

Record of Meeting

Wednesday, 5 June 2013

1. The Chair, Jenny Stewart welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Apologies were received from: the Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, Brendan Smyth MLA and Shirley Lithgow.

2. **Presentation by former Greens MLA, Caroline Le Couteur**

Caroline Le Couteur addressed the meeting, reflecting on her time in the Legislative Assembly. She gave examples on how community representation could effect change, but also noted the difficulties that MLAs had in discerning the broader view of the community on particular issues. Often it is only those opposing a proposal that will express a view whereas supporters may not make submissions.

Caroline observed that the community can get involved in government decision making via mechanisms such as the 'Time to Talk' website, but observed that in some cases submissions had little effect as the government undertook private polling on proposals which had more influence.

3. **Local member spot**

Steve Dospot MLA addressed the meeting, introducing himself and mentioning his role as the chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety.

4. **Presentation by representatives of ACT Government Sport and Recreation Services**

Jenny Priest and David Jeffrey, representing ACT Government Sport and Recreation Services, gave a presentation on the upgrade to the Woden Athletics Track and swimming facilities in Woden Valley.

They advised that the \$4.5 million project to upgrade the enclosed oval was scheduled to commence in October / November 2013 with completion in March 2014. They responded to questions about the standard of facilities and availability of parking, advising that it will meet requirements for grand prix events and that options for additional parking within the site are being considered.

The soon to be released Aquatic Facilities report provides a planning framework for the ACT for the period 2013 – 2033. The meeting was advised that the framework does not include any recommendations for the Phillip Swimming and Ice Skating Centre. While an earlier draft of the report had included a recommendation for the centre, this was not supported. The ACT Government has however already announced, in the 2013 Budget, that an aquatic facility would be developed at the Stromlo Leisure Centre in the town of Molonglo.

In response to questions about the lack of year-round swimming facilities in Woden, and the equity of provision of aquatic facilities across Canberra, the meeting was advised that as the Phillip pool was a private facility and that operations and any upgrades are a matter for the owners. Woden residents were able to utilise either the Canberra Olympic Pool or the Tuggeranong Pool in winter months when the Phillip Pool was closed.

5. **Presentation by representatives of the National Capital Private Hospital**

Rob Purdon of Purdon Associates and Wes Gault, representing Healthscope, gave a presentation on the expansion plans of the National Capital Private Hospital, located on the Canberra Hospital campus in Garran.

The meeting was advised of the scope of the expansion and the traffic, parking and pedestrian arrangements that would be put in place during construction.

6. **General Business**

i. **Woden Community Centre**

Emma Walter of Woden Community Services, advised the meeting that they had met with an architect who is undertaking a

study on site options for community facilities in Woden on behalf of the government.

ii. **Garran Land Release**

A suggestion was made that child care and/or aged care facilities be developed at Block 1 Section 24 Garran. The meeting was advised that the Economic Development Directorate has identified this site for health related facilities which would not preclude the above development opportunities.

7. **Next Meeting of the WVCC**

The next meeting of the WVCC will be held on Wednesday, 3 July 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Hellenic Club