

Tuggeranong Community Council Inc
Minutes General Meeting – 3rd June 2014

Present:

See attendance record of 3rd June 2014.

Acting President Glenys Patulny opened the Meeting just after 7.30pm.

Welcomes:

All MLAs and guest speakers – South Quay development and Dorte Ekelund, Director General of Environment and Sustainability.

Apologies:

Eric Traise, Gai Brodtmann, Lynn & Barry Bott, Joy Burch, Frank Vrins, Michael Lindfield, Darryl Johnston, Jan Petrie.

Confirmation of Minutes of May Meeting:

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

Moved: *Beverley Flint*

Seconded: *Russ Morison*

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Nil.

President's Report:

Acting President Glenys Patulny reported as follows:

- Advised Council members that member Alison Ryan had passed away that morning after a 15-month battle with cancer. Beverly Flint read out a message of condolence from Darryl Johnston. Max Flint read out a message of condolence from President Eric Traise.
- Jan Petrie has stepped down as Secretary. Glenys thanked Jan for her significant contribution, especially for her work on the TCC Constitution.
- The contentious ACT Planning and Development Amendment Bill that was mentioned last meeting, has been withdrawn from ACT Parliament.
- Reminder that TCC sub-committees need more people to be involved.
- Reminded attendees of code-of-conduct to behave respectfully to all members and guests irrespective of political, cultural or other differences.

Moved: *Glenys Patulny*

Seconded: *Beverly Flint*

Correspondence.

- Sent letter to: Economic Development Directorate re Village Creek Primary School in Kambah being closed down / demolished for aged units. Raised concern there may not be enough community facilities left in the Valley, because Urambi School, which also houses a lot of community groups is also being pulled down.
- Sent letter to: Gai Brodtmann & Zed Seselja regarding Lake Tuggeranong and plans to do testing for another two years before any action is taken. A lot of testing has already been done over the past 10 years; the problem needs action and wonder if the ACT Commonwealth agreement could be amended to make action the priority.

Treasurer's Report (Max Flint):

- The Treasurer delivered his report as attached. Minimal activity during past month. Currently account balances total \$25,374.22. A slight reduction due to \$748 in expenditures.

In General Business will further discuss:

- Meeting outcome regarding Mural Wall.
- Further developments of the TCC Forward Plan.
- Discuss Canberra Metro light rail.
- Attended opening meeting Priority Basin forum – Community Councils have been invited to attend as a consulting group. ACT Govt has committed an additional 10% of money to Priority Basin project.

Moved: *Max Flint*

Seconded: *Robyn Chapman*

Environment Committee:

Tom Cheesman reported as follows:

- Petition to fix up the lake is still going, nearly 2,000 signatures so far, will keep it going until 31 July. Have set up a Facebook page to promote petition and to get more signatures. Will also be getting an online petition through the ACT Government. People can sign one or the other.
- Noted the amount of rubbish around Tuggeranong McDonalds and KFC in the parking bays on weekends and suggested targeting street-sweeping activity to Saturday and Sunday mornings might actually catch a lot of rubbish before it enters the lake.

Q. – Legality of petition queried - needs to be in hard copy, signed, addressed to Parliament, etc, so will Facebook ones be noted?

A. – Facebook is being used to merely promote the online petition.

Health and Community Committee:

Beverly Flint reported as follows:

- Updated Council on the health of President Eric Traise. Eric was unfortunately discharged too early on two occasions and is now back in hospital in Sydney. Hoping he will be discharged from hospital soon but it's a wait and see situation.
- Will speak to the management of Tuggeranong McDonalds about the issue of rubbish build-up on Friday and Saturday nights.
- 2nd footpath for East Greenway is now underway. The ACT Director of Roads is taking up an issue regarding a problem with some residents in De Little Circuit impacting on the completion of certain sections of the footpath.

Planning Committee:

Wayne King declined to report as guest speaker Dorte Ekelund, Director General of Environment and Sustainability will be discussing relevant planning issues.

Transport Committee:

Russ Morison reported as follows:

- Re street-sweeping issue – leaves going into drains and ending up in Lake, particularly during autumn / winter – will write on behalf of South East Tuggeranong Residents Association to Municipal Services.
- Car Boot sale is being held on 21 June at 'Calwell Park & Ride' just off Johnson Drive.

