

YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

DON'T PUT FLORIADE IN WESTON PARK

The Yarralumla Residents Association is disappointed to learn that Weston Park is again being considered as one of several future sites for Floriade, YRA president Tony Hill said today.

‘We are concerned that such a move will bring huge problems of traffic, parking and congestion to a residential suburb,’ he said. ‘The infrastructure needed to cater for several hundred thousand visitors risks destroying the tranquil lakeside beauty of Weston Park which so attracts people in the first place.

‘Floriade is a wonderful event and we all welcome its continuing success. Commonwealth Park remains the most accessible and central location. But if the Government decides to relocate it to several sites, we believe Yarramundi Reach or the National Arboretum on the northern side of the lake would be better suited.

‘While the Minister, Mr Barr, has publicly referred to the proposal, the Association cannot comment in detail until we see specific recommendations from the ACT Tourism and Ministerial Advisory Council.

‘In general, however, we point out that Yarralumla has no main “through” roads. There would be major bottlenecks and disruptions if thousands of Floriade visitor cars and buses had to squeeze through residential streets.

‘We’re all aware of the traffic build up on Commonwealth Bridge – a major arterial highway – during Floriade. We would not want to see that problem transferred to our peaceful suburb.

‘The suggestion to relocate Floriade to Weston Park and/or the Brickworks was first floated over 10 years ago. Most people in Yarralumla opposed it then, and this is likely to remain the position.’

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