

Tuggeranong Community Council Inc
Minutes of General Meeting
1st February 2022

The meeting was conducted as a virtual meeting via the ZOOM Application. Thirty-one people participated in the meeting.

Acknowledgement of Ngunnawal people and welcome by President.

President's Report

- December was a hybrid meeting with majority of participants on Zoom. Those physically attending enjoyed a supper after the meeting.
- ACT Government extended Covid restrictions till the end of the month. With school going back there is expected to be a spike in infections. Third vaccinations are available for all adults.
- Deferred SouthFest in the Suburbs because of Covid. There was concerned about risk if put on in February. The plan is to run SouthFest in the Suburbs in November 2022.
- Annual Student Community Service Awards were presented to selected high school and college students in Tuggeranong during November and December 2021

Accepted by Didi Sommer and seconded by Judy Bell.

MP/MLA Updates

Johnathan Davis

- Back on board after Christmas break
- Assisted by Laura Nuttall, the second Greens candidate in Brindabella, as member of staff.
- Blue green algal blooms keep coming back and hopes to have report by next month.
- Running survey about Tuggeranong Foreshore proposal. A report on all comments will be prepared and given to Chris Steel. Most people concerned about water quality.
- Next week will send out information sheet on what Greens have done over the last year.
- Running office from Jindebah Cafe every Friday morning between 9am and 12noon.

Kim Rubenstein – Has established Kim for Canberra Party and will be standing for the Senate at the next election. Provided brief introduction and indicated that she is seeking to hear from as many people as possible.

Look Back at Air Quality in Tuggeranong - Darryl Johnston

- Residential woodsmoke reduction submission by TCC in June 2010.
- Government figures shows fine particle air pollution in Tuggeranong (caused by wood fire heaters) increases nearly threefold in the cooler months of the year.
- Wood smoke can lead to health issues including asthma, premature births, stunted lung development in children.
- No safe level for wood heating smoke. Heater often being used incorrectly.
- Not complying with world health guidelines impacts our health and quality of life.
- Even today many are imprisoned in home because of wood smoke.
- Electric heating is much cheaper than wood heaters.
- Wood heaters are banned in some suburbs in Canberra and there is a buyback program but there are still a lot out there.

Have recommended:

1. Establish a register of wood heaters in ACT – will allow directed communications.
2. Legislate wood heaters must be disposed of before a property in a suburban area can be sold.
3. Extend the prohibition on installing wood heaters in all new suburban residential developments.
4. No new wood heaters are to be installed in any built-up areas of the ACT.
5. And finally, set a firm date for the phasing out of wood heaters in all built up areas of the ACT as the Government has done for gas.

Bush Fire Smoke and Air Quality Strategy - Minister for Environment

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

- ACT Government has released a Bush Fire Smoke and Air Quality Strategy. This was a result of motion by Shane Rattenbury after the 2019/20 bushfire
- Need a deep community conversation regarding woodfires:
 - Support healthy community by reducing effects on people.
 - Direct govt action over several years.
 - Will have stakeholder engagement.
 - Will climate change likely to have more extreme climate events.

Actions proposed:

Action 2 - Strengthen measures to address the air quality impacts of wood heaters.

- Investigate the utility and reliability of suburban air quality monitoring to collect data on the prevalence of wood smoke in suburban areas across Canberra (ACT Health)
- Review and strengthen wood heater emissions standards (to 1-gram particulate matter/kg of fire wood burnt from 1.5) via building regulations, including investigating and implementing measures to phase out wood heaters that don't meet standards.
- Evaluate the Burn Right Tonight campaign; the Wood Heater Replacement Program; and the efficacy of measures to ensure that firewood sold is seasoned,

sustainably sourced, and meets compliance with Government recommended wood burning practices.

