

**Woden Valley Community Council**  
Record of Meeting, Southern Cross Club, Woden  
**Wednesday 6 September 2017**  
*MLA in attendance: Ms Caroline Le Couteur*

- 1 Acknowledgement of Country.
- 2 President, **Fiona Carrick**, welcomed attendees. There were apologies from **Jenny Stewart**, **Archana Boniface** and **Mike Reddy**.
- 3 Minutes of the 5 July 2017, and 2 August meetings were approved.
- 4 The Chair, **Fiona Carrick**, presented her report on the following  
**Meetings and Consultations:** • Mawson public housing (The Residents' Association is happy with the new designs) • **Ian Bushnell** (RiotACT) • Corinna Chambers AGM (to discuss the proposed Mural; submissions to close Friday 8 September) • **Katie Burgess**, from the *Canberra Times* (re publicity) • **Lisa Morisset** (Canberra Business Chamber) • Curtin Community forum (re development of shops) • The Convent (lease deconcession) • Federal Golf Club Community Forum (development) • Deakin (Unit developments) • **Lisa Petheram** (Graffiti Management Coordinator) • **George Michalis** (owner of the Cosmopolitan Building) • Community Councils from the south side of Canberra (re need for a stronger voice from south side ACT) • **John** (Phillip Swimming Pool and Ice Skating issues) and presentation to the Rotary Club.

**Other developments and Community Connections include:** • Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (and their invitation to young people to be involved) • Nominations for “faces” to be included in the proposed Woden mural • A submission regarding the Cemetery, made on 1 September • A submission regarding the Woden Precinct Code, due 15 September • “Placemaking” in the Woden Town Square (considered by the ACT Government) • University of NSW (They want to open a campus at the Reid CIT; “why not at Woden CIT which is near the Canberra Hospital?” asked **Fiona**.)

**Other Community connections:** with **Craig Wallace**, of the ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS) and **Kim Sinclair**, representing L’Arche Genesaret Inc, an international body devoted to helping people with intellectual disability; the organisation will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Canberra in 2018. “The Hub”, a new social enterprise by L'Arche Genesaret, recently opened on-line with the launch of its new website and Facebook page.

5 **Community Presentations**

**Fiona Carrick**, President of WVCC, illustrated changes to the Woden Precinct Code and noted the pressure on Eddison Park and the general loss of green spaces in the Woden area. Nor, she observed, did there seem to be any planning for the provision of additional green spaces. Building heights and the seasonal and daily impact of their shadows were noted. Also: the proposed Light Rail Stop appears to have been moved closer to Hindmarsh Drive, a development greeted with dismay by some attendees.

**David Jeffrey**, Senior Manager, Sport and Recreation Facilities, Active Canberra, gave a presentation on sporting facilities in Woden. Detailed plans were screened for the Phillip Oval Upgrade, budgeted for \$4.613M, and due for completion in April 2018. Key features were outlined, and detailed illustrations and plans were shown, including sketches of the main pavilion. **Questions:** Spectator seating? (Some seating is already there. Additional seating will be “old style” and include bleachers, as it is not envisaged that the venue will cater for large spectator events); Tenure arrangements? (Will be owned by ACT Government and sub-let as required); Who will use the facility? (Oval will be a significant and busy sporting hub for many sporting groups); How many potential participants? (More than five thousand in various age groups and codes, including cricket, in year round use).

**Melrose football precinct:** This was approved in March 2016 with a budget of \$6.653M. It was opened in March 2017; the key features were outlined. **Question:** Who will maintain the grass? (Partnership between school and Marist College is being considered). The **Woden Park Redevelopment** had a budget of \$7.2M and was opened in February, 2015. Key features were described. **The Stromlo Pool** has been allocated funding in the 2016/17 budget. The main pool will be 50metres; overall design allows for use by health clubs (hydrotherapy) and for future expansion of the facility.

**Questions:** Pool government owned and run? (Government owned, but managed by a private operator subject to supervision of maintenance and pricing); Future of the Woden Pool? Planning for and **Indoor Sports Facility**, for which \$160K has been allocated in the 2017/2018 budget. Active Canberra is currently developing the project brief, for which the main features were described); Basketball? (Being considered. Size is important, here: smaller facilities tend not to be commercially viable); Does Basketball have ACT Government support? (Yes. It is a “massive sport” in Canberra); Have sporting groups in general been consulted and especially about the hiring of basketball facilities? (Yes, though smaller groups can sometimes have problems obtaining access); Outcome of various feasibility studies? (A private consultant under Government supervision did significant studies on the needs of the various indoor sports).

*At this point, a show of hands was requested for those in favour of a proposed Multi-purpose Sports Hall in Woden. A good showing of hands was seen, though not counted. No hands were shown against the proposal.*

**Another question:** Shouldn't the whole of Woden have a say in this matter? (We'd need to undertake a study, though limitations on available funding will drive this issue);

**Ice sports scoping study:** \$75K has been set aside for this. Work has commenced and a report is expected late in 2017. **Questions:** Has the Government committed to specific facilities? (Yes. There was an election commitment for this work); Location? (Yet to be decided); What is the ideal facility? (Operating models are yet to be

finalised, but it is thought that two rinks, the one a “skating rink”, the other a “competition rink”, will be provided); Who funds ice rinks in Australia? (It varies. Clubs and private operators quite commonly fund and operate them); Has the future of the existing rink been considered when developing new ones? (There are several options. It is too early to say if it will stay in Woden. Costs have to be determined); Why the ice rink and not other sporting facilities? (This was an election commitment).

**Ben McHugh**, Director of Capital Works, Transport Canberra and City Services, provided an overview of on-road and off-road networks in the ACT as it involved the Active Travel program. The aim is to encourage public participation and integration with public transport systems and to reduce car dependency.

A range of recently-completed projects was documented, including extension to the Sullivan’s Creek Cycle Path and the Civic Cycle Loop. Feasibility studies have been completed to help prioritise future developments. **Question:** Where is the planning for the entertainment areas in Woden? Other projects, planned, under construction or completed were noted, including improved parking in Phillip; Phillip Oval upgrade; Woden Bus Depot upgrade; Hindmarsh Drive intersection upgrade (completed); the Cotter Road duplication (stage 2); Weston Creek dog park and the Brierly Street upgrade. **Questions:** Issue of an East-West walking corridor in Woden? (Yes. And useful but there is the possibility of a wind tunnel developing); Action on the Callam Street shared path? (Not in the budget); Matilda Street design? (Again, not in the budget); Corina Street shared path? (Feasibility study under consideration); Zoning implications for the new bus interchange? (Taken up by the Light Rail team); Planning consideration to Cotter Road duplication south? (On notice).

## 6 Update from MLA

**Ms Caroline Le Couteur** noted that the Assembly had passed legislation trialling new budgeting methods. A scheme of “deliberative democracy” was described, in which a sample of about five thousand randomly-selected people could advise on budget expenditure.

## 7 Other business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9:22pm. The next meeting of the WVCC will be at 7:00pm on Wednesday 4 October in the Southern Cross Club.

**Timoshenko Aslanides,**  
Minutes Secretary  
20 September, 2017