

**Tuggeranong Community Council Inc**  
**General Meeting – 6 April 2010**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

See attendance record of 6 April 2010.

President, Darryl Johnston extended a welcome to our guest speaker, Brian Brown, from the Curfew for Canberra group and indicated that Noel McCann from the Canberra Airport Group was expected to arrive later in the evening.

**Apologies:**

Jeff & Robyn Chapman, Brendan Smyth MLA, Martin Devine, Barry Blight, Sue-Penn-Turrall, Donna Smail.

At this stage Darryl indicated that the order of the Agenda was being rearranged to enable one of our MLA guests to attend another appointment. He informed members of a new initiative planned for our monthly Meetings in the form of a brief (3 minute) report on developments in the ACT Legislative Assembly of general interest to the local community. He introduced three of our local Members, namely Joy Burch (ALP), Amanda Bresnan (Greens) and Steve Doszpot (Liberal) to separately address the Meeting as arranged, and they presented the following information:

**Assembly Update:**

Joy Burch provided a brief summary of various activities within the area of her portfolio responsibilities since her elevation to the Ministry in November 2009, including:

- Women – Micro Credit initiative recently launched providing small interest-free loans to eligible applicants, encouraging increase in participation;
- Ageing and Housing – supported living units (240+) for the ageing currently under construction in several local suburbs, some opposition from concerned Kambah residents from the “CROWK” group, community feedback on program is still available;
- Multicultural Affairs – Buddhist relics from Sri Lanka to arrive in Canberra next month and being accommodated at Belconnen Arts Centre, outcome of Multicultural Festival, Fringe has proved most successful at the Folk Festival;
- Update on consultations on proposed Southern Cemetery and Crematorium;
- Community Services and Disability Issues;
- Preparations underway with ACT Budget;
- Random Roadside Drug Testing currently under discussion with draft legislation proposed – road safety considerations, community consultation underway;
- Woodsmoke in Valley – impact is evident and regulation is clearly required with the interest of all parties to be considered, issue being currently debated in Assembly.

Steve Doszpot commenced by acknowledging the suitability of our new meeting venue and the opportunity to address the Council in such a manner. He advised details of his current involvement with shadow portfolio responsibilities, including as Chair of the Health Standing Committee – current conducting a Public Forum at the Assembly. He outlined his Party’s perspective on the following two important local issues:

- Random Roadside Drug Testing – important legislation being consistently ignored during the past 5 years by current ACT Government, with repeated postponement over recent months. TCC member, Alison Ryan’s case has prompted current action and has been supported by previous related Canberra Times reports. Current TCC survey is considered timely and most welcome to put some pressure on the Government for the introduction of the legislation in line with all other States.
- Woodsmoke issue – legislation introduced by Amanda Bresnan with minor amendments proposed by Liberals. Limited opposition only to date and several elderly residents are opposed to any change as woodfires are their only means of affordable heating. All relevant stakeholders to be consulted and accurate testing of emissions will need to be conducted before any firm decisions are made.

Amanda Bresnan provided brief details of her portfolio responsibilities and indicated the following information on the two relevant issues of interest:

- The Greens have discussed the drug testing issue with both major parties and deferred their decision pending further investigation of the system being used in other jurisdictions. The TCC survey will be of considerable interest in pursuing further negotiations on the matter.
- Statistics on woodsmoke emissions are not entirely reliable as the local testing station has apparently been out of action for some time – experience in Launceston, Tasmania involves issue of warnings of dangerous air pollution levels. Industry groups have indicated their willingness to engage in debate on the issue.

Darryl indicated that any questions to the Members should be kept till later in the Meeting due to time constraints.

#### **Approval of March 2010 Minutes:**

Minute Secretary, Albert Orszaczky, pointed out a minor error identified since the Minutes were circulated, namely an incorrect reference in the ‘Matters Arising’ heading to the **December 2009** Meeting instead of **February 2010**. The document will be corrected before it is placed on the TCC website.

Accepted:                      Rusty Woodward                      Seconded:                      Alison Ryan

#### **Matters Arising from March 2010 Meeting:**

No issues were raised.

#### **President’s Report (Mr Darryl Johnston):**

President, Darryl Johnston presented the following comprehensive Report:

“Welcome to another meeting of the Tuggeranong Community Council. I hope you all had a Happy Easter. The TCC Executive has been busy working behind the scenes this past month on a number of issues that impact on members and residents.

Firstly, TCC Vice President Col Petrie and I had a very successful meeting with the Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope in early March. At the meeting we presented the Chief Minister with an issues document entitled, *Talking Tuggeranong*. A copy of the document can be downloaded from the TCC website. Thank you to those members of the TCC and other organisations who contributed to the document.

