

Sub-Committee and other Reports:

Transport and Community Services Committee

Alison Ryan put forward a proposal for a Motion to the ACT Government regarding the establishment of a debt recovery Agency for outstanding fines for traffic infringements. She provided some background clarification on the issue and Colin Petrie spoke in support of the Motion based on the system operating in NSW and other States, and he strongly recommended its adoption. Some further clarification was provided by Sergeant Rod Anderson regarding the current process and he suggested a minor amendment to incorporate all fines not only traffic matters.

Members expressed some relevant comments in relation to the proposal and the Motion was revised to read as follows:

That the ACT Government legislates to establish a debt recovery system in the ACT. This will allow the Government to send any unpaid fines to the Debt Recovery Office to enable persons with accumulated fines to arrange an affordable payment plan.

The Motion was proposed by Ross McConnell, Seconded by Jan Petrie and was endorsed unanimously by the members in attendance. It will be sent in writing for the attention of the ACT Minister(s) for Police and Transport and copies will be circulated to TCC members via the Minutes.

A further Motion was proposed by Colin Petrie in relation to the response received from Minister Corbell regarding our recent proposal for introduction of a green garden waste bin. Colin provided some background information to counter some details in the Minister's response. Additional comments were provided by an attendee based on his experience with the success of such a service during his previous term as a Queanbeyan Councillor.

The proposed Motion reads as follows:

That the TCC whilst noting the Minister's comments, believes that a Green bin service will assist in further reducing material currently going into landfill and reduce the dumping of garden waste in bushland areas.

The Motion was proposed by Colin Petrie, Seconded by Alison Ryan and endorsed unanimously by the attendees.

Planning and Environment Committee

No members in attendance to provide a Report.

Police Report:

Sergeant Rod Anderson, OIC of Tuggeranong Police Station presented the following brief report on crime statistics and information regarding other local Police activities during May:

- All categories of crime reduced during the past month, particularly theft and damage to motor vehicles.
- The marked decrease of 37 in that category compared to the previous month is likely to be a culmination of the community becoming more aware and vigilant towards vehicle and property safety, as well as the identification and arrest of likely offenders by Police.
- A total of 41 arrests were affected by Police in the Tuggeranong Zone during May for offences ranging from breach of bail conditions to outstanding warrants, through to offences such as, assault, robbery, burglary and other property related offences, as well as the usual traffic offences.
- Police conducted 620 Suburban Policing Strategy patrols within the Tuggeranong patrol zone during the past month.
- May saw the commencement of the South District Pro-Active Team, involving both uniform and plain clothes members actively targeting "hot-spots" and people of interest across Woden and Tuggeranong. Targets are primarily intelligence driven, however, the team is also patrol driven, assisting on-road members with support as required. The result of the work done by this team so far has been outstanding; with a number of arrests made, several search warrants executed, with a large amount of stolen property recovered and a significant amount of intelligence gathered.

- Traffic targeting for May was the use of mobile telephones while driving. Tuggeranong Patrol members issued several infringement notices for this driving offence, accounting for just over 10% of all non-speed related offences. Targeting campaign planned for the months of June and July is speeding, in particular the main arterial roads leading to the snowfields. ACT Police are working in conjunction with NSW Police to ensure these roads are safe over the coming snow season.

Sergeant Anderson introduced a colleague from the Random Roadside Drug Driving project, Sergeant Ron Melis, to provide a brief overview of the scheme recently introduced in the ACT and display some of the testing equipment. He outlined the following activities:

- Scheme originally introduced in Victoria in 2004;
- Testing of oral fluids for prescribed drugs – 3 main illicit drugs not found in prescription medication;
- Random selection of drivers for screening test device involving saliva – 5+ minutes for result;
- Positive result followed by a separate independent instrument test;
- Positive result will involve removal of offender from road for 12 hours;
- 3rd stage involves oral fluid swab tested in laboratory before prosecution;
- No limit involved and any detection is considered an offence.

Questions from the floor:

Members raised some basic concerns, including the following:

- Query as to whether drug testing is required after motor vehicle accidents.
Yes if police require it, but not all officers have the required equipment or necessary training at this stage.
- Nature of education process and promotion involved with the campaign.
Recent media publicity and further promotion options being investigated by TAMS.
- What arrangements involved if offender is prohibited from driving his vehicle?
Generally driver's responsibility but appropriate assistance provided by Police in case of need.
- Query re extent of penalties involved. **Maximum of 20 penalty units and loss of licence.**

Appreciation was expressed for the Sausage Sizzle and "Meet and Greet" session recently conducted by Police and local Community Groups at the Erindale Centre. Darryl took the opportunity to mention that the Council has actually been a strong supporter for the introduction of Random Roadside Drug Testing in the ACT.