Police Report:

Sgt Jo Cameron reported:

- For the month of May 2014: 53 Burglaries (up 16 on last month), 57 Property Damage (down 8), 26 Assaults (up 2), 8 reports of Stolen Motor Vehicles (down 3), 22 reports of Number Plate Thefts (up 6), 22 Reports of Thefts from Motor Vehicles (down 15), 142 Thefts (up 23), 31 Arrests, in all 1,555 Incidents recorded.

- Increased activity over previous months but a lot of this activity was being proactive. Have been very busy with search warrants, breaking up some of those crime networks that have been taking things from motor vehicles, or taking the vehicles themselves.
- Some search warrants actioned for local Tobacconists in relation to synthetic cannabis.
- Theme for month of June is 'Driver Distraction' – particularly during cold months, not taking the time to defrost or de-ice windows. As well as using mobile phones while driving. Police stations have free ice-scrapers available.

Q. – Car break-ins, number-plate thefts, are these happening in car parks or in front of peoples homes?

A. – Anecdotally, these have been occurring in suburbia, out on the street, in driveways or cars parked on the verge. Prevention is the best defence, removing valuables as much as possible is recommended.

Q. – I parked at Homeworld the other week and when I came back my petrol cover was open – is this much of an ongoing issue?

A. – Not aware of it being a common problem but as petrol prices rise, drive-offs become more of a problem, and so would increase people stealing petrol. Not aware of a retrofit that could fix petrol caps.

Q. – My registration renewal noted that parking on footpaths or nature-strips being illegal, but a lot of people install parking bays out the front of their property, are they breaking the law by parking there?

A. – Will take that on notice to give a definitive answer. However, as long as it is not obstructing the roadway, is on your property and out of the way, there should be no problem. Parking on major public roads, median strips, around major sporting grounds etc, then that is illegal. Where it does become an obstruction, interferes with the amenity of the neighbourhood then it can lead to disputes between neighbours, which we would deal with on a case-by-case situation.

Update from Local Members:

Mick Gentleman:

- Personally passed on his condolences for Alison Ryan, advised that the Chief Minister wished to pass on her condolences as well.
- Recently attended the opening of the new trade training centres at Erindale College, Caroline Chisholm High and also Tuggeranong College. Erindale is a barista and café style trade training centre, which is being operated as a café. The Tuggeranong centre is a brand new building located at old basketball courts.
- Budget – The ACT Government has had a \$374m reduction due to Federal Government cuts, but there is a strong emphasis on infrastructure delivery to create jobs across the Territory, financed by borrowings. The ACT economy will still grow but at a slower rate.
- Tuggeranong specific Budget announcements:
 - Isabella Plains Weir gets an additional \$10.2m, for strengthening and will help quality of water and will help with the South Quay developments;
 - CIT campus in Tuggeranong is proceeding, plans to come out later this year;
 - Tuggeranong Health Centre gets funding for 4.5 full time equivalent staff;
 - \$1.4m for childcare centre upgrades;
 - \$600k for design and work on the Tuggeranong Leisure Centre outdoor water park;
 - Work on Tuggeranong parks – upgrades and additional gym equipment at Theodore, Greenway and Town Centre parks.
- General ACT Budget announcements:
 - 300 extra jobs in the ACT public service over 4 years, 31 new hospital beds, \$10.4m for cancer services, \$9.0m for mental health services, \$43m for secure mental health facility, \$9.2m for sustaining the Smart School program;
 - Rates will go up 10%, average of \$153 per year but includes a decrease in stamp duty and insurance tax. Stamp duty on insurance over time will reduce to zero, stamp duty on transferring houses is

going down as well. Cost for those wanting to downsize wont have to have to pay very much stamp duty.

- Recycling infrastructure, Federal Government will pay 15% on top of sale price if used to fund new infrastructure. Investigating potential sales such as sale of ACTAB or Macarthur House.
- Tuggeranong Lake quality – spoke with Simon Corbell whether some of the money could be brought forward. The agreement with the Federal Government is there has to be testing for 2 years, but is happy to talk to the government to see if some of the testing that has been done over the years can be used for this. Simon Corbell is happy to meet again with the Tuggeranong Lake Carers (TLC) to further discuss, and perhaps Mick and the TLC should go speak to the Federal counterparts again.