The Chief Minister devoted almost an hour to the meeting during which time we discussed a number of the issues highlighted in the document. The Chief Minister promised to respond directly to the TCC on each issue and expressed a desire to meet with the TCC Executive on a regular basis. (Response actually received tonight and will be placed on our website shortly.) We look forward to future meetings with Mr Stanhope and we thank him for allowing us the opportunity to meet.

On behalf of the Tuggeranong Community Council, I have issued a statement of apology and correction to the Canberrans for Power Station Relocation. This statement is on the TCC website and I ask that all members take the time to read it. I hope that now the statement is public the TCC and the CPR Group can work together for the benefit of our community.

Vice President, Col Petrie represented me and the TCC at a (recent) community meeting to discuss the proposed new Southern Cemetery. On that subject, the TCC entered a submission on the current proposal for a new Cemetery. While the TCC supports a new Southern Cemetery, our submission has raised a number of concerns and questions including the proposed site at Macarthur, the apparent lack of full consideration of other possible sites, the inclusion of a crematorium, the loss of the buffer zone between the Macarthur residential area and the expanding Hume light industrial zone, the future of the horse exercise areas and destruction of an existing wildlife corridor.

In early March I met with a small group of Gordon residents concerned over the location of bus stops on the recently duplicated section of Tharwa Drive. The residents’ spokesman (Kevin O’Shea) claims they had complained to TAMS and were advised that the bus stops had been placed in their new locations after consultation with the TCC.

I informed Mr O’Shea that the TCC had been consulted and had raised objections about proposed traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing and had suggested that these be replaced with either an overhead bridge or a



offences, including several for drink driving. This is an increase of 19 arrests compared with February.

- Police conducted 494 Suburban Policing Strategy patrols within the Tuggeranong patrol zone during March.
- Business security reminder – during the month of March offenders have targeted commercial business premises overnight stealing substantial amounts of cash still left in tills. Police remind business owners to secure valuables at the close of business. Two juvenile males have been arrested in relation to several commercial burglaries committed in Tuggeranong.
- Two juvenile males were arrested during the month for multiple late night robbery offences in Richardson and Calwell. Tuggeranong Patrols continue to target such offences.
- The Business Liaison Team, Crime Prevention is running a pilot project named, ‘Eyes on the Street’, which involves ACT Policing partnering with the business community, public transport sector, TAMS rangers and the security industry. The partnership will involve the provision of training and pre-prepared stationery to staff from these sectors, to promote the reporting of crime and/or suspicious activity to ACT Policing via Crimestoppers. This project follows the successful operation of a similar project operated in WA and Vic. The pilot project in the ACT is funded and intended to operate between April and June 2010. Other agencies will be provided with forms and pre-paid envelopes, however, some forms may be dropped off at Police Stations.
- Police continue to conduct compliance checking of persons on bail consistent with the current ACT-wide bail compliance strategy that is in place.

### **Questions from the floor:**

The following issues were raised by members and briefly discussed:

- Query on whether the current ‘Eyes on the Street’ Program involves the community.  
**At this stage the 6 month trial only involves various agencies, eg. TAMS rangers, ACTION bus drivers, etc. to promote the use of the Crimestoppers facility, based on success in WA.**
- Suggestion that the (re)introduction of Neighbourhood Watch in Kambah would be most welcome.  
**Direct contact should be made with the local organisers of the Scheme and the relevant people were identified.**
- Enquiry regarding the status of the Random Roadside Drug Testing Program and the extent of the drugs being tested for.  
**Sergeant Anderson was unable to accurately confirm the actual details and Darryl added some relevant information subject to the type of equipment available and indicated the extent of related activities in use overseas. Amanda Bresnan clarified the present situation in the ACT and Sergeant Anderson indicated that erratic drivers suspected of drug use in the ACT are currently taken to hospital for testing and prevented from driving. He confirmed that ACT Police are supportive of the proposed initiative being implemented across the ACT**
- Clarification sought on whether ACT has introduced the law of apprehending and crushing of vehicles involved in reported burnout activity.  
**Local legislation allows for vehicle to be seized on first offence and in the case of repeated offences application is made for it to be surrendered and later sold at auction.**

A short break was taken at this stage of the Meeting.

### **Guest Speaker: Mr Brian Brown**

Darryl Johnston introduced our guest speaker, Brian Brown, Vice President of the Curfew for Canberra (C4C) advocacy group and asked that members treat the guest with due respect. Brian commenced by acknowledging the presence of the new President of their group, Cuan Petheram and provided some details of his scientific background. Cuan assisted by distributing some related documents extracted from the Canberra Airport’s draft Master Plan document.

