

## **Record of Meeting**

Wednesday, 1 February 2012

1. The Chair, Dr Jenny Stewart, welcomed attendees including Gai Brodtmann MP; Caroline Le Couteur MLA; Shane Rattenbury MLA; and Steve Dospot MLA.
2. Apologies were received from: Jeff Ibbotson; and Jeremy Hanson MLA.

### ***Record of WVCC Meeting held on 7 December 2011***

3. The record of the meeting held on 7 December 2011 was accepted. Moved by Chris Erett; seconded by Henry Hatch.

### ***The Child Friendly City***

4. Dr Paul Tranter, Associate Professor in Geography from UNSW, Canberra gave a presentation based on his research and *Children and their Urban Environment: Changing Worlds* that he co-authored with C. Freeman. Dr Tranter pointed out that Canberra's rapid growth, school closures and amalgamations and other changes had altered the way families live in our city. Increasingly, parents were driving their children to school and so children were walking and cycling less than in the past. He pointed out that these lifestyles were resource-intensive and constrained young people of the 'right to roam'. He suggested that we rethink balancing the risks and freedoms in deciding how to bring up children—there was a risk of children becoming obese and timid if we try to protect them from all dangers.

5. Planners can make neighbourhoods more child-friendly by locating schools and services within walking/cycling distance of housing. By making neighbourhoods more open and pedestrian-friendly, passive surveillance increases and they may become safer.

6. Dr Tranter answered questions on a range of issues including:

- the difference between 'play' and 'organised sport';

- the pressure to conform with accepted models of parenting; and
- the difficulty in reversing the trend to overprotect children.

### ***Energy sustainability at The Canberra Hospital***

7. Grant Carey-Ide, Executive Director of Service and Capital Planning, ACT Health Directorate gave a presentation about plans to change the way The Canberra Hospital meets its energy needs for heating/cooling, lighting, computing, and other purposes. In doing so he was assisted by John Pollock and Adrian Scott from ACT Health Directorate and technicians Toby Roxburgh and Chris Kornek from AECOM.

8. Given the possible redevelopment of The Canberra Hospital and future energy requirements for healthcare services, consideration was being given to improving energy efficiency through generating power on site and expanding the existing data centre. More information on this can be found at: [www.health.act.gov.au/yhop](http://www.health.act.gov.au/yhop)

9. The presentation team answered questions from the meeting relating to:

- cost benefit analysis of different methods of providing energy to the hospital;
- vulnerability of the proposed generator to failure or malicious attack;
- future proofing;
- safety issues;
- traffic/parking in Garran; and
- relocating The Canberra Hospital's helipad.

### ***WVCC priorities for 2012***

10. Jenny Stewart updated the meeting on the priority issues that WVCC's committee suggested be pursued in 2012. She invited people to comment on the suggested priorities.

### ***Feedback on 40km/h trial in Woden Town Centre.***

11. Jenny Stewart reminded the meeting that in August 2011 Roads ACT introduced 40km/h speed areas in the Woden Town Centre as part of a 6-month trial to help improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. Roads ACT are now evaluating the trial to determine the effectiveness of the 40km/h speed area in improving safety for vulnerable road users.

12. Community feedback was invited from traders, shoppers and road users. WVCC encourages Woden residents to provide feedback by completing the short online survey at:

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/move/roads/road\\_safety/speedandspeeding/40km-h\\_trial](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/move/roads/road_safety/speedandspeeding/40km-h_trial)

Deadline for feedback: 5 pm on Wednesday 29 February 2012.

### ***Submission on Draft Planning Strategy***

13. Jenny Stewart reminded the meeting that we had a presentation at the Council's December meeting on the draft planning strategy, which aimed to make Canberra a compact and efficient city, and would guide Canberra's development for the next 30 years and beyond. For more information see: [www.actpla.act.gov.au/home](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/home)  
The deadline for comments has been extended to: 12 February 2012.

### ***Review of ACT Self Government Act***

14. Jenny Stewart informed the meeting that a Legislative Assembly Standing Committee—chaired by the Speaker, Shane Rattenbury MLA, and comprising MLAs Amanda Bresnan, John Hargreaves and Jeremy Hanson—will be conducting a review of the ACT Self-Government Act 1988 (Cwlth). The WVCC will be participating in the review and the Speaker's letter calling for submissions from organisations and the public has been emailed to all on the WVCC email list. The deadline for submissions is 16 March 2012.

### ***Planning Report***

15. Jenny Stewart reported that there were no significant DAs in the Phillip/Woden Town Centre at this stage.

16. The proposed multi-unit development in Robson Street, Garran was approved by ACTPLA. Later, Dr Tina Xu from the Garran residents' group said the residents would be appealing the decision. A discussion followed on the inadequacy and expense of the objection/appeal process in the ACT.

!7. Dr Stewart said ACTPLA had approved the Woden Green joint venture proposal for several 3 storey buildings containing a total of 201 apartments with basement car parking. To meet the required on-site parking requirements for residents, TAMS has approved a reduction to the number of on-site parking spaces for visitors on the grounds that there is plenty of public parking nearby.

18. Also of concern is that only 61 per cent of the ground floor units comply with solar access requirements for private open space. ACTPLA argues that because the ground level units have immediate access to communal open space within the development and are in comfortable walking distance to the Town Centre and nearby open spaces—it considers the proposal as meeting the solar access to private open space requirement.

***Treasurer's Report***

19. The Treasurer, Henry Hatch, presented a written statement of income and expenses current to 1 February 2012. WVCC's current balance is \$21,625.57

***Next meeting***

20. The next meeting of the WVCC will be held at the Woden Hellenic Club at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 7 March 2012.