

**Tuggeranong Community Council Inc**  
**Minutes General Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014**

**Present:**

See attendance record of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014.

President Eric Traise opened the Meeting just after 7.30pm.

**Welcomes:**

All MLAs & guest speakers: SolarShare and Alistair Coe MLA, Opposition spokesperson for Capital Metro.

**Apologies:**

Gai Brodtmann, Brendan Smyth, Joy Burch, Russ Morison, Jeff Chapman, Robyn Chapman, Colin Petrie.

**Confirmation of Minutes of August Meeting:**

The draft Minutes were presented of the previous meeting, as circulated and on website. Accepted.

Moved: *Beverley Flint*

Seconded: *Bill Heins*

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Nil.

**President’s Report:**

Treasurer Max Flint presented President Eric Traise’s report because Eric's voice was not strong enough (see attached). Key points included:

- Responded to Joy Burch’s ‘disappointment’ that the TCC passed a motion to opposing the current Capital Metro Light Rail project. Rejected Joy Burch’s suggestion that the TCC’s position is selfish because ‘it provides nothing of benefit to Tuggeranong’ when the real concern of the TCC is the very large cost and the impact on the Territory's long-term finances.
- Sent two letters on light rail this month:
  - 1) Auditor General, Maxine Cooper requesting a review of the projects finances.
  - 2) Chief Minister responding to the response from them about TCC’s first letter and challenging the results of the survey for the light rail which stated 55% of Canberrans support the project despite no survey questions being included about ‘cost’ of project. Suggested they commission another survey with questions cleared by the Community Councils.
- Additional correspondence to be sent includes:
  - a) Funding for Ashley Drive duplication.
  - b) Legislating Canberra Airport noise abatement zones.
- ACT Government had a ‘drop-in’ Community information session about proposed re-zoning of land in East Greenway.
- A Development Application for 95 units at South Quay has been lodged. Will be asking the South Quay developers to present at October TCC meeting.

Moved: *Eric Traise*

Seconded: *Frank Vrins*

**Treasurer’s Report (Max Flint):**

- The Treasurer delivered his report as attached. Minimal activity during past month. Currently account balances total \$24,053.19 after a net change of -\$77.64.

Moved: *Max Flint*

Seconded: *Nick Tsoulias*

**Guest Speaker:**

**- Lawrence McIntosh & Steve O'Connor - SolarShare**

- SolarShare ([www.solarshare.com.au](http://www.solarshare.com.au)) is a community-owned group that formed 2 years ago to provide a way for communities to invest in local solar projects.
- Announcing a partnership with developer Photon Energy for a project on Mugga Lane (2 Hectares).
- Mugga Solarshare, Photon Energy – looking to do consultation.
- The SolarShare concept arose out of ‘See Change’ a community, not-for-profit group. Has a ‘democratic governance’ model similar to member-owned banks like Bendigo Bank.
- Project expected to power 300 homes. Has 409 shareholders \$3m – min \$350, up to \$20,000, return of 5% p.a. predicted.

Some questions included:

Q. – What is going to happen to the project if the Federal Government cancels/changes the RET scheme?

A. – SolarShare is submitting an application to ACT Govt supported program. The program provides a way for SolarShare to sell the energy it generates, to the grid. Before that, must transfer all RET and any rights to solar energy credits to the ACT Govt.

Q. – Why is the project so small, why not bigger?

A. – Have so far received \$1.79m in investment from community contributors – a little bit less than what is needed for current project. Want to ensure there is sufficient community commitment.

Q. – Will there be any ‘solar glare’ impacting peoples house?

A. – Not aware of any houses nearby, closest houses are in Isaacs on other side of ridge.

**Guest Speaker:**

**- Alistair Coe MLA – Opposition Transport Spokesperson. Speaking on Capital Metro**

- Current proposal Gungahlin to City is 12.5km at a cost of \$614m (increasing with inflation).
- Details of operational costs not yet known, expected to carry 3.5k commuters, 12-14 trams. These costs could be as high as approx \$75m a year. The annual subsidy for Action is currently \$115m a year.
- Economic modelling suggests that Bus Rapid Transit returns \$4.78 on each dollar invested. Government figures suggest Light Rail returns \$2.34. ACT Liberals hired an economist to review – their modelling suggests a Light Rail return of \$0.43 per dollar invested.
- Major concern is ‘How the route chosen’. No analysis of different routes since 2003. Passenger demand is only one way - no tourist attractions, no airport – running empty on the return leg – no off peak demand.
- A 2003 study suggested the priority should be the Belconnen to Civic route, then the Woden to Tuggeranong to Civic route and then the Kingston to Manuka route.
- Additional concerns include lack of people that live near the proposed route, additional cost when there are already many buses servicing the area, the time taken for the journey that would include a lot of stopping.

Some questions included:

Q. – Why was Gungahlin the chosen area?

A. – Perhaps it is going ahead because it is the first item in chapter 2 of the Labor-Greens agreement. Need an assessment of all routes, proper staging, do most economic route first.

Q. – Joy Burch suggested Gungahlin route chosen because of no lakes, bridges etc to cross.

A. – No bridge or lake to cross for the Belconnen route either. No proper assessment done – returns may be better on routes with bridges and lakes and can thus recover additional costs.

Q. – Concerns about growing population of Canberra, peak oil, number of trucks on the road, etc. What do you see is the future of Canberra then?

