Ferguson noted that a locked box will be required along with a fridge to store medications.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that these arrangements will be made once the Operating Model is prepared and finalised.

- Dr Derek Keeper noted that he was of the opinion that the livestock yard should be removed as it includes issues around fencing requirements, unloading risks and biosecurity issues.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services noted that the intent is not to utilise this but include a provision in case it is required; could be utilised for other purposes if required.

- Ms Joanne Lawrence noted that there is passive ventilation with the afternoon sun and enquired whether the structure is able to accommodate screens that could be pulled down.

Scott Rowland noted that this could be done.

- Ms Joanne Lawrence enquired about the location of the dogs and if they can be viewed or not.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised there will be walkways with doors that will be open to corridor so they will be accessible.

- Ms Kate Kabrovski enquired whether the public areas are always open.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services confirmed they are open for people to come and go as they please.

- Ms Joanne Lawrence noted that mesh disintegrates quite fast especially with cleaning.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services noted that a lot of thought will go into the choice of material; determining a good quality mesh is important as Council wanted to get something durable and long lasting. Scott Rowland noted that this mesh will be stainless steel and welded at each joint.

- Ms Joanne Lawrence enquired about the need for a groom area if the vet area is not going to be utilised much.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that Council wanted to keep the spaces separate for hygiene reasons (hair) as well as noises that may come from distressed animals.

- Ms Joanne Lawrence enquired about the difference between the general housing areas and the cat wards/isolation areas.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that the cat isolation area is for sick cats and has areas for IV treatment, with no obstacles, simpler designs and/or short-term housing used while waiting for vaccinations to take effect before moving in with other cats.

The general housing will be made up of the general population of cats, which is in addition to the adoption space, if they are getting ready to move over or is a cat picked up by the Rangers with owners yet to arrive.

- Dr Simone Maher advised that research does indicate that less movement helps to reduce stress and illness and that Council should be looking for long term rooms to keep cats.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services noted that the design allows for flexibility as each animal will have a different journey. The design allows for situational flexibility rather than imposing limitations.

- Ms Joanne Lawrence enquired about the area walking track lost between the two concepts.

Scott Rowland advised that he didn't have an answer as it is yet to be designed in detail.

- Councillor Campbell enquired whether the distance for staff to cover has been considered.

Scott Rowland confirmed this has not been considered and noted that option 2 has the most distance to the kennels. Manager Environment and Regulatory Services noted that, with feedback, amendments can be made to attempt to keep operational areas close together.

- Ms Joanne Lawrence enquired whether businesses could volunteer services or materials for the shelter. Team Leader Major Projects advised that this would be complex especially around liability, cost and insurances.

- Councillor Campbell enquired whether sponsorship arrangements are possible or cash contributions.

Team Leader Major Projects advised he would take this on notice and review relevant Policies and Procedures. Manager Environment and Regulatory Services noted that, in addition, WestInvest is strict on additional funding agreements, which is something that needs to be reviewed alongside internal documents.

- Ms Joanne Lawrence noted it would be worthwhile to provide local businesses with an information pack about the tender process and weighting given to local businesses.
- Ms Sharon Richards enquired how Council planned to minimise cross-contamination.

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that there are mechanisms like disease control plans, manual controls and mechanical controls to minimise risks.

- Ms Sharon Richards enquired how Council planned to reduce noise.

Scott Rowland advised that this would be through acoustic installations, large walls, fixed windows etc.


- Ms Kate Kabrovski enquired whether the orientation difference between concepts will impact on sound and stress.

Scott Rowland advised that option 2 has better set up acoustically to minimise the sound for dogs.

MEETING CLOSED AT 1:30pm.

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