

Tuggeranong Community Council Inc
General Meeting – 6 July 2010
Draft Minutes

Present:

See attendance record of 6 July 2010.

Apologies:

Eric Traise, Brendan Smyth MLA, Steve Doszpot MLA, Marco Spaccavento, Jeff & Robyn Chapman, Nick Tsoulis, Bill Reid.

Approval of June 2010 Minutes:

Accepted: Alison Ryan Seconded: Jane Hedges

Matters Arising from June 2010 Meeting:

Darryl mentioned the outstanding item from the May 2010 Meeting relating to the recommended Motion on the status of the proposed Data Centre at Hume. He invited Dugald Holmes to address the issue and he provided a brief presentation involving the three main areas of concern, namely:

- Governance – sale of prime industrial land (12 hectares) in Hume resulting in revenue to ACT Government of approximately \$5.3million;
- Health and Monitoring – maximum permitted pollution levels of 4.73 million tonnes per year, 3 large turbines approved for installation on site with emissions of 180 tonnes per hour - 2 operating units to emit 183,000 tonnes per year being equivalent to approximately 75,000 cars;
- Noise (direct and flight movements) – conflict with Tralee and Canberra Airport flight paths and CASA safety requirements with height of exhaust structures and plume rise and spread, development is likely to shift flight paths further towards Tuggeranong.

In conclusion, Dugald proposed the following Motion on behalf of the TCC seeking clarification on the issue from the ACT Government:

“The TCC requests the ACT Government clarify the current situation regarding the proposed building of a privately owned gas fired power station and data warehouses on block 20 section 23 Hume, with specific reference to the following issues:

It has been reported that the 12.7 ha block of land was sold to the proponents of this development for \$5.27 million. Could the ACT Government please confirm whether this was the price of the sale of this large block of industrial zoned land? If this was not the price, what was the land sold for? How was this figure determined as being fair and equitable and "the best possible price for the land and benefit to the Territory?" *(We note the old sawmill site of 30 ha is referenced as a \$100million value and the auction pass-in value of the 12.7 ha Hume Section 20 Block 23 was over \$12million).*

How does the ACT Government propose to monitor this development? The TCC requires detailed plans of how the ACT Government proposes to achieve maximum health and safety compliance given that this development will be the single most polluting development ever built in the ACT.

What are the current and future proposals regarding the conflict between proposed flight paths to and from the Canberra Airport and this development, which lies directly under the southern flight paths?

In what way is the ACT Government working with CASA, the airport, the NSW Government (the development of Tralee will directly be affected by the flight paths) and the Federal Government to ensure this private development does not negatively impact the development of the airport, the health and well being of those at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and Tralee and those residents throughout Canberra who do not wish aircraft to fly directly above their homes 24/7?

The TCC looks forward to receiving a full briefing from the ACT Government regarding these issues and the proposed development within 4 weeks in order for the TCC to post the response to these questions on to the TCC Web Site, file a report to all members and publish the response in their monthly column in *The Chronicle*.”

Some further comments were expressed by various attendees on the issues raised, including querying the alternatives available and a comparison with the air pollution caused by wood fires. The relevant issues were addressed by Dugald and Greg Downing based on their background knowledge and past research on the history of the project.

The Motion was seconded by Jan Petrie and supported by the majority of members present and carried. Darryl suggested that it should be passed on to the Data Centre developers, the ACT Minister for Planning and our local Members for Brindabella for their information and attention.

Darryl indicated that a delegation from the wood heating industry had come along to voice their objection to the TCC's strong stand against woodsmoke pollution in the Tuggeranong Valley, as recently reported in *The Chronicle*. He gave them an opportunity to put forward their concerns prior to proceeding with the usual Meeting formalities and Mike Bresnik, proprietor of Fyshwick Home and Heating, acted as the chief spokesman for the group. He stated that the TCC's recent submission to the ACT Government on the issue was most unreasonable and the previous TCC motion passed at the May 2009 Meeting for gradual phasing out of wood burning heaters by 2016 should be rescinded. On behalf of those employed in the industry, he pointed out the "economic reality" that wood heaters are the only way for many people to adequately heat their homes, rather than the more expensive options of gas or electricity.

Darryl provided some background on the issue and indicated that TCC's current submission had been put forward at the invitation of the Government and was prepared in collaboration with the Belconnen Community Council and the ACT Lunglife Support Group. The position is consistent with the previous decision of the members based on health issues for the benefit of the Tuggeranong community, rather than a personal agenda as indicated by Mr Bresnik. It included a suggestion to expand the buy back program funded by ActewAGL to assist low-income families and was intended to achieve an improvement in the air quality across the whole of Canberra, which has been a serious concern for several years. Darryl stated that he (or the TCC) has no intention of disadvantaging the livelihood of the wood heating industry and the Council is quite prepared to work with them to improve the education for people to use their heaters better.

Indications are that air quality over the past two years in the Tuggeranong Valley may have gradually improved, but it was agreed that the age of many wood heaters combined with the use of cheap and poor quality timber in many cases was the major contributor to the pollution problem. Some discussion ensued on this topic with various opinions expressed by the attendees. Greg Downing supported the rescinding of the previous TCC Motion regarding the banning of wood fires and proposed a Motion to that effect, with the issue to be revisited, which was carried by a vote of members present.

President's Report (Mr Darryl Johnston):

President, Darryl Johnston presented the following Report:

"Thank you for joining us for another meeting of the Tuggeranong Community Council and tonight's meeting which will be devoted to the reworked TCC Constitution.