Q. – Re - Paying rates and stamp duty: had just recently downsized house and paid a lot of stamp duty but now have to pay a lot of rates – its like being hit twice for the one thing, is this reasonable?

A. - Treasurer wants to move away from taxes like stamp duty and move towards broader based taxes to have more stability and certainty of revenue. A lot of revenue comes from land sales and stamp duty, but this fluctuates widely and makes it difficult to budget effectively. Moving away from stamp duty and towards broader rates / land taxes allows to budget more effectively into the future.

Q. – Some people who have just downsized their house had a double penalty of having to pay both stamp duty and now rates / land tax, is the government going to do anything about this?

A. - The charge of rates is on everybody, understand it is difficult in this situation, will make it better for people in the future who now won't have the burden of having to pay stamp duty.

Q. – When will stamp duty be phased out because I thought it should have been removed as part of the introduction of GST?

A. - Will be completely phased out over the next 4 to 5 years, has already reduced dramatically,

Q. - First homeowners grant has been taken off established homes. This disadvantages Tuggeranong as the grant covered stamp duty and Tuggeranong has a lot of established homes, is this fair?

A. Will get back to TCC and advise of timetable to phase out stamp duty.

Brendan Smyth:

- Raised concerns about budget, about projections for growth, levels of debt and borrowings and the basis for return to balanced budget.
- Reported Simon Corbell admitted the previous Federal Labor Government had cut 14,453 jobs from ACT.
- Has doubts how the budget turnaround will occur, has underlying deficits of \$900m, borrowings of \$1.2 billion, interest payment of \$1 billion over 5 years.
- Last budget had \$600m for infrastructure, only ended up spending \$400m on infrastructure.
- Blowouts in previous infrastructure projects - Gungahlin Drive was meant to be \$50m, cost about \$200m. Secure mental health facility costs went from \$11m to \$43m, as well as delayed by 3 years.
- No money in budget for construction of big infrastructure projects such as light rail or sub-acute hospital.
- Convention Centre got \$1.5m but cannot commence because the planning has not been done. Extra accommodation at Alexander McConachie Centre haven't stated when construction will commence.
- Map of where money being spent, smallest amount is for Tuggeranong.

Nicole Lawder:

- Read out a blurb from The Canberra Times – about the increase in rates, increased water charges and higher parking and traffic fines.
- Budget will increase in parking inspectors by 1/3 – expected to increase \$1.6m, rates increased by 10%, more land tax for rented apartments, higher fire / emergency services levy for properties over \$2m.
- Greenway Oval is being upgraded.
- Not much change to shadow portfolio – Isabella Weir is a rollover from this current financial year.

- Kangaroo population management \$1.5m fertility control and a trial. Proposed trial 3 times more expensive than culling.
- Community Services had no increase in care and protection of vulnerable children. Disappointing given ACT spends the least on child protection and has the worst outcomes.

Andrew Wall:

- Prison – an additional \$100m over 4yrs, so total cost over next 4-yrs will cost a total of \$300m, turning into a black-hole that money keeps disappearing into, already full, etc.
- Business support – a total of \$700k. Made up of - \$100k for Business Development strategy, \$150k for a Developing Businesses opportunity to help former public servants stay in the ACT and move into the private sector, \$150k for a Supporting Local Business fund, \$300k for a young Business Connect program – each for 12 months only, which is less than the CBR initiative is spending \$800k over next 12 months.
- Disability Services – As the NDIS is rolled in the ACT the Govt will be ceasing their role as a service provider for specialist disability services. Will be closing early intervention units in the school system and will be closing services run by Therapy ACT. Still no confirmation of what fees will be paid or how the changeover will occur. 400 young people a year use these services, no indication of who is going to provide these services once the ACT Government stops. Have a petition to keep these programs continuing for an additional year until non-govt services are available and up and running. Petition is on Andrew’s website and the Parliament website.

Guest Speaker:

- Mark Oates – South Quay development

- Bulk of first stage infrastructure has been completed, first two blocks have been sold, road complete.
- Commencing minor reclamation of Lake Tuggeranong foreshore, encroaching on the lake to create a vibrant foreshore precinct, will increase water-flows. Sits over the top of a large sewer pipe. Will be dropping water level of pond, involving water groups about process, have fish-handlers, EPA involved. Will be taking an equivalent area out of what is reclaimed. Design process underway for upgrading Isabella Weir. Developing plans and options for release of land on other side of Lake.
- Details were provided on number of dwellings, small amount of space for commercial sites.

