

**Woden Valley Community Council**  
**Record of Meeting, Southern Cross Club, Woden**  
**Wednesday 7 December 2016**

- 1 President, **Fiona Carrick**, welcomed attendees. There were apologies from **Martin Miller, Jenny Stewart, Chris Redmond, Elizabeth Lee, Tara Cheyne** and **Elizabeth Kikkert**.
- 2 Minutes of the last meeting, held on 2 November 2016, were approved.
- 3 Chair noted active involvement with Woden Community Services, Tuggeranong Community Council and others; WVCC members were invited to attend ACT courses on social media.  
Attention was also given to Deed of Grant with the ACT Government, Council submission for consideration in ACT Budget, consideration of various survey results, the Stewart Architecture 59 unit Townhouse development, and Chief Minister's urban renewal program.
- 4 **Chris Steele, MLA**, provided an update on issues of community concern. These included: **Plans** for rapid bus services; **Extension** of the Light Rail to Woden, for which construction is due to start in 2019; **Government** is open to suggestions on possible route for Stage 2;  
**Opinion** that Stage 2 will "revitalise" Woden Town Centre; **Health: \$800 M** to be spent on new hospital and emergency facilities as well as other health and aged care improvements;  
**Education: \$100 M** has been set aside for classroom upgrades; **Sport: 6.2 M** allocated for Phillip Oval upgrade, on which work has started and **Mr Steele** said that either he, or his colleague, Bec Cody, expect to attend WVCC meetings.  
**Questions** asked of or issues raised with Chris Steele included: Woden is "run-down" (Agreed); Action on derelict Alexander and Albemarle buildings? (He has raised this with the Government, he will raise it again); Phillip Pool and ice-skating centre is aging (Agreed, but facilities are privately managed and Government has no plans for either).  
**Mr Steele** stressed that he was anxious to encourage more development "on the south side".
- 5 **Caroline Le Couteur, MLA**, noted her interest and involvement in planning decisions. Issues canvassed included: **LDA** and the report on land sales; the **Integrity Commission** proposal; the **Active Travel** program and walking the cycling facilities associated with it and **Footpaths** to be upgraded as part of infrastructure improvements. She stressed that whilst workload was divided between herself and the other "Green", Minister Shane Rattenbury, she will chair the planning committee. This committee will monitor and as required, approve variations to the Territory Plan, energy performance and housing and sustainability options. Buying into the housing market was becoming less affordable, she noted. She intended to attend WVCC meetings.  
**Questions** asked of or issues raised with Caroline Le Couteur included: Light Rail? ("Will have a significant impact on the area and transform the Town Centre"); Public

consultation regarding Stage 2? (Yes and will start soon); Derelict buildings? (Is upset about these. Government needs to enforce lease conditions); With regard to a newspaper report about a street used for basketball, shouldn't residents be allowed to add to their local environment? (Yes and Government needs to talk with community, rather than just saying no to such initiatives).

**General Questions** included: recognition that maintenance of footpaths encourages healthy walking exercise, besides providing for pedestrian commuting? (Yes, noted); solar lighting added to some cycle paths and footpaths? (In consideration); Would functions of the proposed Integrity Commission overlap other agencies, such as Auditor General? (No); Government reluctant to pursue issues raised by Auditor General? (Noted).

It was observed that the LDA will most likely soon be split into two different entities. Also, many aspects of Master Plans, described as "guides to development" are not necessarily included in the Territory Plan; legislative options can be affected. **Chris Steele** noted that the population of the ACT was expected to reach about 500 thousand by 2031, so the need for "urban intensity" was a difficult balance against the need to retain "open spaces". It was claimed that Labor Party policy was to abolish negative gearing, which apparently accounts for the high number of empty houses: the owners were more interested in capital gains than income from rents.

Building Certifiers? (Perhaps they should be audited every year, so that buildings built are the buildings as planned); Apartment block selling rights – noted in comparison with Strata Title laws in NSW – as affecting individual residents? (Yet to be dealt with).

- 6 **Chris Redmond** was an apology; his presentation was deferred. Instead, **Mr Paul MacGlew**, President of the Woden Seniors provided an outline of his organisation and its activities. The facility is for active members and involves a variety of games and socialising events. **Questions** included: the status of an old redevelopment proposal? (Before his time, and situation is quite complex. The club is now concentrating on paying down debt); membership structure? (About 600 members, of whom some 75% are female. The median age is 75. People may join from age fifty; most join in their sixties). The club earns some revenue from sales at occasional book fairs.
- 7 In general business, **Mike Reddy** mentioned that the garden at the Curtin Shops was being developed; that the Trilogy Development was nearing completion and should be monitored; that Ricky Stuart House has been completed and there has been some useful work done on the Bus Interchange.
- 8 The meeting was finalised at 8:39pm. Informal end-of-year refreshments were then enjoyed.  
The next meeting of the WVCC will be on Wednesday 1 February, 2017 in the Canberra Southern Cross Club.

**Timoshenko Aslanides,**  
**Minutes Secretary, 13 December 2016**