

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Record of Meeting, Hellenic Club, Woden,
Wednesday 8 June 2016

- 1 The Chair, **Martin Miller**, welcomed attendees. There were apologies from Greg Routledge and Alan Thompson.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting for 4 May 2016 were approved.
- 3 **Phil Greenwood**, from the John James Village Team, provided a final update on the JJ Village project. The six fully self-contained units are almost finished, with only the landscaping to be laid out. Invitations to the official ceremony to mark the opening of the Village on 5 August by the Chief Minister, **Andrew Barr**, MLA, were issued. Woden Valley Community Council support for the project was noted with thanks.
- 4 **Meegan Fitzharris**, MLA, Minister for Transport and Municipal Services, provided a detailed presentation on a new ticketing system and on the functions of a new agency (“Transport Canberra and City Services”, operational from 1 July and replacing TAMS), which will implement a new public transport plan and administer the proposed Light Rail Project.

The new ticketing system, which aims to be convenient, efficient, reliable and affordable, will use one ticket for one fare over the entire network. It will be administered by the new agency, which will explore the transport options required over the next 20 years, when the ACT population is expected to reach 500 thousand. The **Public Transport Plan** will manage this growth. New services will include a transport loop around Canberra City 7am – 7pm every 15 minutes; new services to the Molonglo Valley as well as the new Woden Bus Depot and Interchange upgrade. A trial of electrically-powered buses is planned and additional ‘park and ride’ and ‘bike and ride’ facilities are being considered.

The Minister then outlined Stage 1 of the **Light Rail Project**, Civic to Gungahlin. It was noted that Northbourne Avenue is Canberra’s most congested route. Stage 2 of this project will be taken to the next election. Regarding costing for this project, the Minister said that, by comparison with every dollar being spent on light rail, \$24 will be spent on education and \$33 on health. A light rail project of this type has long been envisaged in Canberra, she noted, and will be integral to Territory’s public transport future.

- 5 The Minister then fielded general questions from the floor. **Martin Miller** asked about unfinished foot paths, especially in Lyons (Minister agreed that more investment was needed, but a balance had to be struck between cycle paths, footpaths and community paths). Other questions included: Woden Town Centre and walking and cycling and implementation of the Master Plan? (\$1.5 million allocated in the budget, Minister will respond in more detail); removal of Commonwealth Government jobs? (Minister will follow up and report back on the effect of movement of Health Department staff on the Woden Town Centre).

Chris Erett asked about apparent inconsistencies in traffic speeds (50/60kph) in residential areas (Minister agreed it should be 50, but will reply in detail) and protected turning lanes in certain streets (being examined); a number of questions

noted that residents on the south side of Canberra had to pay for the light rail, but would not normally use it (Minister drew attention to whole of life distributed costing across all government services: we none of us still go to school, but clearly we must pay for the upkeep of government schools. Also, it is possible that future developments in light rail will include the south side of Canberra).

Jenny Stewart asked why more money could not be allocated to more buses?

(Minister noted that \$70 million was devoted to buses in the recent budget. Also, she said that Northbourne Avenue was already at capacity with buses, so the only options were either another very expensive lane or construction on the median strip. She added that light rail was cheaper, per passenger, than buses); special stops to be added to the rapid bus service Woden to City? (Minister will take on notice and respond); will the MyWay card be valid on the light rail? (No); Flexibility of bus services for youth, disability services and seniors? (Noted); funding for fixing the Cotter Road? (Funded. Work will commence very soon).

6 Other Business. Mike Reddy drew attention to issues with the NSW ticketing system (Opal), the need for more well-designed, weather-resistant, bus shelters in the ACT and the importance of recharge points for ticketing cards (Noted).

Martin Miller enquired about the loss of public space involved in the planned extension to the Woden cemetery (Minister opined that not much space was being lost, but she would take this on notice and respond); illegal construction of mountain bike trails, especially on Isaac Ridge? (This was not the Minister's responsibility, but she undertook to check developments and reply); Storm water and Yarralumla Creek? (Again, not this Minister's portfolio, but she take this on notice and respond);

Chris Erett asked about the closure of the Woden CIT and plans for use of the land and facilities (Decisions are yet to be made. Some courses will continue into the new year).

The Minister finished by noting the government's investment in the Active Travel Office and the need to encourage children to walk and ride to school. Parental concern with security and the practice of driving children to school was noted. The Minister was thanked for her comprehensive presentation and the meeting finished at 9:23pm.

Next meeting of the WVCC will be on Wednesday 6 July 2016 in the Hellenic Club.

Timoshenko Aslanides

Minutes Secretary,

12 June 2016