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## community news

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### Tuggeranong Community Council

**By** President Nick Tsoulas

WHATEVER the outcome of the ACT Election this week, once the celebrations or commiserations cease everyone will need to take a deep breath and realise we are facing the same disquieting news about our population problems today in Tuggeranong as we were facing before the election.

Being a region of the ACT that is also known as the "outer suburbs" or "South of the Lake", Tuggeranong lost in 2011/12 a net of 1328 residents to another area of the ACT. The largest population decreases occurred in our outer suburbs of; Gordon (down 180 people), Calwell (140) and Banks (120).

During the ACT Election campaign, the Tuggeranong Community Council supported the ACT government's announcement of the Tuggeranong Masterplan, in which a plan to see about 8000 new dwellings developed within 30 years could restore our population levels closer to 100,000 people.

Unless we act on it now, it is very unlikely that the Tuggeranong Masterplan will be able to make a significant change to our population demise, as the rate of annual net loss of residents may in fact supersede the rate of new residents moving into Tuggeranong.

We understand the masterplan primarily focuses on residential projects around the Town Centre. As most of the infrastructure is there for the 8000 dwellings, including roads, power, shops and services, and around 40 per cent of the developments will no doubt be sold off prior to any development commencing. Our planners should be aiming to see a commencement of these developments within three to five years and completed within 10 years. Thirty years is really another lifetime. The consequences of inaction for Tuggeranong would result seeing local business and more national retailers relocating to Woden and Gungahlin in the next five to 10 years.

Whoever the new ACT government will be, it will be down to work for our council and local MLAs to work together for job creation projects, and to identify new suburbs for the Tuggeranong region.

The next Tuggeranong Community Council meeting will be on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, at the Southern Cross Club from 7.30pm. Our guest speakers will be Minders of the Tuggeranong Homestead to talk about the proposed Tuggeranong Homestead and the recent masterplan announcement for wetland projects for the area. Our second speaker will be Roads ACT and Purdon and Associates to report on a local traffic study on Tuggeranong roads.