Since we last met much has happened and a great deal has been achieved. Firstly, TCC Vice President, Colin Petrie and I met with the office of the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Regional Development, Anthony Albanese MP, on 16 June. The meeting was arranged by the office of the Federal Member for Canberra, Annette Ellis MP and was called to discuss our concerns over the proposed residential development at Tralee and its possible impact on Canberra Airport.

At the meeting we expressed the concern of the Tuggeranong Community that if the Tralee residential development went ahead it may lead to the relocation of flight paths over Tuggeranong. The Minister's Office assured us that the Minister and his Department did not support the construction of homes at Tralee. They were also concerned about the impact the development may have on the future of Canberra Airport and on Tuggeranong residents. This position was echoed by the Member for Canberra.

I also raised the concerns of many Tuggeranong residents over the impact on existing flight paths from the exhaust pollution generated by a proposed gas powered data centre at Hume. To our surprise the Minister's office was unaware of the proposal to build a gas powered data centre at Hume or its possible impact on Canberra Airport. They said a situation existed at a major Queensland airport where aircraft were diverted around an industrial complex that produced heated exhaust and other emissions. The Minister's staff requested further information which has since been forwarded to them.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Darryl invited the Chairs of the various Sub-Committees to report on their activities. No matters to report and it was expected that the review of the TCC Constitution would be finalised tonight.

Other Reports – Police:

Sergeant Rod Anderson is currently acting in the position of District Superintendent and he introduced the acting OIC Tuggeranong Police, Sergeant Richard Gough, to present the usual monthly Police Report on crime statistics and update on other local Police activities. He provided the following details:

- Burglaries are up in June – four more than May.
- Reported incidents of property damage are up with an increase of 30 during the past month, due to a rise in vehicle damage.
- Confirmed incidents of assault are down in June, with 18 less confirmed incidents reported.
- There was an increase of 10 stolen motor vehicles reported during the month.
- A total of 45 arrests were effected by Police in the Tuggeranong Zone for offences ranging from breach of bail conditions to outstanding warrants, through to offences such as assault, drug possession, theft, burglary and aggravated robbery, as well as traffic offences including drink driving.
- Police conducted 629 Suburban Policing Strategy patrols within the Tuggeranong patrol zone during the month.
- Police have arrested two males in response to aggravated robbery offences in the Tuggeranong and Woden region. Both were remanded at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. One of the males was arrested after a brief pursuit in Bonython, after he was spotted driving a vehicle that had been stolen in a burglary that morning.
- Two juvenile males were arrested after attempting to sell jewellery stolen from a burglary in Fadden. The offenders were spotted by Police attempting to sell a large amount of jewellery at a second hand dealer in the Tuggeranong Hyperdome. Police continue to target offenders attempting to sell stolen property in this manner.
- June has seen a dramatic rise in incidents of vehicle damage and theft of motor vehicle contents. Given the amount of offences committed in Tuggeranong, vehicle damage is being targeted by local Patrols. Police remind the public of measures that can be used to secure their vehicles, eg. securing their vehicle, steering wheel locks, removing valuables from vehicle, reminder of anti-theft number plate screws, and parking vehicle closer to the residence. Police have sought a media release to publicise this issue appropriately.

Questions from the floor:

No issues raised by members.

Assembly Update:

Darryl informed members that unfortunately neither the Labor Party nor Canberra Liberals representatives were available to attend tonight's Meeting. He invited Amanda Bresnan MLA (Greens) to provide a brief report on current developments and issues of interest in the ACT Assembly.

Ms Bresnan provided the following information:

- Recent marathon sitting session to debate the ACT Budget – now passed.
- Amendments to Random Roadside Drug Testing Bill passed last week with support from the Liberals, as well as Education Bill in relation to school closures.
- Greens Bill on 3rd Party Appeal Rights for Planning issues was defeated by objection from ALP and Liberals.

Questions from the floor:

The following concerns were raised by members:

- Based on recent comments made by the Chief Minister, is there a possibility of expediting the introduction of the Drug Driving Bill, which is already in place in other States?
Lead up time of around six months is required and is considered reasonable. Also, proper trials and accreditation are required with the relevant technology yet to be made available locally.

- Clarification sought on the nature and extent of the 3rd Party Appeal Rights Bill referred to and a suitable explanation was provided by Ms Bresnan.

Administrative Business

Darryl informed members that the main purpose of the Meeting was to actually consider the review of the TCC Constitution that had been recently undertaken to enable it to be finalised prior to the Annual General Meeting in September as planned.

A copy of the revised document was displayed on the screen for convenience and each clause was briefly addressed. The various changes were highlighted, including the addition of a set of Constitutional Policies to facilitate any subsequent amendments by members, and a few minor changes were suggested and discussed. A revision to clause 20 relating to the process for members' votes was agreed and acceptance of the revised document as amended was proposed by Darryl Johnston, seconded by Greg Downing and passed unanimously by the members in attendance.

Darryl acknowledged the hard work of the sub-Committee members involved with this exercise.

General and Other Business:

No particular items were raised, but Darryl briefly reminded members about the process involved with nomination of candidates for all positions on the Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting to be held in September.

The next General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 3 August, with likely guest presenters from the ACT Department of Planning to provide details about proposed land release developments in Tuggeranong. The results of the recent Eastern Broadacre Study are also to be pursued in this context.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9.30pm and members were invited to stay on for the usual light refreshments and informal chat.