Q. - Why are you reclaiming part of the lake?

A. - Need the extra space; helps with water flow, restricted on what can build over the subsurface sewer main.

Q. - What is the large rectangular ‘ampi-theatre’ that can be seen when driving past?

A. - All roads had to be built above 100yr flood level, so used the fill to build roads and then provide space for underground basement parking for the development sites.

Q, Will sewage leak into the lake?

A. - No.

Coffee Break: for 10 minutes.

Guest Speaker:

- Dorte Ekelund - Director General of Environment and Sustainability, ACT Government.

Dorte gave a detailed presentation on Environmental and Sustainability issues in the ACT and how Canberra compares to other parts of Australia. This presentation can be viewed on the TCC website.

Q. - Burley Griffin designed Canberra to have rail network for the ACT including going up Mort Street. Why isn’t Mort Street being used for the corridor instead of Northbourne Ave?

A. Northbourne is more in the middle of the city; very conscious the ANU is an important site, being further away from ANU misses out on plugging in to that important node, servicing the City West development.

Q. - Creek bed runs from Lake Burly Griffin right up through to Watson, near some 70,000 people, would it be easier to come down that way, doesn't have the infrastructure that needs to be dug up

A. - Opposite answer to previous question, if you move it to the west then moving away from activities in the east, some infrastructure there for Sullivans Creek, not as direct as Northbourne.

Q. - In the early stages of the ACT Government, there was a feasibility study / plan for a transport system in a 'figure of 8' that didn't go down Northbourne but went out to the airport, coming around to Belconnen etc. Why was this plan put aside?

A. - Canberra has changed a lot since this plan, job density and housing density has shifted since then.

General Business:

- The TCC committee has vacancy. Meg Blackman was nominated to join committee as Secretary.

Moved: *Beverly Flint*

Seconded: *Col Petrie*

- Mural Wall – met with members of ACT Government, they have it under control, TCC does not need to pursue this matter. Additional details about mural walls can be found on ACT Government website.
- Forward Plan 2014 to 2016 – had been sent out to members, was adopted by the TCC.

Moved: *Max Flint*

Seconded: *Albert Orszaczky*

- Canberra Metro and Light rail – one of our top 5 priorities for the TCC. There has been a lot of talk, discussion, etc and thus the TCC will be developing a policy on Light Rail. At last meeting was a show of hands, most were against light rail, but not all. Will be developing and circulating policy and put it to a vote. Need to remember there is a distinction between tramways and light rail and the policy put to next meeting only concerns the existing policy of the current scope of the Gungahlin-City corridor.
- Advised that Beverly Flint has been named Volunteer of the Year for Community Services.
- Can sign up for 2014-2015 at the end of the evening, membership cards to be issued.

Other Business:

Nil.

The next General Meeting will be **Tuesday, 1st July 2014**. Meeting closed 9:30pm.

Attachment below:
Treasurers Report

TUGGERANONG COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)		
TREASURER'S REPORT		
GENERAL MEETING		
	3/06/14	S Cross Club
ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD ENDING		
	May 2014	
	Date	Balance
Operating Account		
Start of Period	1/05/14	7,876.44
End of Period	31/05/14	7,051.08
Net Change for Period		-825.36
Investment Account		
Start of Period	1/05/14	18,273.50
End of Period	31/05/14	18,309.54
Net change for Period		36.04
Petty Cash		
Start of Period	1/05/14	3.60
End of Period	31/05/14	13.60
Net change for Period		10.00
Total Accounts		
Start of Period	1/05/14	26,153.54
End of Period	31/05/14	25,374.22
Net change for Period		-779.32
INCOME FOR PERIOD		
	Date	Sum
Total Income (excluding transfers)		10.00
EXPENDITURES FOR Period		
	Date	Sum
Sth ACT Catchment	8/05/14	324
Jan Petrie (Secretary)	8/05/14	110
C South Cross Club	14/05/14	250
Optus	15/05/14	64.52
Total Expenses (excluding transfers)		748.52
NOTES:		
1. Committee expenses are those incurred by Committee Members, while performing Committee duties.		