

Your local voice

■ ■ ■ weston creek
■ ■ ■ community
■ ■ ■ council

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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 29 June 2016

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.38pm. The Chair welcomed members and guests

Apologies: Pat McGinn, John Milne

Guests: Gai Brodtmann MP, Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Emma Thomas – Director General of the Transport and City Services directorate, Jim Corrigan and Richard Fox.

25 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Gai Brodtmann – Federal Member for Canberra

Ms Brodtmann spoke about what she had been doing during the election campaign:

- She had had some campaign buses in Weston Creek
- Her areas of interest are education, health and the NBN
- She has been campaigning on the NBN for the last 12 months
 - Canberra has very slow speeds. It is as bad as in country areas of Australia
 - She has been campaigning with the Minister including presenting a petition
 - Another petition is currently being circulated
 - The Shadow Minister says that an extra 2 million houses will go on to NBN compared to the government's rollout.
- Sakeena's Café leaving Cooleman Court
 - Ms Brodtmann spoke to Mirvac and a lawyer for Mirvac
 - Contract arrangements have stalled
 - The community wants them to stay
 - The lease is still being signed.
- This is the fourth incidence of landlords kicking out long term tenants she has dealt with in the last four months.
- Ms Brodtmann thanked the ACT government for funding the duplication of the Cotter Road
 - The situation on Cotter Road is getting worse and worse
 - It effects productivity if people are in their cars for long periods of time
 - It also effects feeder roads as well.

Q. Why can't we get better coverage for mobile phones in the Cotter area?

A. I have been concentrating on the NBN. I will follow up.

Q. I have observed over the years that the behaviour of consultants and landlords outside of Canberra in relation to leases is getting worse and worse. They don't care. What can we do to get more control over them?

A. They are private companies so there is not much we can do. I have been involved in Sakeenas. We can keep pressure on but it is very hard dealing with landlords. They are not in breach of law. We can only ask that they be good corporate citizens.

Q. Why did you get involved in Sakeenas when it is not a federal issue?

A. I get involved in local issues such as the Uriarra solar farm. I will take up any issues when people are hard done by.

Q. I sent a letter to Mirvac in Sydney regarding the closure of Sakeenas. I received a standard reply with the wrong name on it.

A. You need to sign a petition – there are written ones and on line at change.org. You take up the fight when you can. Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose.

Q. What happens if you lose?

A. I will be sad. I have to make sure I don't.

Meegan Fitzharris – ACT Member for Molonglo and Minister for Transport and City Services

Ms Fitzharris will be running in the seat of Yerrabi in the 2016 ACT election following the restructure of the ACT electoral boundaries. She is the Minister for Transport and City Services. This is a new directorate.

Transport Canberra and City Services

- This is the most important thing happening in public transport for years
- It integrates Canberra's public transport system
- One ticket/one fare/one network
- A good public transport system should be integrated, be a genuine alternative to cars and offer more choices.

Integrated public transport systems operate in:

- Australia – Gold Coast and Adelaide
- France – Lyons, Nice and Valenciennes
- Germany – Freiburg im Breisgau
- United States – Tucson and Portland
- The Gold Coast has seen a 25% growth in public transport usage since light rail was introduced. This increase is in bus usage as well as light rail.

Growth in Canberra

- In 20 years the population of Canberra will reach 500,000
- Congestion will cost \$700 million by 2031
- This will need to be managed so it doesn't affect livability
- There will need to be more transport options – more modes
- People will need more choices regardless of where they live
- Canberra is currently one of the most livable cities in the world.

Transport for Canberra 2012-2031

- This is a public transport improvement plan
 - More rapid routes
 - Light rail
 - Redirect buses to other parts of the city

Transport Canberra

- Commences 1 July 2016
 - Integrate
 - Innovate
 - Focus on customers
 - Manage city growth
- Action buses will become part of Transport Canberra
- Light rail will integrate with the bus network
- There will be 20 new buses
- There will be a free City Loop commencing 4 July, running from 7.00am to 7.00pm Monday – Friday
- A new Weston line will be trialed for one year. It will run from Woden, Cooleman Court. Molonglo to the City along Cotter Road. This is likely to commence in late August.
- Woden will have a new bus depot and the interchange will be upgraded
- 1.2million bus km will be redirected to other parts of the city. The Red Rapid is currently going along the light rail route and using lots of buses. Light rail will carry more people and go for longer hours.
- There will be seamless transition from one mode to another e.g. light rail – buses - park n ride etc.
- There will be a trial of electric buses.
- There is a need for two new bus depots but Woden is the most urgent. The design and development has been included in this year's budget.
- A new park n ride is to be built in Wanniasa in mid-2017 to catch the blue rapid passengers
- Active Travel and transport innovation
 - More walking and cycling
 - Integrate with light rail and buses