Update from Local Members:

Darryl invited the sole local Member in attendance, namely Amanda Bresnan MLA (ACT Greens) to provide a brief report on current activities and issues of interest in the political arena. Amanda mentioned the following items:

- Reference to our earlier Motion re traffic fines – matter to be investigated and supported by Greens;
- Draft Bill introduced by Shane Rattenbury regarding improving standards of rental properties – based on action taken in Victoria;
- Reference to local road/traffic priorities to be mentioned in Tony Gill's presentation;
- Participation in St Vincent de Paul's CEO Sleepout project – several politicians involved;
- Regulation proposed re use of Solariums to avoid impact of skin cancer.

A query was raised regarding the timing of the proposed introduction of the ban on plastic shopping bags. Ms Bresnan indicated that it may be November this year but exact details to be checked and confirmed.

A short break was taken at this stage prior to the presentation by our guest speaker.

Guest Speaker – Mr Tony Gill:

President, Darryl Johnston introduced Tony Gill, Director Roads ACT to address the meeting on the topic of roads and road works in the Tuggeranong and local areas. Darryl reminded attendees of the TCC Code of Conduct and the required level of courtesy to be afforded to our guest presenters.

Tony provided a report on current and planned projects which included the following information:

- Monaro Highway duplication between Dairy Road and Canberra Avenue with two new bridges required – contract let for \$18.5 million and major work to commence at end of June.
- Plan for Ashley Drive upgrade between Sternberg Crescent and Johnson Drive – funding in 2010 Budget for feasibility study – traffic volume of 22,000 vehicles per day. Plans deferred by Erindale Master Plan proposal – traffic lights proposed at intersections with Sternberg Crescent and McBryde Crescent in Wanniasa and further upgrades at various other intersections.
- Tharwa Drive – recent improvements have created vision problems at Box Hill Avenue roundabout.
- Tharwa Bridge – \$26 million for upgrade – to be opened shortly and inspection recommended.
- Smiths Road Bridge – upgrade planned shortly following recent flood damage.
- Mortimer Lewis Drive (Greenway) – various concerns recently raised and proposed improvements to footpaths and road access around lake are under consideration.
- Isabella Drive/Athllon Drive intersection – part-time traffic lights proposed sometime next year to improve traffic operations – less costly than the ideal option of an underpass/overpass as suggested.
- Relocation of bus shelter at Calwell Shops to improve visibility and access – appreciation expressed for prompt action.
- Erindale Drive – 14,000 vehicles (only) per day – no plans for duplication upgrade at present.
- Walking and Cycling Report – various improvements around Town Centre and lake foreshore recommended – copy of Report provided to the Council and also available on TAMS website.
- ‘Keep Left’ signs on Monaro Highway and general driver behaviour.

Questions from the floor:

Various queries and concerns were raised by attendees, including the following:

- Serious vision problems reported at several busy intersections due to overgrown vegetation/landscaping.
- Dangerous traffic conditions in De Little Circuit (Greenway).
- Poor condition of footpaths with pedestrian access shared with cyclists – signage required to prompt changed behaviour to avoid serious accidents. Meeting between residents and local cyclists groups suggested (by Darryl).
- Better synchronisation of traffic lights required on Drakeford Drive due to changed traffic conditions.
- Regular traffic congestion on Johnson Drive between Ashley and Drakeford Drives in peak hours – traffic detours through residential streets in Isabella Plains to speed up journey to destination.
- Pollution problems in lake and concerns about water catchment – water from lake is not potable and is currently planned to be used for irrigation of local playing fields.
- Reference to safety concerns in Sidney Nolan Street (Conder) – measures required to control heavy increase in traffic due to the shape of road and the nature of establishments.
- Report on several serious accidents in Sternberg Crescent in recent years – early remedial action required to avoid further incidents. Erindale Master Plan should provide a reasonable solution.
- Signage required for drug driving warnings – broader traffic safety issues involved.
- Concern expressed on lack of coordination of large planning proposals with design of roads.

Other Business / General Announcements:

Nick Tsoulias provided a brief update on behalf of the “Doctors4Tuggeranong” group regarding the recent developments with improvements to medical services in Tuggeranong. An agreement had been reached with Ochre Health to open a new Medical Centre in the Calwell Shopping Centre and they were expecting to commence operations in early July on a 5 days per week basis initially, with further expansion planned locally. Nick acknowledged the assistance and support of the TCC with promoting this campaign.

Darryl reminded members about membership renewals being due at the end of the month and also invited any interested people to become members. He also informed attendees of the Annual General Meeting in September and encouraged members to consider nominating for positions on the Executive Committee.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, 5 July 2011**, with guest presenter being Hamish Horne from the ACT Cemeteries Authority with an update on the Southern Cemetery project. The meeting concluded at approximately 9.40pm and members were invited to stay on for the usual light refreshments.