

**Woden Valley Community Council**  
**Record of Meeting, Southern Cross Club, Woden**  
**7 pm Wednesday 4 October 2017**  
**MLAs in attendance: Caroline Le Couteur, Christ Steele and,**  
**representing Gai Brodtmann, Drew Eppelstun**

- 1 Acknowledgement of country.
- 2 President, **Fiona Carrick**, welcomed attendees. Apologies from **Jenny Stewart, Mike Reddy** and **Robert Issell** were noted.
- 3 Minutes of the last meeting, held on 6 September 2017, were approved.
- 4 Chair, **Fiona Carrick**, presented her report on WVCC dealings since 6 September. These included meetings with: **Brooke Thomas**, Chief of Staff to the Attorney-General in the Legislative Assembly; the EPSD Directorate; The ACT Combined Community Councils; **Tony Prescott** (re ice sports); **Jeremy Hanson** (MLA) and **Mick Gentleman** (Minister for Planning and Land Management). Fiona spoke to **Craig Wallace** (from the ACT Council of Social Service) about the 2018-19 Budget Submission and attended the South Canberra Connect meeting.  
Submissions included: Legislative Assembly Committee into the draft Woden Precinct Code (submission 15 September) (Hearing 10 October); Legislative Assembly Committee into the Management of ACT Cemeteries (submission 1 September) (Hearing 11 October).  
Naming options for the new public park in the West Basin are invited (suggestions welcome to 27 October); and Placemaking in the Woden Town Square: Fiona will follow up on this issue.

**5 Presentations – Law enforcement**

**Sergeant Harry Haines**, Officer in Charge of Woden Valley Police, presided. Sergeant Haines said that media reports claiming that police were targeting “indigenous people” were not true: offenders were targeted, he emphasised, not racial groups. To do their job effectively, police needed to obtain and keep community trust; this required them to target offenders, whoever and whatever they were.

That said, he noted that statistics on offences regarding stolen cars, robberies and burglaries were all up. Most cars were stolen from homes these days because keys were needed to drive the cars. **Questions:** Statistics on encounters? (Not generally, though he noted that 84% of young people had no contact with the police. However, statistics on *offenders* were kept and these could include notes on race, since there were a variety of laws involved. He added that, conscious of their public image, the police took pride in conducting public tours of the Woden Station); had he seen American police statistics on race-related issues? (Australia is very different from the US. In his 30 years policing in the ACT, “law enforcement has been, and should always be, colour blind.” He added that programs of business management training for indigenous men and women had helped them in skills acquisition and job placement); Motor cycle gangs? (A worry. Especially the firing of weapons in the suburbs. Funding for “Nemesis” and other programs will help police to focus on the issue); People lying on benches in Eddison Park: sleeping drunk, or dead? What to do? (Ring police 131444 and they will check welfare).

**Presentations – update on the Mural**

**Fiona Carrick** will meet up with **Geoff Filmer**, Urban Artist from Graffik Paint, on Friday 6 October to discuss the artwork for the Mural.

## **Presentations – Light Rail and Planning**

**Emma Thomas**, Director-General Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate provided an update on Stage 2 of the Light Rail to Woden and **Fleur Flannery**, A/g Executive Director, Planning Policy Division in the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate provided an update on planning in Woden.

The focus is on attractive, seamless transport services that make it easy to get around. Planning that would stimulate the economy, enable easy connections, emphasise active travel whilst realising recreational opportunities, were all relevant, here, as were planning controls on building heights, densification, and people-oriented green spaces. Simplification of planning controls in the Phillip area were a priority, as was the provision of more usable “green spaces” as opposed to just more greenery.

A new carriageway on the Cotter Road, to be opened in first quarter of 2018, was noted. This will include a bike path. **Question:** Sustainability? (Yes) And what about horses, as well? (Under notice).

