

## **Record of Meeting**

**Wednesday, 6 June 2012**

1. The Chair, Dr Jenny Stewart welcomed attendees to the meeting, including Gai Brodtmann MP and Caroline Le Couteur MLA.

Apologies were received from: Bill O'Brien and Brendan Smyth MLA.

2. **Record of WVCC Meeting held on 2 May 2012**

The record of the WVCC meeting held on 2 May 2012, as circulated, was accepted. Moved by Chris Erett; seconded by Henry Hatch.

3. **Woden Bus Interchange and Westfield Woden Shopping Centre**

Rod Baxter, Senior Manager, Infrastructure and Capital Works, Economic Development Directorate, and George Arena, Development Executive, Westfield presented concept plans for remodelling the Woden bus interchange and expanding the Westfield Woden shopping centre.

Mr Baxter told the meeting there would be many advantages in remodelling the Woden bus interchange in a de facto joint venture between the ACT Government and the interchange's closest neighbour, Westfield. His presentation made the following points:

- much could be learnt from the recent works at Westfield Belconnen and the Belconnen bus interchange;
- the Belconnen changes had cost the ACT \$28 million. The ACT Government recouped \$26 million in land sales. Long-term benefits from the changes are estimated at \$80 million;
- the new arrangements at Belconnen have helped re-invigorate bus services by strengthening the connection between bus travel and commercial activity;
- the existing Woden bus interchange that was constructed in the 1970s is tired and does not effectively serve the Woden Town Centre in 2012;
- the design of the Woden bus interchange turns its back on the town square and the theatre and restaurant precinct;

- the hidden garden beside the old police station premises is unused and irrelevant. It creates a barrier between the bus interchange and the Woden shopping centre and is perceived as an unsafe area;
- the proposed redevelopment would involve redesigning the Woden bus interchange and selling a portion of land south of the interchange to Westfield;
- a redeveloped bus interchange would have stronger connections with the Woden town square and would allow commuters to wait safely and comfortably in the commercial precinct;
- the ACT Government has not allocated funds for the redevelopment of the bus interchange in the Budget for 2012-2013; and
- that a joint working group with WVCC representation be set up to develop further the proposal.

George Arena supplemented Mr Baxter's presentation by pointing out how the proposed redevelopment could be of benefit both to Westfield and the community. He presented concept drawings of what an expanded shopping centre would look like and how it would function.

Rod Baxter and George Arena answered questions from the meeting that covered:

- shelter issues, particular for commuters across the road from the shopping centre extensions;
- parking;
- value of the site; and
- how the Keith Campbell building fits with the concept.

#### 4. **Energy Smart Workshop**

The Chair alerted the meeting to a media release on Energy Smart Workshops for ACT Homeowners that was emailed to all on the WVCC email list. An Energy Smart Workshop will be held in the Woden Library on Friday, 29 June from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

The Chair said this was a great opportunity for ACT homeowners to learn about possibilities for saving energy.

#### 5. **Addressing wood-heater pollution in the ACT**

The Chair alerted the meeting to an ACT Greens discussion paper on proposals to tighten emissions and introduce new efficiency standards for future wood burning heaters installed in residential areas of the ACT. The discussion paper has been emailed to all on the WVCC email list.

The discussion paper proposes the gradual withdrawal of non-compliant

wood heaters over time. People who wish to continue to heat their homes with wood will be encouraged to upgrade to wood heaters that are cleaner, more efficient and better for the environment and the community's health.

Deadline for comments on the discussion paper is 17 August 2012.

6. **Outcomes for Woden in ACT Budget**

Martin Miller noted there were not many highlights for Woden in the Budget for 2012-2013. Money has been set aside for some shopping centre upgrades.

7. **Planning Issues**

The Chair reported that there were no current Development Applications of significance to WVCC.

8. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer made available to the meeting a written statement of income and expenses current to 6 June 2012 at which time the balance of WVCC's account was \$22,407.53.

9. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of WVCC will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 4 July 2012 in the Hellenic Club, Woden.