

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Record of Meeting in Orpheus Room, Hellenic Club

7:30 pm on Wednesday 3 September 2014

- 1 The Chair, **Jenny Stewart**, welcomed attendees. There were no apologies.
- 2 The record of minutes of the meeting on 6 August were approved.
- 3 **Robyn Coghlan** (Chair of Belconnen Community Council) and Tara Cheyne reported on developments in the Belconnen Town Centre. **Ms Coghlan** noted that ongoing piece-meal development was hampering the planning process: particularly given that there were no limits on building heights in the Town Centre, and that appeals to ACAT had been abolished. In April 2013, BCC had asked to be involved in a review of the Town Centre master plan; in June 2013, Minister Corbell confirmed the review and in February 2014, ACTPLA outlined their process; it was noted that ACTPLA had been invited to allow a project officer to attend Community Council meetings. **Tara Cheyne** reported on a survey of community attitudes to issues raised by the Belconnen Master Plan. A range of methods was used, including social media; a total of 233 response were received, a good result. Results were summarised in seven groups: 1 Overall, development in the Town Centre was viewed favourably; 2 The lake was seen as an underutilised asset; 3 Community had a love/hate relationship with Westfield Mall; 4 Town Centre was too spread-out and unconnected; 5 “Speed cushions” were not liked; 6 Parking was “a pain” and the main reason given for avoiding the Mall, and 7 A variety of views were expressed about building heights, building shadow and wind corridors. It was observed that neither Totterdell Street nor Emu Ridge were included in the survey.
- 4 **David Collett**, Senior Director, Housing and Community Services, provided an update on the Strathgordon Court component of the Omnibus Territory Plan Variations. Open space was now planned for the northern section of the proposed redevelopment. In response to the presentation, a number of critical points were made regarding building height and bulk, the generally uninspired quality of the design and traffic and parking issues. David advised that expert advice would be sought regarding traffic flows and parking generally, and that there would be further consultation regarding design issues.
- 5 **Local Member Spot: Nicole Lawder**, Brindabella MLA, touched on three issues of interest: the light rail project; the bi-partisan support for the victims of the ‘Mr Fluffy’ insulation problem, and her concerns about recent language used in the Legislative Assembly.
- 6 **General Business:** Jenny Stewart had attended a consultation on the planned new Primary Health Care Networks, which would replace Medicare Local.
- 7 **Other Business:** There was no other business.
- 8 The meeting closed at 9:06pm; the next meeting of the WVCC will be the AGM for 2013-2014, on Wednesday, 1 October at 7:30pm in the Hellenic Club.

T J Aslanides Minutes Secretary 23 September 2014