Traffic and transport modelling for the **Light Rail Stage 2** was under way and detailed technical and engineering designs were progressing. Of the two (illustrated) options for circling New Parliament House, the “red route” passes various institutions around the lake and adds about five minutes to the journey, compared to the more-direct “green route”. In addition, some 80 new buses were envisaged, with electric buses being considered.

A proposed “Green Rapid” bus service was described, with free travel for the first two months. A phone “app” for service times is envisaged. Also, regarding the “Active Travel” program: bike paths are nearing completion, with the Easty Street path finalised and Matilda Street in progress.

Recreation and other facilities in the Woden Valley were described: the Woden Library has more visitors than any other in the ACT. Also, the Heritage Library’s move is progressing.

**Question:** Will the move be to a populated area? (No, to Fyshwick, but there are good public transport connections).

Fliers promoting the Government’s “Your Say” program have been made available, to “Help create a better city through improved services”. Feedback is invited at [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au).

President **Fiona Carrick** then documented the lack of community facilities in Woden, the lack of which in Woden is notorious; politicians need to be pressured on these issues. This Council has made a submission to the Legislative Assembly’s Inquiry into Woden’s draft Precinct Code. The lack of a “drop-in” medical centre was mentioned by a person in the audience.

Wide ranging open discussion followed, taking in the appropriateness of private and public facilities and the implications for the Town Centre of increasing densification and associated need for social and entertainment precincts, community arts centres, education facilities, sporting activities as well as open green spaces. **Questions:** Woden Bus Interchange: will the upgrade happen, or just merge into the Light Rail project? (The immediate aim is a “clean up”. And whilst there will not be a “full upgrade”, development work will depend on observation of the two systems and how they work together.); Future of Blue Rapid Buses? Will they be replaced by Light Rail? (Early days, yet. And network changes have to be considered. So, they “don’t have an answer now”); Will not bus services have to be reduced after Light Rail? (Not

necessarily: the bus routes may be reallocated to maximise custom. And there will be, as mentioned, some 80 new buses); What is the website address for feedback? ([www.yoursay.act.gov.au/bettersuburbs](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/bettersuburbs)); Are other suburbs being neglected? And is amenity being provided to newer suburbs that is not enjoyed by older suburbs? (No. In Mawson, for example, LEDs are being added to the street lights. Safety issues, such as fences around school playgrounds, were also discussed). Placemaking in Woden? (Being worked on. Many options are being considered, with a lot of investment possible).

## **6 Updates from MLAs**

**Chris Steele** spoke firstly about education in the Woden Valley. Submissions were invited, he said, for a discussion paper now being developed. One, already available, was titled “Early Childhood Policy”. Variations to the Territory Plan were being considered; proposals involving Curtin were mentioned. Also, the Government is considering a container deposit scheme; 10cents per item being the tentative figure. He also noted the need for a good community pool. Bad news last: more than one thousand public servants had moved out of Woden since 2013. However, the Callam Offices were being refurbished for modern office accommodation. **Questions:** Why not a plan showing location of proposed facilities? (Noted); Will you lobby UNSW to set up their local branch in Woden, and not Canberra City? (No. UNSW have decided on Canberra city. This is not a Government decision). In passing, **Chris Steele** noted that some 31% of the ACT budget goes in health.

**Caroline Le Couteur** noted a planning meeting next Tuesday 10 October at which some five or six developers will present proposals. A Territory Plan variation was discussed as was the issue of increasing rates. **Question:** Has the Assembly discussed the solar feed-in tariff? Seven cents per KW Hour was “disgusting”. (Yes. But no response as yet. A “rebalancing” of the feed-in and normal tariff was required).

**Drew Eppelstun**, representing **Gai Brodtmann**, noted an upcoming Forum in Tuggeranong involving pension issues at which Jenny Macklin would also be attending.

The meeting finished at 9:42 pm. The next meeting of the WVCC, which will also be the Annual General Meeting, will be on Wednesday 1 November 2017 in the Canberra Southern Cross Club.

**Timoshenko Aslanides,**  
**Minutes Secretary**  
**16 October, 2017**