

Your local voice



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Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 31 October 2018

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7.40pm. The Chair, Tom Anderson, welcomed members and guests.

Apologies: Janice Paull, Shelby Schofield, Max Kwiatkowski

Welcome: Senator David Smith, Caroline Le Couteur MLA, Kristen Blume and Ian McGlynn - Transport Canberra

27 people attended the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Senator David Smith

- Following an Acknowledgement of Country Senator Smith provided some details about himself.
 - He has been a Senator since May 2018 following the High Court finding that Katy Gallagher was not entitled to be in Federal Parliament. Katy Gallagher has been endorsed as No 1 on the Senate ticket for the next senate election.
 - Senator Smith has been preselected for the seat of Bean.
 - He worked in the labour movement for 14 years with Engineers Australia and the Police. Before this he was a public servant, both for the Commonwealth and the ACT government.
 - He is from Woden Valley.
 - He is concerned about the use of contractors in the public service.
- In the Senate he is on several reviews:
 - 2nd stage of the light rail
 - Health of National Institutions (Joint House committee)
 - Role of the National Capital Authority, which is poorly resourced. There is a report due early 2019.
- Concerns of constituents include the difficulties with renewal of plans under NDIS.

Q. There is a lack of resourcing for the NCA. This is a large generator of tourism income for the ACT but they are not looking after the maintenance. They can talk about the major transport routes etc. but you never hear anything from them. What is the problem?

A. There is only one engineer at the NCA. The ponds in front of Old Parliament are neglected, the major institutions buildings are lacking maintenance and are aging and there is not enough storage space. 90,000 schoolchildren come to the ACT every year. There could be many more if the NCA was invigorated. The administration building at the National Mint holds Questacon's display for older students. They are trying to bring the AIS into the review of the Institutions. There is talk of selling it off. Gai Brodtmann has done a lot of work around the efficiency

dividend for the National Institutions

Q. Stage 2 of Light Rail. Nobody has seen costs and designs. There is little support for Civic to Woden. It is different from Stage 1 as there are no units etc. along the route. It takes 15 minutes on the bus from Civic to Woden – light rail won't do this. Do you support Stage 2?

A. The Committee has been deliberately agnostic on this. The Committee asked does it intersect with the parliamentary triangle? There are many challenges. Wires will not be allowed overhead in the parliamentary triangle probably as far as Kent Street. There are big benefits for the federal government if it goes through Barton past the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Attorney General's Departments. The federal committee is looking mainly at the parliamentary triangle area i.e. federal issues. I am aware that WCCC has raised concerns.

Q. How are you going to make yourself known in Bean? How are you going to approach this including Molonglo Valley, which has no committee focus?

A. Every weekend I will be at a separate shopping centre. There will be door knocking and approaches to school communities. Molonglo Valley is still emerging and the team will go out there. The good thing is the health hub; the bad thing is the lack of shops. The Molonglo Valley is caught between Belconnen and Weston Creek. It needs more infrastructure and it places a huge amount of pressure on Weston Creek.

Q. The lack of a bridge over the Molonglo River is an issue. This will cause issues similar to those at Tharwa. Four years is too far away. Can you lobby your ACT colleagues for this and services for Molonglo Valley? It will be a real issue for people going to live in Whitlam.

A. Very happy to take up the issues.

Q. There was general agreement in the room that a bridge over the Molonglo at Coppins Crossing would be preferable to Stage 2 of the light rail.

A. Happy to communicate this with local colleagues.

Q. I am concerned about the density of Stage 2 of the light rail. I am concerned that the Mint playing fields and vacant land around it will go. The Rapid bus network is excellent why change it?

A. The flood plains should not be built on.

Q. There are no Environmental Impact Statements or they are being pushed aside as they have been in other areas. What can be done about this?

A. This is an important discussion to have with the MLAs.

Commentary: The discussion has been had with the ACT government but they do not listen. Stage 2 of Light Rail was a knee jerk election issue for the Southside. They do not listen to the residents or citizens.

Q. The public housing development in Chapman has had many objections. We have been set up to look like NIMBY's. We have been completely ignored despite trying to work with the government. This is hurtful. The Federal Government Asset Renewal Program is involved so this becomes your problem. What can you do?

A. I will talk to local residents and my ACT colleagues. Contact me by email.

Senator.david.smith@aph.gov.au

Commentary: The EIS' were breached in Molonglo. They were told not to develop Molonglo at all. There was a boundary set up but this was ignored and the area was bulldozed. I don't agree with the Leisure Centre – there must be fauna there that is endangered.

Q. What is the rush to do anything? Everything is being done for new people and existing residents are being left behind. People still want the Bush Capital, not a high density city.

A. We have the capacity for both in Canberra. The Northside of Canberra is one of the fastest developing areas in the country.

Q. Why doesn't the government listen to consultation or even have it?

A. You need to be fair to the ACT government. There were quite a few changes made to the bus network based on consultation.

