

TUGGERANONG COMMUNITY COUNCIL INC.

Minutes of the General Meeting on 7 September 2021

Due to the current Covid restrictions in ACT the meeting was held via the ZOOM video conferencing application.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm by President Jeffrey Bollard with an acknowledgement of country, welcome to participants, and reference to the standard Code of Conduct which applies to the meetings.

President's Report – Jeffrey Bollard:

Jeff spoke briefly about the effects of covid on everyone and the current vaccine rates, with a reminder about importance of getting vaccinated, using the CBR app and staying safe.

No sub – committee reports were presented allowing more time for our guest speaker.

At the last meeting approvals had been sought to conduct SouthFest, however with the delta strain we are looking at deferring any events until 1st quarter 2022. Jeff acknowledged the work put in by the SouthFest Committee.

Jeff noted, that like many others, he is spending time at home and zooming, advising he attended the Combined Community Council meeting . Later this week he will be attending the Environment and Planning Forum (EPF) government's Environmental and Planning Forum.

The President's Report was proposed Wayne King, Seconded by Rob Lovett.

Planning reforms and changes to legislation, the Tuggeranong District Plan and development application process - Mick Gentleman, MLA

A short overview of the current Planning Review was given by Mick Gentleman MLA. Mr Gentleman provided brief details of the workshops conducted to date and where we are currently at. He noted that over last few years they have been working on updating the ACT planning and review processes, taking into consideration that Canberra is expected to grow by 40% over the next 20 years. He said that the ACT Government is working toward a liveable, sustainable, resilient, and diverse city, producing adequate housing supply whilst keeping Canberra as an attractive city to live in.

Louise Crossman (Senior Advisor)

Louise provided a slide presentation on the Planning System Review and Reform Project update.

She said they had found many people are interested in planning and more than 1000 people had contributed providing comments and feedback online. They have also looked at comments on Planning Applications and DA Variations to identify common problems.

Six papers have now been developed – the first was an overview with the other 5 covering 5 different areas of the system, which require change.

The district planning workshops was providing a lot of feedback about what people didn't like about the current planning system. A summary of this can be found on Your Say.

Louise said the system reform will provide a New Planning Act, improved links between strategic and statutory planning with better public consultations. They are looking to making it easier to use, provide certainty, flexibility, and transparency.

A new Territory Plan will provide outcomes focused on codes and provisions with more emphasis on what a building will look like. They were looking to streamline the development assessment pathway. by making it easier to use, provide certainty, flexibility, and transparency.

The Consultation draft of the new Act will be released late 21/early 22 – with a 3-month consultation.

Questions included:

- What is happening with Athlon Drive near the Vikings Club fenced off area? Taken on notice.
- Concern over the government strategy for early child services in the ACT? This will be looked at through zoning in the planning review.
- Is there potential to have a review/amendment to district plan early in the project not after several years? Yes, comment will listen to and there be the ability to be involved all the way through the planning process.
- District planning workshop resulted in a lot of detailed ideas, should we be looking at the bigger issues or getting down in the weeds. e.g., Tuggeranong is mainly residential? Mick Gentleman replied that the government is listening and taking comments into account.
- There is concern that builders get building approvals then put in variations, will new legislation strengthen the controls over wayward builders and the practice of phoenixing? All amendments will be required to have comments and made public. Now developers will be licenced in territory and with the laws thing or lose their licence.
- Will Planning comply with all environmental laws e.g., Molonglo? – There will be protection of environmental land. Molonglo has largest swathe of land set aside for environment in the ACT.
- Asked if certifications will go back to the government? There will be private and government certifiers. Separate work is taking place in parallel with the planning process to provide better building quality.
- Smoke in Tuggeranong – in past there has been an attempt to get rid of wood fires and more recently off gas, is that still the case. Yes, in the environmental portfolio the government is giving incentives to move to electric systems.
- In the industrial development in Hume, there is a need for an air monitoring station. Is this being looked at? Minister gentleman said he will pass onto Minister Vassarotti.

MP/MLA Updates

Nicole Lawder

Nicole commented that:

- if we need help in the current Covid lockdown there are places to ask for assistance e.g., Lifeline.
- Working from home and following up with people to ensure that they are OK.
- Nicole spent time at ACT contact tracing centre checking to see if people in quarantine are OK.
- Nicole is currently working from home.
- She is still dealing with general issues as well as Covid – e.g., mowing, potholes .

Mark Parton

- Working from home but very busy particularly with Covid issues.
- A lot of people left behind.
- Pay tribute to government as many of queries put to government have been sorted out.
- Many small business owners are suffering – there is a lot of pain out there.

Asked how we can help these small businesses as so many are affected, Mark said hopefully more lifelines and banks will be more understanding. They are advocating for more assistance to businesses that are really hurting.

Mark said the general belief is that ultimately only real way to get back to some sort of normality is that we have 80% vaccination, and we will have to learn to live with the virus

Peter Cain - Ginninderra MLA

- As Shadow planning and land management Minister he will be keeping a close eye on new legislation
- He is getting lots of email queries on quarantine and how it is affecting businesses.

Mick Gentleman

- Commented that there are ACT Government Covid Business support grants and Brendan Smyth was helping to coordinate support to business across Canberra
- Government is trying to get parameters right, however each day see new cases. Meeting in Cabinet are conducted seven days a week to go through information provided to see what support we can provide.
- Canberrans behaving well
Might have to live with Covid into the future. Mick acknowledged the work of the MLAs

- **General Business**

Apologies: Bernard Rohan

Minutes from Previous meeting

Approval for Minutes from the previous meeting

proposed by Didi Sommer, seconded Albert Orszaczky

Matters arising from Minutes - None

Correspondence - Little in

Treasurer's report - Will be done in the AGM

Any other Business - Nothing

Meeting Closed at 8.30pm