Light Rail

- Vital to reduce congestion on our roads
- It is a convenient, efficient, reliable way to travel
- Light rail attracts investment – buses don't.
- There has been significant investment along the light rail corridor already from big companies and first home owners
- The first stage is to be completed in late 2018
- Operations will commence in early 2019
- Stage two is now being considered and will be announced before the election

Community consultation

- The community along Northbourne Avenue were consulted
- Northbourne Avenue is the most congested road in Canberra
- The community wanted light rail rather than more buses
- Light rail became part of the 2012 ALP election platform.

Innovative transport options

- Uber and ride share
- Car share – this is in Canberra now and there are 18 car spaces around the city
- Electric bus trial – this has been funded
- New ticketing system has been funded. This will look at tickets, devices and other opportunities for wider use such as parking etc

- Community transport – flexible bus service
 - This utilises buses that are used for school routes outside of school hours
 - There is a lot of capacity
 - It needs to be coordinated better
- Autonomous vehicles
 - a Working Group has been established so Canberra can be a trial site
 - there is a transport innovation fund

Q. MyWay is not that old. Is it being removed?

A. Yes. It has some problems. We can now use existing technologies as well.

Transport and City Services

- new directorate
- will integrate city services with public transport in the future
- linking transport with shopping centres, schools and playgrounds
- creating a modern city our children will want to live in.

Managing our priorities

- First stage of light rail
- For every \$1 spent on light rail
 - \$24 is spent on education
 - \$33 on health
- We want to upgrade roads as well as funding public transport
- Roads are not a no-cost option
- There are choices
 - More roads and parking
 - More buses
 - More light rail
- We can spend more money on green space.

Light Rail

- The Opposition agree we should have light rail
- In 2005 and 2008 they wanted it
- In 2012 they were against it – they were in favour of cars
- 2016 they said they want light rail in the future but buses now.

Transport Survey

- 3000 people were surveyed on line, on the phone and on the buses
- We don't have the results yet.

The ACT budget for 2016-17 was \$70 million.

Q. When do the Weston Creek services start?

A. Late August. We need to let the schools know and they need six weeks to plan. Services announced in September 2015 will start in late August.

Q. How direct will the Weston Creek line be between Cooleman Court and Civic?

A. There will be four stops in Molonglo. It will be quicker and there will be more services. This should increase the use of the Park n Ride at North Weston.

Q. Will you be able to leave work, pick kids up, go shopping and go home quicker than in a car?

A. I can do this now on the Rapid Bus Line. We need to get people out of cars. We need to invest in infra structure. Northbourne Ave has nowhere to go. On Hindmarsh Drive we are installing traffic lights at Eggleston Cres and at Launceston Street.

Q. Will they be synchronised with other lights? There will be 12 sets of lights between Yamba Drive and Streeton Drive.

A. We need to do this to control the traffic. Congestion on the roads forces cars onto other roads. Mr Fluffy spending has taken some funding out of infrastructure.

Q. The synchronisation of traffic lights on Hindmarsh Drive is not working. The pedestrians' crossing the road cause a problem.

A. We will have another look at it. It is safer for pedestrians to cross at the lights.

Q. On the issue of equity there is a problem. Canberra has been specifically designed to keep houses, schools etc. away from transport corridors. 98% of people won't be able to use it. If it goes through the whole of Canberra 90% won't be able to use it.

A. Buses are at capacity along Northbourne Avenue. We all pay for things that we don't use now but may do in the future (or would have used it earlier if it had been built earlier). Any infrastructure not just light rail. There are choices. We spend \$120 million on buses and a lot of Canberrans don't use them.

