

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

The logo for Woden Valley Community Council Inc. features a stylized green and blue graphic of a valley or hills to the right of the text.

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Record of Meeting

7 February 2007

1. Chair David Menzel advised that an apology had been received from Richard Mulcahy.
2. The Chair introduced John Neal, Senior Engineer, ACTPLA and the topic for the meeting on Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines in the ACT. Mr Neal said the ACT Government had released a water resources strategy with a number of key objectives:
 - o Reduction in mains water usage
 - o Increased use of treated effluent
 - o Limit nutrients and sediments entering ACT waterways
 - o Limit storm water runoff from newly developed areas

WSUD guidelines are to apply to all stages of the planning and development process and are to apply to Greenfield developments, Redevelopment projects and established urban areas. A 40% reduction in mains water usage was required for all new developments. Mains water use reduction would include:

- o water efficient appliances, landscaping and fixtures
- o storm and rainwater harvesting
- o greywater and treated effluent recycling

3. Mr Neal said that water being returned to the Murrumbidgee River was required to be of an acceptable standard and that the ACT Government was looking to avoid the need to construct new dams. The guidelines were intended to reduce the reliance on mains water supply and to replicate the natural flow regime. Stormwater had previously been regarded as a problem to be disposed of and it was now seen as a resource to be harvested.

4. Mr Menzel said that the climate change leaflet proposed by Caroline Fisher would now be produced as a fridge magnet for distribution to Woden Valley residents. The fridge magnet would be printed in colour and production costs and distribution would be paid by the WVCC.

5. Mr Menzel noted that Phillip Oval had been opened for excess parking to take 150 cars. The car park outside Phillip Oval would be reconfigured with a number of trees to be removed. The trees would be replaced using water saving methods. Three major sites in Woden were currently being developed with tenants coming from Woden and the provision of carparks were the responsibilities of developers. The Government is in the process of developing a carparking strategy paper.

6. In responding to a question on progress with the Woden Valley master plan Mr Menzel said that funds would come from the sale of the bus interchange and the old police station. No rejuvenation of Yarralumla Creek would be undertaken until funds were available.
7. There was a dearth of information on Centraplaza with no response to a number of requests for information on variations to plans still waiting on responses. Detailed information was presented re additional floor area for the new office block at 16 Furzer St. This contrasts significantly with the difficulty our Council is experiencing in getting information regarding additional floor space and the reduction of car parking for Centraplaza, (NDH House) in Bowes St.
8. The Woden Fitness Track had been removed without any community consultation. The WVCC has also not to date been consulted on playground infrastructure policy.
9. The Chair thanked Chris Spelling for his input into WVCC concerns and in particular for his contributions to the Woden Valley Master plan.
10. Mr Menzel said that he would also be pursuing secretarial support on a part time basis to assist the WVCC with its administrative tasks.
11. The issue of school closures was still a matter of public interest with details yet to be decided on the use of school buildings and grounds and some students were experiencing problems with bus transport to new schools.