

Record of Meeting

7 April 2010

1. The Chair, Bill O'Brien, welcomed attendees. Apologies were received from Gina Pinkas, Jenny Stewart, Brendan Smyth MLA, Katy Gallagher MLA, Jeremy Hanson MLA, Michael Taylor, Martin Miller and Derek Wrigley.

2. David Menzel moved and Thea Smith seconded that the record of the WVCC meeting held on 3 March 2010, be accepted. The motion was carried.

Mr Simon Corbell MLA

3. The Chair warmly welcomed Mr Simon Corbell MLA, the Attorney General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, and Minister for Energy, who attended the meeting to discuss issues within his portfolio responsibilities of relevance to Woden residents and in his electorate of Molonglo. Included in the wide range of issues discussed, were:

- a) **The Urban Waterways Project.** The Minister explained that in general the ACT's creeks and streams were in poor health. The concreting of watercourses had destroyed the creeks and created a problem with water quality. The Urban Waterways Project aimed to improve water quality through retrofitting watercourses with infrastructure such as detention ponds and storm water re-use. Woden had been forgotten, but Mr Corbell said a number of sites had since been identified for building detention ponds, including towards the bottom of Yarralumla Creek near Carruthers Street, Curtin; along Athllon Drive, Mawson and near the Woden Green development (although the location of the latter was problematic). He envisaged the project's Woden plans would be considered in next year's budget (2011-12).
- b) **Law and order and the juvenile justice system.** The Minister acknowledged that burglaries and car theft in the ACT were higher than the national average but said assaults were lower. The response to the Government's rebate for fitting immobilisers to cars made before 2000 was disappointing. A 'new targeted strategy' to combat property crime was being developed and there needed to be a review of the system of bail.

- c) **Woden Town Centre Master Plan.** In response to a question on the Woden Town Centre Master Plan that had not been gazetted, the Minister said town centre master plans had no status and were useful only as a guide.
- d) **New adult mental health inpatient unit at the Canberra Hospital.** In response to a question on whether sick prisoners would be admitted to the new adult mental health inpatient unit at the Canberra Hospital the Minister said they would not be, but instead sick prisoners would be sent to the proposed secure mental health unit in Symonston.
- e) **Woden being in two electorates for ACT elections.** The Minister said the problem was that there were too many electors in Molonglo and Brindabella and Ginninderra would have to take more.
- f) **Increasing the number of MLAs in the ACT Legislative Assembly.** The Minister said the joint Federal and ACT Governments' review of the ACT Government Act had not made progress, largely because the Federal Government was not convinced of the need to do so.
- g) **Loss of the Yamba bowling club.** The Minister said the bowling club had been on private property (the Southern Cross Club) and when the owner chose to sell it to a developer, it was difficult for the Government to intervene. However another attendee pointed out that the Woden community felt it had been short-changed as the Government had changed the use of the lease against the community's interests.
- h) **The Federal Golf Course's proposed housing development.** In response to concerns expressed about the proposed housing development and its impact on the survival of the Red Hill woodland and wildlife, Mr Corbell said that no decision had been taken on the proposed variation to the Territory Plan that would allow the development. While supportive of the golf club, there was concern at the meeting that even with the development, the Federal Golf Club still may not be viable.
- i) **Changes to the Unit Title Legislation.** The Minister said changes were designed to protect individual titleholders within a body corporate. Now it was possible, for example, for a titleholder to seek a review of a decision where maintenance was not being done.
- j) **Proposed southern cemetery and crematorium.** The Minister said the Government supported the proposal as there was a need for a second crematorium in the ACT and there was community support for it. It was pointed out this was not the view of the WVCC. Another attendee questioned the small number in the random survey by phone. Her impression from attending the public meetings was that most people opposed the proposal.
- k) **Change of use charge.** The Minister said the Government was hoping to codify the change of use charge to ensure the community gained

something out of the planning change. It would help if the community councils could express support.

Planning report

4. In the absence of Gina Pinkas (the Planning Officer), Shirley Lithgow reported that the Council had submitted comments to ACTPLA on the scoping document for a proposed Draft Environmental Impact Statement to deconcessionalise the Goodwin Homes leases in Farrer. In general the Council did not support such proposals as concessional leases provide for a community benefit and are acquired from the Government for less than the market value. Ms Lithgow said the WVCC also submitted comments opposing the proposed southern cemetery and crematorium, which would be just a few kilometres from the existing Woden cemetery. Also, Hindmarsh on behalf of the joint venture had lodged a development application for variation of the lease at 5 Burnie Court (Lyons Redevelopment) to increase the maximum number of dwellings from 117 to 132. Comments had to be submitted to ACTPLA by 29 April 2010.

Report on the Combined Community Council Meeting

5. Shirley Lithgow reported that all six-community councils were represented at the meeting of the Combined Community Council on 18 March 2010 and chaired by Professor Jenny Stewart. The meeting approved a motion supporting the ACT Greens Planning and Development (Notifications and Review) Amendment Bill 2009 which aims to improve planning and development notifications, appeals and reviews in the ACT. The motion had been circulated to all MLAs, some of whom had responded. Community council representatives also agreed to meet three or four times a year on issues of common interest.

Treasurer's report

6. The Treasurer Henry Hatch distributed a financial report. To date cash available stands at \$19,054. Expected expenditure includes the design and development of the new WVCC website.

Farewell and thanks to Bill O'Brien

7. On behalf of those present David Menzel farewelled Bill O'Brien who will be living overseas for the remainder of the year, and thanked him for his contribution to the WVCC as chairman. Mr O'Brien said he looked forward to returning to the WVCC on his return to Canberra.

8. The next meeting of the WVCC will be held on 5 May 2010.