

## **Record of Meeting**

**3 February 2010**

1. The Chair, Mr Bill O'Brien, welcomed attendees. Apologies were received from David Menzel, Michael Reddy, Robert Wynn, Ed and Ruth Dobson and Tom Lithgow.

2. Chris Erett moved and Thea Smith seconded that the record of the WVCC meeting held on 2 December 2009, be accepted as amended. The motion was carried.

### ***Progress on the implementation of the ACT Greens Parliamentary Agreement with ACT ALP***

3. Caroline Le Couteur and Amanda Bresnan, ACT Greens MLAs, provided a progress report on the implementation of the Parliamentary Agreement between the ACT Greens and the ACT ALP when elected to government. Ms Le Couteur said that forty items in the Agreement, including bike/footpath funding increase and an urban wetland recovery program, had been fully implemented with another four including the feed-in-tariff (commercial) partly implemented. Twenty-three items were in the process of being implemented. These included a statutory greenhouse gas reduction target and a plastic bag levy trial. The remaining 32 items required further work before being implemented. This group included street level recycling; a 6-star rating for new housing by 2010; solar rights legislation; 30 minute bus frequency; and the immediate reinstatement of the neighbourhood plans process.

4. On the issue of an energy efficiency makeover for Canberra households to lift households with a low energy rating to at least a 3-star rating, Ms Le Couteur said there had been a doubling in funding for ACT Housing properties, but there was no clear plan from the Government on how to achieve further gains. On the issue of mandating passive solar orientation for all new residential homes and legislating on solar access rights, she

said ACTPLA was updating guidelines on solar orientation but it seems no action had been taken on solar access rights. Under the Agreement funding for cycling infrastructure and footpath maintenance had been increased and work was underway.

5. Ms Le Couteur said to date the ACT Government had allocated \$13.9 million in new funding for naturalising storm water drains and building ponds. To date this money had focussed on the Sullivan's Creek network. Ms Bresnan said the ACT Greens would be writing to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water to seek clarification on future plans for the Woden area.

6. On the issue of reinstating the neighbourhood planning process and integrating the resulting master plans into the Territory Plan, Ms Le Couteur said to date only additional master planning had been secured for Erindale, Tuggeranong, Tharwa and Hall. She said details on smaller scale precinct planning were still being agreed upon with the Government.

7. Comments from the floor indicated a keen interest in the reinstatement of the neighbourhood planning process as in Woden there were no neighbourhood plans, an integral part of the infill Garden City policy. Gina Pinkas said that with the large number of applications for multi-unit development and dual occupancies in Woden suburbs, Woden residents have not had the benefit of neighbourhood plans to refine the infill proposals and to identify the local neighbourhood character, important when determining the suitability of multi-unit development in established areas. It was also suggested that there should be a moratorium on multi-unit development in Woden suburbs until neighbourhood plans had been developed in consultation with residents. Ms Pinkas added that Simon Corbell MLA, when Minister for Planning, had approved a Master Plan for the Woden Town Centre, but it still had not been gazetted.

8. A copy of the presentation can be found on the WVCC's website at: [www.wvcc.org.au](http://www.wvcc.org.au)

### ***ACT Government's Draft Sustainable Energy Policy***

9. Paul Britt and Steve Blume, from the ACT Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water delivered a presentation on the ACT Government's Draft Sustainable Energy Policy.

10. Mr Britt said that the ACT Government had committed to achieving zero net emissions by 2060. 64 per cent of the ACT's greenhouse gas emissions came from electricity; 24 per cent from transport fuels; 9 per cent from natural gas use; and 3 per cent from waste. He said the Government had issued a discussion paper, *Draft Sustainable Energy Policy 2010-2020*, setting out ideas for reducing the ACT's dependence on fossil-fuel generated electricity.

11. By 2020, the ACT sustainable energy policy aimed to reduce ACT greenhouse emissions by at least 10 per cent. In addition to transport and waste initiatives, legislation would be introduced this year requiring energy businesses to identify and provide energy efficiency products and services to ACT consumers, with priority given to low-income and other disadvantage households. The ACT will also aim to use renewable energy for at least 25 per cent of all electricity consumption with an interim target of 15 per cent by 2012. This will involve the construction of an ACT-based solar power facility and possibly amending the feed-in-tariff scheme to include renewable generators with a capacity in excess of 30kW. The Government will also consider fast tracking the installation of smart metres into ACT households to assist consumers manage their energy loads and consumption.

12. The *Draft Sustainable Energy Policy 2010-2020* can be found at [www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/energypolicy](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/energypolicy) The deadline for submissions is: 5 March 2010.

### ***Planning report***

13. Gina Pinkas, the Planning Officer said the WVCC had commented on the amended development application for the Mandir Ashram aged care development in Drevermann and Beasley Streets in Farrer. The ACT Government was reviewing its planning codes for residential development and the Council was considering the possibility of consulting an expert on what should be changed to ensure better infill and development outcomes in the Woden area. She reminded members to check the ACTPLA website ([www.actpla.act.gov.au](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au)) for any development applications for proposals in their area. Residents with comments/concerns, including on/about the planning codes, can contact the WVCC by email ([wvcc@bigpond.com.au](mailto:wvcc@bigpond.com.au)) or by calling 0420529747.

### ***Treasurer's report***

14. The Treasurer, Henry Hatch, said a new mobile phone (0420529747) had been purchased as the phone contact for the WVCC. Also a grant of \$5000 had been received from ACTPLA for 2009-10.

15. The next meeting of the WVCC will be held on 3 March 2010.