

Woden Valley Community Council
Meeting of 7 July 2013
Hellenic Club, Canberra

Chair: Dr Jenny Stewart

1 Apologies: Jeremy Hanson, Shirley Lithgow

2 Minutes of WVCC meetings for May and June were approved. Moved Chris Erett; seconded Martin Miller

3 Shane Rattenbury MLA Minister for TAMS outlined his roles as Minister and as a Greens MLA. He confirmed the commitment to the proposed light rail network, noting that Northbourne Avenue was probably the most congested in the ACT.

Developments in Belconnen and the Woden Bus Interchange were canvassed. The Minister accepted that better enforcement of parking arrangements in Woden was probably needed and noted that proposed traffic lights on Melrose Drive are funded for this financial year. The upgrade to the Farrer Shopping Centre was reported as being ahead of schedule, and likely to be finished by late September. Dead shrubs on public land in the Woden area will be removed. The Minister then asked for questions from the floor.

Q1: Road safety issue re cars and pedestrians at Chifley Shops: Minister to follow up and report.

Q2: Will the feasibility study for Light Rail be published? The Minister confirmed that there would be community involvement in the design, and transparent publication of developments, of which some had already been uploaded to the web.

Q3: Parking on nature strips: The Minister agreed that regulation of this could be better enforced.

Q4: Advice requested on government handling of complaints and submissions on urban issues: The Minister confirmed that TAMS had this in hand and was developing a data base of matters of concern and allocating priorities to them.

Q5: Issue of the height of the Tradies Development: Residents of Bellerive complained of potential overshadowing and traffic problems in and around the Town Centre. The Minister undertook to follow up and report. He noted that DA comments would close on 15 July, 2013. WVCC Chair Dr Jenny Stewart confirmed that WVCC would be supporting residents in their objection to the height of the development.

The Minister also noted that a committee had been formed to look at the issue of vulnerable road users such as cyclists, motor cyclists and pedestrians.

Q6: Shane Rattenbury was asked how he liked being a Minister? In welcoming the question, the Minister confirmed what all could see: that he enjoyed the job, and found it interesting, if also confronting. He also noted a difficulty that had to be dealt with on an ongoing basis: the need for Cabinet confidentiality, on the one hand, and the Greens commitment to open consultation with the community, on the other.

The Minister was then thanked in the usual way for his presentation and responses to questions

4 Kerry Snell, representing Health Care Consumers spoke on the Government's Health Infrastructure Program, and outlined major parts of the project which, she said, had as its objective to make the health care system better for all. A comprehensive and fascinating presentation, complete with detailed projector slides, was shown, after which questions from the floor were answered. [The following details from HCCA's consultation summary].

Attendees asked for an update on the Secure Adult Mental Health Unit. The HCCA HIP Team responded that the facility will consist of 25-beds – 15 medium-security and 10 low-security – and will be located at the former Quamby Youth Detention Centre in Symonston. Preliminary design plans expected to be available in late 2013

Session participants also asked for an update about the future of the Phillip Community Health Centre. The HCCA HIP Team responded that only very preliminary planning has been done around this facility, and it is unclear whether the Phillip Community Health Centre would be refurbished or rebuilt at a different site.

While discussing the extension of the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit at the Canberra Hospital, attendees asked for the total number of beds in the ED.

Answers to questions on notice: There are currently 29 beds in the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department
Approximately 55% of the ACT budget (\$4.578 billion for 2013-2014) is spent on health and education

5 Peter Russell, of May & Russell, Architects, produced a very well documented presentation of plans for, and discussed in some details the issues surrounding, the proposed new carpark, opposite the Hindmarsh development, bounded by Melrose Drive and Furzer Streets. Build time is listed as 22 months, for a total of 850 carpark places. A detailed variety of questions was answered.

6 There was no local member presentation

7 The Chair summarised current developments being pursued by WVCC: the budget announcement regarding a feasibility study for moving Woden CIT to Tuggeranong – a letter had been written to Minister Burch requesting further information and pointing out the implications for Woden Valley including the possible loss of the Farmers Market; The Chair had met with Minister Corbell and 2 other Community Council leaders regarding recent technical amendments to the Territory Plan and also on DA exemptions for code-compliant knock-downs – there had been little acknowledgment of Community Council concerns on these issues.

The meeting was declared closed at 9:20pm.

Timoshenko Aslanides 21 July 2013