Brian proceeded to provide some background information about their organisation and their main objective of supporting the case for introduction of an 11pm to 6am curfew for Canberra Airport, similar that in force in other major cities. He highlighted the following points in support of the presentation:

- Curfew issue goes beyond the borders of the local community and affects the entire region;
- Group is strongly against the proposed 24 hour freight hub at the Airport;
- No need for us to accept Sydney’s freight in the middle of the night due to their curfew;
- Details of noise pollution requirements provided;

- Expected impact on local area highlighted - small increase in decibel range has a dramatic affect;
- Serious health factors involved with the impacts of loss of sleep;
- Aircraft noise will also result in additional noise created by truck activity;
- 25 aircraft arrivals will also mean 25 likely departures = 50 aircraft movements, with an estimated further increase in traffic;
- Pre-emptive curfew should be established before the level of night time noise forces a reactive curfew;
- Related small businesses should not be misled by being forced to alter their operating times in later years;
- Massive community support already established with political involvement and now in the process of being converted into political support from all three local Parties;
- Establishment of a curfew is inevitable and hopefully it will be introduced sooner rather than later.

Finally, Mr Brown indicated that the recent Aviation White Paper contains some encouraging comments in support of their cause, including a review into airport noise to be conducted this year. Also, Air Services to establish an aircraft noise Ombudsman.

The support of the TCC and its members was sought for C4C's request for introduction of the 11pm to 6am curfew and further details of their activities and submissions can be readily accessed on their website at [www.curfew4canberra.org.au](http://www.curfew4canberra.org.au).

### **Questions from the floor:**

Various queries and comments were raised by members resulting in further discussion involving the following points:

- Developments in aircraft technology will result in quieter engines but larger planes.
- Establishment of C4C group is based on projections released in Canberra Airport's Master Plan.
- Previous information provided by Canberra Airport representatives indicated that the proposed 24 hour freight operation would initially be small, but is expected to increase over the next 10 years.
- Current capacity of the airport was queried – estimated at 70,000 flights per year.
- Proposal for Goulburn airport to be eventually used for freight.
- Combination of Tralee development and overnight freight hub will have disastrous impact for Tuggeranong.
- Clarification of freight arrivals relating to local regional areas as well as Sydney bound freight – local freight is currently being despatched in passenger aircrafts.
- Significance in choosing 11 to 6 timeframe for the curfew – considered a realistic and suitable option.

Unfortunately, Noel McCann from the Canberra Airport Group did not arrive as intended and arrangements will be made for him to address an upcoming Council Meeting to provide members with a clear understanding and appreciation of the relevant issues involved with this important matter prior to deciding on the Council's level of support.

### **General and Other Business:**

Darryl informed members of the intention to undertake a formal review of the TCC Constitution to incorporate some suggested improvements. The current document is included on our website and a survey will be included there with responses due by 20 April, with a Sub-Committee to be formed and suggestions sought from members on the subject.

Greg Downing complimented the Council on the "Talking Tuggeranong" document, but he expressed his disappointment at not having an opportunity to contribute to its contents due to his absence from the previous Meeting(s). He acknowledged that the winter woodsmoke issue was relevant but pointed out that the proposed power station at Williamsdale was clearly a more serious (global) concern for all Canberra residents based on the projected size. He considered that a reference in the latter document was warranted.

Darryl provided an explanation on the development of the document and pointed out that members and local community groups had been consulted and invited to contribute through our website, and several submissions had been received in this manner. He indicated that it was intended to progressively update the document for future planned meetings with the Chief Minister, which would enable other emerging concerns

to be raised. However, the timeframe involved may sometimes be tight to fit in with the period of notice for the proposed meetings, which is unfortunately unavoidable.

The issue of the Southern Broadacre study and proposed Hume Industrial expansion land release was raised and Dugald Holmes provided an update on the current state of the consultation process involved.

**Other Matters / Next meeting:**

Darryl informed members about an invitation to join in the National Heart Foundation's exercise program on Sunday mornings around Lake Tuggeranong. He also reminded members to visit the TCC website and encouraged them to respond to the Random Roadside Drug Testing survey.

Nora Preston sought an update on the Tuggeranong Hyperdome's policy on smoking, which she had queried at previous Meetings. Darryl indicated that he had attempted to make contact to discuss the matter with management and had left two messages, which have not as yet been responded to.

The next TCC General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 4 May at the same venue, with guest speaker to be confirmed. The meeting concluded at approximately 9.30pm and members were invited to stay on for the usual light refreshments and informal chat.