



The Narrabundah Long Stay Caravan Park (B)

On 8 August 2006, Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, announced that the homes and futures of the residents of the Narrabundah Long Stay Caravan Park had been secured. The new owners had agreed to a land swap. Consolidated Builders had agreed to exchange the block on which the park was located for one which was immediately opposite on the other side of Narrabundah Lane, of the same size and with the same development rights. The government would then assume management and responsibility for the caravan park.¹

Consolidated Builders were happy, the park residents were relieved and Koomarri was almost off the hook. It was just the government and taxpayers who were out of pocket. The next day, John Stanhope confirmed that the ACT Government was to pay Consolidated Builders \$1.5 million as an offset because the new land lacked infrastructure and to compensate for the loss of \$30,000 per month rental until the land swap could be finalised. The Chief Minister was reported as saying,

“They [Consolidated Builders] had available to them through an established caravan park an income stream of around \$30,000 a month. It can’t reasonably be suggested that they should not continue to have available to them the income stream which was a result of their significant investment.”²

In a public relations gesture the next day, Koomarri president, John Mackay gave a cheque for \$750,000 to the ACT Government as a contribution towards its costs in acquiring the park.

Formal endorsement of the land swap would, however, take a further year before securing agreement from the National Capital Authority to a variation to the National Capital Plan in October 2007. The Federal Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads subsequently approved the variation, which was to be tabled in the Federal Parliament. Subject to disallowance provisions, this last step would finally bring closure to the residents, the developer and the ACT Government.

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¹ ACT Government Media Release, ‘Long-stay park saved, land swap agreed’, 8 August 2006.

² ABC News, ‘ACT Government defends caravan land deal’, 9 August 2006.