Q. Gungahlin – Civic. How many people will be able to walk to it?

A. Many but a lot of people already now park ay Gungahlin or get dropped off or walk to a bus stop.

Q. We should pay for it now and let it build across the city.

A. It will assist with congestion. There is consultation on other major traffic corridors. People use buses and/or trams in Sydney and Melbourne.

Q. If you spend \$1 per \$100 on light rail what is the comparison with roads and buses?

A. \$1 per \$100 will build, operate and maintain light rail for 20 years. Most projects don't include operational and maintenance costs in the announced amount e.g. schools only the building costs.

Q. The car parking at Cooleman Court is still an issue. What is happening with the shopping centre at Coombs?

A. I will take it on notice. Cooleman Court is being upgraded. In 6-12 months Mirvac will announce their plans. We are upgrading Brierley Street and Trenerry Square. We did add 50 new spots.

Q. Who gives approval for Mirvac to expand?

A. On their own land they can make their own decisions. They will need to apply for a DA. The plans include additional car parking. The existing car parking belongs to the ACT government. For shopping centres the government's role is to release the land not build the shopping centres. Franklin and Harrison are just getting theirs after 10 years and 12 years.

Q. Can you fine the developers if they are late? Coombs is dragging its heels.

A. We can if we are aware of it. Amaroo shops are opening now and the land was sold 23 years ago. There are issues with the DA for Coombs. It didn't meet requirements.

Q. When is the second petrol station going to be built?

A. The DA is imminent. It is expected to be lodged in the next 4-6 weeks.

Q. If Northbourne Avenue is as serious a problem as ACT government says why put a swimming pool or stadium there?

A. It does make sense if you have a good transport system and other facilities around it. The plans for City-Lake have been put on hold but are still being considered. If you go to Bruce there is nothing there for people.

Q. There must be 20000-25000 cars coming into Canberra. Where do they park?

A. The Federal Highway and Barton Highway come into Canberra. You cannot stop them. There is a Park n Ride in Fyshwick for people coming in from Queanbeyan. Greyhound buses have direct routes from Goulburn to Canberra.

Q. What does one ticket/one fare/one network mean?

A. You can use the ticket on any mode.

Q. Are there separate fares for each mode of transport?

A. It is the same as the current bus fare. You can catch more than one mode on a single ticket.

Q. Is the City Loop one way?

A. Yes, it is anticlockwise. It runs every 15 minutes and each loop take 20 minutes.

Q. There used to be a bus depot in Woden. Will you have to buy the land etc.?

A. We will be using the existing site but it will need new, redesigned buildings.

Q. I tried to get a bulk waste pickup but it was very bureaucratic.

A. Tiny's Green Shed deliver the service on behalf of the ACT government.

Q. We would like a bulk pick up?

A. Mattresses can be picked up and recycled.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of 25 May 2016

Motion: That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved as circulated.

Moved: Rosemary Drabsch

Seconded: Chris Wilson

Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of 25 May 2016

- Nil

Treasurer's Report

- \$7721-96 Main Account
- \$4279-82 Fetherston Garden Account

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted

Moved: Chris Wilson

Seconded: Max Kwiatkowski

Motion carried

General Business

Green bin trial

- The ACT government is trialing a green waste bin in Weston Creek and Kambah
- You can register on line or by phone
- There is a one off fee of \$50 unless you are a concession holder.

Territory Plan Draft Variation 346 (DV346)

- This is a draft variation about simplifying solar access.
- WCCC has some concerns about it because existing homes could be adversely impacted when renovations or a new house is built next door.
- Existing legislation, DV306 was only for greenfields areas.
- This variation covers all of Canberra.

Speakers for July

- In the interests of fairness the Greens will be speaking at the next meeting. Canberra Liberals spoke at the May meeting and Labor spoke at tonight's meeting.

Annual General Meeting

- This will be held at the 31 August 2016 meeting.
- WCCC is hoping for speakers on:

- the ACT Basin Priority Project specifically in relation to the proposed wetlands situated between Dixon Drive and Molonglo
- the dog park proposed for Weston Creek in the 2016-17 ACT budget.

Speakers for September

- It is proposed to have a meet the candidates for Murrumbidgee in the upcoming ACT election.
- This meeting will be facilitated by an impartial third party.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

**Next Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 27 July 2016
St Jude's Primary School hall
Mulley Street, Holder**