

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Record of Annual General Meeting in Aegean Room, Hellenic Club
7:30 pm on Wednesday 1 October 2014

- 1 The (Retiring) Chair, **Jenny Stewart**, welcomed attendees. There were apologies from Nicole Lawder, Chris Erett, Mike Reddy, Shane Rattenbury, Henry Hatch and Emma Walter.
- 2 The minutes of the previous AGM on 6 November 2013 were approved.
- 3 The Chair's report highlighted a selection of the year's presentations including those of Chief Planner **Dorte Eklund**, architect **Lydia Frommer**, and proponents of the **Capital Metro** and the **Westfield Mall** Extension. Withdrawal of the **Project Facilitation Bill** was a victory for common sense, Dr Stewart said, and emphasised that WVCC's concern for better planning was being heeded. Improved communication between government, architects and developers was happening. Liaison with other community councils, through ongoing attendance at meetings of the combined councils, was proving valuable. The Chair also thanked regular attendees at Council meetings, especially MLA Nicole Lawder. The Chair's report was accepted by the meeting. [The full report can be read on the WVCC website].
- 4 The Treasurer's Report was tabled, together with audited financial statements for 2012-2013. The Report was accepted by the meeting.
- 5 **Election of Officers for 2014-2015**
Chair and publicity officer: **Martin Miller**
Deputy Chair: **Mike Reddy**
Treasurer and publicity officer: **Bill O'Brien**
Secretary: **Archana Boniface**
Minutes Secretary: **Timoshenko Aslanides**
Committee Members: **Jenny Stewart, Chris Erett, Julian Fitzgerald**
- 6 **Local Member Spot:** The Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, **Jeremy Hanson**, spoke on a variety of issues of concern to residents of the Woden Valley and the ACT generally. Broadly, **Mr Hanson** addressed three main areas of concern: **1** Growth in the City; **2** A better-connected Canberra and **3** better local services.

In relation to growth, Mr Hanson emphasised the need for an enhanced city centre, rather than over-reliance on the Canberra Centre itself. Under connectivity, he discussed road-user needs, including parking, and the need for a new convention centre. Under services, he noted particularly that the health system was "in crisis"; rates, he added, were rising at "3 to 4 times" the rate of increase in the CPI. Against this he noted the government's \$800M commitment to light rail which, he said, would only service about 1% of the ACT population.

The proposed new building for the ACT bureaucracy, near the legislative Assembly, was mentioned and its effect on travel from the outer suburbs discussed.

Incoming Chair **Martin Miller** presided over a lively Q and A session, in which **Mr Hanson** answered questions from the floor relating to a range of issues including

light rail, transport generally, the ACTION bus service, provision for cycling and walking, and the current planning system, which he described as being “unworkable”. There was extended discussion of the ACT Hospital system. The Canberra Hospital was a high-cost operation due to high-needs patients, many from New South Wales. The workforce was described as “expensive”, a result of superannuation-related on-costs.

- 7 **General Business:** It was noted that budget submissions were now being accepted for consideration by the government.
- 8 **Other Business:** Woden Community Service head Chris Redmond spoke briefly on the impact of the NDIS scheme on community services. The annual Woden festival would be held on 8 November in Eddison Park.
- 9 Those present expressed their thanks for the significant and extensive work done over the years by outgoing Chair, **Jenny Stewart**. The meeting closed at 9:02pm. The next meeting of the WVCC is scheduled for 5 November, 2014 in the Apollo Room at the Hellenic Club.

Timoshenko Aslanides, Minutes Secretary, 30 October 2014