

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

3 November 2010

1. The President, Jenny Stewart, welcomed attendees. Apologies were received from Sheelah Egan, Jeremy Hanson MLA, and Greg Rutledge.
2. The record of the WVCC meeting held on 1 September 2010, was accepted.

Community Bank Proposal

3. Nick Tsoulias of the Curtin Community Bank Steering Committee and Jason Hinder, Chair of the Molonglo Financial Services Board of Directors informed the Council of the community bank campaign and the expected benefits to the Woden community. Currently, the Steering Committee was seeking support from the community (either as future shareholders or customers) as a first step towards determining the feasibility of a community bank. Community banks exist in Calwell and Wanniasa. Molonglo Financial Services manages the day-to-day transactions but depositors' accounts are protected by Bendigo Bank. A major benefit of community banks is that around 80 per cent of the profits are paid back to the community. Since their inception in Australia 17 years ago, more than \$40 million has been paid back to communities.

Solar Energy and Canberra's Future

4. Caroline Le Couteur MLA said only the WVCC had a presentation by ACTPLA on Draft Variations 301 (DV301) and 303 (DV303) to the Territory Plan. Given the complexity of DV303, consultation had been insufficient. DV301 required 95 per cent of the blocks to have reasonable solar access. Ms Le Couteur explained why orientation was important when it came to solar access. She said the ACT Greens have proposed to ACTPLA, that the solar provisions in DV301 and DV303 be removed and be made into a separate draft variation to the Territory Plan with separate consultations. She said that other parts of DV303 also would be better handled as separate draft variations.

5. Ms Le Couteur spoke about the legislation that had been passed in the Legislative Assembly the previous week, setting a target of 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020. ACT emissions from residential electricity per capita was one of the highest in the world.

6. Ms Le Couteur also spoke about population growth in the ACT where water was one of the biggest issues. She referred to the ongoing inquiry by the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water into the ecological carrying capacity of the ACT and region.

7. The meeting agreed that the WVCC would write to the Minister for Planning supporting the ACT Greens' proposal to deal with the solar provisions in DV301 and DV303 in a separate draft variation to the Territory Plan and consultation process.

Planning report

8. Shirley Lithgow reported that Gina Pinkas, on behalf of the WVCC, submitted comments on the development application for the redevelopment of Borrowdale House in the Woden Town Centre. WVCC's main objections included the height and bulk of the development (now about 27 storeys high and 5 metres shorter than Lovett House), which will impact upon the surrounding buildings and public areas in terms of wind, overshadowing and solar access.

9. Comments on the Eastern Broadacre Project (discussion paper at the ACTPLA website -- www.actpla.act.gov.au) needed to be submitted by 30 November. An issue for Woden is, if as proposed, Hume becomes the heavy industrial area for the ACT, the cumulative effect of emissions would impact on south Woden and Tuggeranong residents.

10. ACTPLA had approved with conditions the development application for the Sorrel development at 5 Burnie Court, Lyons of three 3-storey residential buildings and one 5 to 9-storey residential building consisting of 132 apartments with a basement car park.

11. The ACT Government's amendment to the *Planning and Development Act (2007)*, requiring ACTPLA to renotify development applications that contain mistakes and omissions was recently passed by the Legislative Assembly. Re-notification was one of the provisions in the ACT Greens' Amendment Bill that was defeated earlier this year. The Combined Community Councils supported the provisions in the Green's Bill, which would have also broadened residents' appeal rights.

Treasurer's report

12. The Treasurer, Henry Hatch, reported that the closing balance at 30 June 2010 was \$16,168.15. He moved, and David Menzel seconded, that the Council's audited financial statements for 2009-10 be accepted. Carried.

13. The next meeting of the WVCC will be held on 1 December 2010.