Action 3 - Enhance air quality monitoring and forecasting

- Investigate and implement air quality forecasting systems.
- Investigate the feasibility, utility, reliability, and potential ongoing costs of a low-cost air quality sensors network

Action 5 - Support the development of buildings that are resilient to air pollution

- Identify and support smoke refuges, including by supporting clubs to become heat and smoke refuges for local communities. This will include ensuring appropriate air filtration systems, and financial payments for venues designated as official extreme weather refuge sites.
- Deliver on the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025, including development of a Climate-wise Building Code.
- Commence 10- year pathway to shift to worlds best practice on climate-ready and environmentally sustainable buildings and consider appropriate changes to building standards in the ACT including working with the ABCB to consider changes to the National Construction Code.
- Establish a five-year \$5 million Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund, to be accessed by community clubs

Questions followed including:

- ACT is moving from 1.5 to 1 microgram, but NZ is stricter - why not follow the NZ standard?
- Need to strengthen monitoring network - need to know what the quality levels are.
- Is there any more information on monitoring stations across Canberra – trial going on being located near official air monitoring stations to ensure that are accurate if goes well, will be opportunity to roll out in a variety of locations.
- Some houses are almost inhabitable in winter – often air quality worse in winter than Beijing – have moved to ban and prohibition in a number of areas – but need to better respond to the evidence.
- What about other visible and invisible pollutants etc fire pits, BBQs and outdoor pizza ovens, industrial pollution? There is a compliance regime now looking at the tools available to the regulator. Industry has requirements for point of source pollution – conditions placed on these industries.
- What about bush fire smoke? – There are a range of things to do – preparedness, pre burns etc – it is something we are trying to grapple with e.g., need to look at the way we build our buildings.
- Concerns about industrial pollution particularly around Hume. Hume should have air monitoring station.
- Need program to retrofit double-glazed windows.
- Now have venerable household schemes – could access low interest loans to retrofit, insulation is a key concern.
- There is a push with recycling being moved from Fyshwick to Hume. Hume has a major inversion layer like Tuggeranong. What is the strategy to stop effects of any unintentional fires in recycling facilities? Not being touched on a lot at this stage.

The Minister also noted that the government is developing a Food and Fibre strategy – including urban agriculture.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Apologies – Beverley Flint, Nicole Lawder, Robyn Rofe

Minutes from Previous December meeting

Approved: Glenys Patulny, Seconded: Harvey Bell

Correspondence

- Involved with Foreshore redevelopment, Environment and Sustainability Development Directorate, response from TCCS re Southern Memorial Park.

Treasurer's report

Incomes for January 2022 was \$200.37 and expenditure was \$4,606.15. Expenditure was communications and office expenses and SouthFest support services.

Approved: Glenys Patulny, Seconded: Wayne King

Sub Committee reports

Youth Sub Committee

- Meeting next week Monday 7th February
- Organising a meeting between Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing, ACT Health with Youth members to talk over last year's TCC Youth Engagement Sub Committee's finding on Mental Health and Wellbeing in Tuggeranong.

Community, Health and Wellbeing

- Response to the ACT Policing Agreement being prepared.

Planning, Transport, and Communications

- Tuggeranong Foreshore – design consultants awarded to Place Laboratory. Some members of the TCC Planning committee walked around the foreshores with consultant. There will be public consultation in future.
- Summaries of Planning act now out
- Planning Act and Territory plan

SouthFest

- SouthFest in the Suburbs has been deferred to November.
- Need to review arrangement with consultant and discuss with Events ACT and Icon Water - major sponsors.
- If you are interested in being involved in the SouthFest Committee, please contact the President Jeff Bollard.

Environment and Sustainability

- Support the ACT Government Leaf Collective pilot project this summer - leaves contribute to blue green algal outbreaks – need to raise awareness about not blowing leaves down the gutter.
 - There will be information send out to letterboxes in some suburbs where there are drop off sites. Also, we will be putting links to this on our website.
 - See leafcollective.com.au
- Lake Tuggeranong Clean-up on Sunday the 6th March

Any other Business

No discussion.

Meeting closed.