

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

The logo for Woden Valley Community Council Inc. features a stylized green and blue graphic of a valley or hills to the right of the text.

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Record of Meeting

1 August 2007

1. Chair David Menzel welcomed attendees and said that apologies had been received from Ros Jackson, Richard Mulcahy, Jon Hargreaves, Natalie Colbert and Chris Redmond.
2. Mr Menzel introduced MLA Mick Gentleman who would advise the meeting of details of his private members bill to provide for a feed-in-law to encourage electricity consumers to move to renewable energy to reduce the contribution to Greenhouse gas production.
3. Mr Gentleman said that he had approached the Chief Minister several months ago asking that he consider a Feed-in Law as part of the ACT Governments Climate Change Strategy. Mr Gentleman said that a feed-in-law as part of the Climate Change Strategy was an effective incentive for people to embrace renewable technology. Mr Gentleman had talked with several community groups and organisations as well as liaising with relevant Government departments to gain as much feed back as possible as this was an important opportunity for the ACT to lead the way in developing a sustainable renewable energy program. Mr Gentleman said that he had extensively researched similar programs around the world. They all contained positive elements and it was important that the ACT adopt a program that best suits the climate.

Mr Gentleman said that a Feed-in Law is a market mechanism that encourages the adoption of renewable technology (eg photovoltaics) by paying people that generate their own electricity. People who feed that electricity back into the grid are paid more than the market price for the power that they generate. An incentive was required for consumers to install a renewable energy source on their roof with a reasonable capital outlay resulting in an eventual return. Mr Gentleman said photovoltaic became cheaper as production increased. A typical system would be paid off after eight years and the government would contract to buy into the grid for 20 years. European experience had shown that there were some benefits in job creation and it reduced CO2 production. He noted that coal fired electric plants in addition to CO2 production required significant quantities of water for cooling purposes which was also problematic in the Australian climate. Mr Gentleman said he hoped to have legislation passed by the end of the year.

4. Gisa Ruge from Hindmarsh addressed the meeting on progress on the Lyons Estate development and on a public update on the project to be held at the Hellenic club on 21 August. The proposed layout provided for two developments with 120 to 150 units of retirement accommodation with a range of units from single villas, two level apartments and three and four level apartment blocks with lifts. The second part of the development would be residential apartments up to three bedrooms with ten apartments to be offered to ACT Housing. She said that Hindmarsh intended to engage with the local community on the building form and design. Construction was expected to start in March 2008 with the first villas available in September 2008. Community concern had been taken into account in entry/exit from the development with entry from Burnie Street and entry on Melrose Drive for north bound traffic only. A nine storey tower was proposed which would require a variation to the Territory plan.

5. It was noted that ACTION was conducting a survey of bus users to determine usage and passenger requirements.

6. Chris Erett advised that he had made a submission on the proposed changes to electoral boundaries with the Woden valley falling between the cracks in electorates with various suburbs split between Molonglo and Brindabella. More work was required to convince the electoral commission that the Woden Valley needed to be treated as a community and not split between several electorates.

7. David Menzel said that Variation 259 had been introduced in the assembly which would alter the design of the North Woden precinct. There was a need to pressure the government to maintain community facilities in the area. He noted that short term leases on sporting facilities could be changed through appeal to the AAT. Mr Menzel said that a campaign of awareness was required to raise the profile of the sporting facilities and the need to retain them.