A. – 92% don’t use buses, 80% use cars. Most obvious solution is to improve Bus service.

Q. – Regarding the survey – 55% in favour – many of the questions were leading and didn’t ask about cost.

A. – Wasn’t a scientific survey, last survey that was scientific didn’t support light rail.

### **General Business:**

- Regarding Asbestos and the Mr Fluffy issue and there are properties affected in the Tuggeranong region – wondering if there has been any representations to the Council about the issue. In short – has not been discussed by the Council but if members think it warrants discussion/motion, happy to consider.
- Police advised ‘Safe Number-Plate’ will be held at the Hyperdome, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 10 til 2pm.

Close meeting 8:40pm with the AGM to commence after coffee break.

The next General Meeting will be **Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014.**

Attachment below: Presidents Monthly Report and Treasurers Monthly Report

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2014 MEETING.**

If you were here last month, you would have heard Joy Burch expressing her disappointment with TCC’s opposition to the Light Rail project. I would expect nothing less from a Government Minister. She thought that objecting to it on the grounds that there is nothing in it for Tuggeranong residents was a bit “selfish”. She posed the question, what if Belconnen people objected to Govt. money being spent on projects in Tuggeranong? The best way I can reply to these points is to say that the TCC has never objected to money being spent on the Northside to establish the facilities they need. But, the light rail is not a “normal” infrastructure project. It is the most expensive infrastructure project ever proposed by an ACT Government. It will probably add at least \$1 Billion to Govt (our!) debt. This one project will increase Govt. debt by about 20%! So it is very different and we don’t really need it!. Also, the assertion that there was nothing in it for Tuggeranong residents was only a small part of the letter to the Chief Minister that covered the many issues that the TCC has with the project.

Joy also mentioned that the Govt would release the updated business case after Cabinet signs off on it. “No secret business here” were her words. Well Joy, Simon Corbell has said all the costing information in the Business Case will not be released, so there **is** “secret business” here.

We have sent two letters on the light rail project this month. The first was to the Auditor General, Dr. Maxine Cooper, requesting that her Department undertake a review of the project’s financial management system. Minister Corbell has stated that works are being undertaken outside of the project’s budget. The danger is that if all these extra costs are not captured, the public will never know its true cost.

We’ve also sent another letter to the Chief Minister expressing our disappointment at her reply to our first letter and asked more questions. It also made the point that the TCC does not accept that 55% of Canberrans support the project based on a survey conducted by the Capital Metro Project Office. The survey was highly biased to elicit positive answers to leading questions. No questions about costs were asked. We have suggested they commission another one if they really want to know what Canberrans think but circulate the questions to all Community Councils for comment before the survey is conducted.

I’m preparing several other letters concerning the proposed Southern Cemetery, funding for Ashley Drive duplication and Canberra Airport noise abatement zones.

**Other matters** Govt representatives conducted a “drop – in” here last Tuesday evening to get community feedback on the proposal to re-zone land at East Greenway for residential in fill.

A developer has submitted a Development Application for 95 units at South Quay opposite Bunnings. This is very significant in that it will set the ‘look’ for the rest of the site. Closing date for public comment is 23 September 2014. We will try to get this extended into October so that the developer can tell us about his DA at the October monthly meeting. He has an obligation to conduct community consultation. I understand that he had a real estate agent buttonholing people outside Woolworths in the Hyperdome. This is not adequate community consultation. The alternative to deferring the closing date is convening a special general meeting sometime before the 23 September closing date – assuming he is prepared to attend the meeting. I don’t know why he hasn’t already spoken to us; not a good start. Glenys, Max and I will attend a Combined Community

Council meeting this Saturday morning at Belconnen. That's enough from me, any questions?  
TCC Treasurers Report for September 2014 meeting prepared by Max Flint.

<b>TUGGERANONG COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)</b>		
<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>		
<b>GENERAL MEETING</b>		
	2/09/14	S Cross Club
<b>ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD ENDING</b>		
	<b>August 2014</b>	
	Date	Balance
<b>Operating Account</b>		
Start of Period	1/08/14	5,743.51
Income		76.00
Expenses		-187.96
Cheques not yet presented		0.00
Cheques paid from last month		0.00
Transfers TO Investment Acct		0.00
Transfers FROM Investment Acct		0.00
Transfers TO Petty Cash		0.00
Transfers FROM Petty Cash		0.00
End of Period	31/08/14	5,631.55
Net Change for Period		-111.96
<b>Investment Account</b>		
Start of Period	1/08/14	18,383.72
In		34.32
Out		0.00
End of Period	31/08/14	18,418.04
Net change for Period		34.32
<b>Petty Cash</b>		
Start of Period	1/08/14	3.60
In		0.00
Out		0.00
End of Period	31/08/14	3.60
Net change for Period		0.00
<b>Total Accounts</b>		
Start of Period	1/08/14	24,130.83
End of Period	31/08/14	24,053.19
Net change for Period		-77.64
<b>INCOME FOR PERIOD</b>		
	Date	Sum
<b>Total Income (excluding transfers)</b>		76.00
<b>EXPENDITURES FOR Period</b>		
	Date	Sum
Optus-Phone	5/08/14	62.96
Southern Cross Club	23/08/14	125.00
<b>Total Expenses (excluding transfers)</b>		187.96
<b>NOTES:</b>		
1. Committee expenses are those incurred by Committee Members, while performing Committee duties.		