

Lyneham Community Association Proposal for micro-COSM: a Community-Led Management Model for the Lyneham Precinct of the ACT Open Space Network



Objectives

The Lyneham Community Association (LCA) proposes micro-COSM: a community-led management model for the Lyneham portion of the ACT Open Space Network, in order to manage and preserve Lyneham's open space for the benefit of local residents and visitors.

The word microcosm, meaning 'a community, place, or situation regarded as encapsulating in miniature the characteristics of something much larger' appropriately captures the spirit of what we see Lyneham's open space becoming. COSM stands for Community Open Space Management, and so "micro-COSM" is our adopted name for our implementation of a community-led management model used successfully in many contexts and many countries.

The core objectives of Lyneham's micro-COSM are to:

- Encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social, and educational pastimes and activities
- Promote and provide for the physical and mental health, well-being and development of members of the local community
- Improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives

The primary principles of micro-COSM will:

- Continue to make the space freely available at all times to the three adjacent schools.
- Continue to make the space freely available at all times to current users such as dog-walkers, frisbee players, remote-controlled plane flyers, joggers, walkers, pedestrian commuters, Canberra meetup sports groups, kite-flyers, learner bike-riders, and so on
- Promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and wider public.
- Restrict commercial development on public land, in keeping with the ACT Government's stated position that the "existing Open Space Network will be maintained"¹, while allowing for the provision of public utilities and works associated with public utilities (eg, public school expansion, improvements to public toilets, etc)

Community-Led Management Model

Community-led management is a model used in various contexts around the world.

Applications have included Ebola management and eradication in Sierra Leone, improving sanitation in Indonesia, and rainforest protection and management in Mexico. In Australia, examples have included weed and pest control, and water management. Of particular interest is the introduction in 2012 at Nerang on the Gold Coast of community-led management of a local park for the benefit of its local community².

Management initiative

A key aspect of micro-COSM is that development ideas would be sourced from the local community through appropriate opportunities for input. Any development would of course be required to be sympathetic to the local context, including the recently opened Lyneham Commons, and to have demonstrated benefit to the wider community.

Under the model, LCA will seek community support and crowdfunding for a range of preferred community assets, which may include a playground, community focus area, tree plantings and paths to enhance the usability and enjoyment of the area for future generations. Funding may also be sought from appropriate granting bodies, including the ACT Government.



¹ Simon Corbell, #CBRCabinet Twitter Cabinet, Monday 31 August, 8.11pm.

²

<http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/council-paves-way-for-community-led-management-of-parks-6939.html>



LCA will develop guidelines against which community proposals would be assessed. Accepted proposals will be incorporated into an Area Management Plan. We will ensure the Plan is consistent with ACT Government policies (such as the Healthy Living Initiative³), and best practice for similar areas. It will take into consideration research on the best use of open space for mental and physical health, with special regard for the current and future demographics of the area.

The process to develop the Plan will include input from relevant ACT Government areas, to ensure consistency with any possible future plans for the land (including the expected necessary expansion of Lyneham Primary), and consistency with any revised Lyneham Master Plan. The final Area Management Plan will be made public, and distributed to all stakeholders.

Our expectation is that the Plan will be implemented in stages across a number of years, as and when funds become available. This will also allow for adaptation of the Plan as the population of Lyneham increases with the current and future urban infill through medium and high density housing.

Individual development proposal would be fully discussed with SRS and other stakeholders, including local businesses, and adhere to the current purpose clause for Urban Open Space.



³ <http://www.act.gov.au/healthyliving>

Proposed area for Community-Led Management

The part of the ACT Open Space Network proposed to be managed under micro-COSM by the Lyneham community is that land in the network roughly bordered by the bike path at the south, Mouat St to the north, Lyneham High and residences to the east, and Brigalow St, the small car park, and Lyneham Primary to the west. The land is shown bordered in blue below.



Attributes of the proposed Community-Led Management Model

Subject to negotiation, we suggest the following:

- Manager: Lyneham Community Association Inc.
- Term: 30 years.
- Option: further 20 years.
- Mowing & other maintenance: Sport & Recreation Services (SRS), as at present.
- Fee: peppercorn.
- Possible mechanisms to formalise the proposal:
 - Sub-lease
 - Custodianship
 - Land management program
 - Other?

Conclusion

Micro-COSM promises to empower local residents, giving a focus and forum for community-building and for future-proofing local open space.

The LCA is excited by the prospect of facilitating the local community in shaping the future of its community land through this innovative management model.

Rachael Dash

Trevor Vickers

For the Lyneham Community Association Inc.