Q: We need development to keep the ACT going otherwise we would go broke. We have no other revenue or resources. The planning may not be good but you have to sell the land off.

How else are we going to balance the budget?

A. You are right. Where else does revenue come from?

Q. Why don't we have more innovation?

A. Most income from this goes to the federal government.

Q. What else can we do to pay people's bills? The ACT Housing Collaboration Hub came up with lots of good ideas but they were ignored. We could consider tourism, innovation or computer game development.

A. The major driver of the ACT economy is the commonwealth public service and federal investment. Education is being driven hard, there is the nascence space industry, the defence industry where the revenue goes to the federal government but the wages go to residents. Tourism is disconnected.

Q. Why is consultation not real consultation? For instance, the CFZ change to public housing was made before any consultation. We were only given consultation on the design, parking etc. Consideration should be given to decentralising federal government to take the pressure off the ACT.

A. I do not support decentralisation. There are legitimate concerns about consultation.

Q. Why is no land set aside in the Molonglo Valley for innovation or entrepreneurial activity?

A. The health hub looks interesting.

Q. There is a doctor, dentist and a vet – nothing innovative. Where is the community hall?

A. You could have imaging in there.

Q. The National Capital Development Commission shaped development in Tuggeranong and it was done well. You need a framework for the private sector to work with. Why is there a lack of professional leadership on the ACT government and the NCA?

A. The NCA needs to be revitalised.

Q. The Combined Community Councils had a meeting with the CEO of the NCA and are having another one soon. She is keen but feels there is nothing she can do. Where is the funding?

A. The paid parking in the parliamentary triangle was all going to consolidated revenue. Some of it is now going to the NCA. It should all go to the NCA.

Q. Where are the solar farms and the wind farms in the ACT?

A. There won't be any unless there is a change of government.

Caroline Le Couteur: The ACT government is committed to 100% renewable by 2020. Enough contracts have been signed to achieve it but they are not all located in the ACT.

Murrumbidgee MLA's – five minutes

Caroline Le Couteur

- Heard very clearly the comments made to Senator David Smith particularly in relation to consultation.
- Light Rail Two – There is a problem that the trip will take twice as long as the buses.
- Bush Fire readiness. The Emergency Services Agency has been door knocking in the Weston Creek area. Water levels in the ACT are as bad as 2003 because of climate change. Ensure that you have done some bush fire preparation.
- On Monday 5 November 2018, the long awaited affordable housing policy will be released. 15% of developments will be set aside for public housing. In relation to the situation in Chapman, the Liberal MLAs asked the Minister to meet with residents but she did not.

Q. When will the developers be asked to participate?

A. Current rules only apply for greenfield developments not infill. The Greens and Labor agreed that 20% should be affordable housing. There is loophole and developers are selling to friends who then sell it on later at a non-affordable price. There should be restrictions on who buys it and when they sell it they can't make a huge profit – it has to be kept as affordable housing.

Transport Canberra – Ian McGlynn and Kristen Blume

Bus Network Changes

- 27% of the submissions on the draft changes to the bus network came from Weston Creek and the Molonglo Valley. 10,735 in total completed the survey.
- 37 changes were made following consultation but there has been some tradeoffs.
- All local buses will go through Woden. Some routes and deviations have been put back in. Services between Weston Creek and Woden will run every 15 minutes.
- There have been extensions to routes to Denman Prospect to the Denman Prospect shops.
- Rapid buses will run all day where Xpresso buses were only in the morning and the afternoon. They will be at 15 minute intervals between 7 am and 7 pm
- Some of the rapid buses will go to Woden or the City directly. You will also be able to go to Tuggeranong through Woden or Kambah.
- There have been some changes to the school services. Details are on the Transport Canberra Website. The changes include buses will now go to Mary Mackillop and from Denman Prospect to Stromlo High.
- There is consideration being given to a Park and Ride at the end of Hindmarsh Drive in Chapman. There are bus driver toilets there so there will be buses terminating there.
- There will now only be one termination at Coleman Court. There will be changes to parking on Parkinson Street. The other proposed route terminations will now go through to Woden for termination.
- The traffic in the Aldi carpark is an issue. It does not meet current Australian standards. If the flow is changed another 15 spots can be added in the carpark and 10 on the street.

Q. These are great changes. When are they being implemented?

A. The car park will be done before Christmas hopefully. As it is just paint. The bus stops will be done in January. Other upgrades will be done over time. Potentially there will be some traffic calming devices along Parkinson Street but not necessarily at this site.

Q. Are there considerations about a pedestrian crossing?

A. There are some issues internally in government. The plan says there is a pram ramp and potentially a pedestrian crossing. Australian standards need to be met for pedestrian crossings.

Q. What consideration is being given to people with disabilities?

A. We are working with ACOSS and other community organisations.

Q. Will there be another bus stop in Annabel Avenue in Coombs?

A. Yes. We need to change the parking to allow enough room for buses. There will be bus stops in Harold White Avenue as well. We are going to the Molonglo Mingle tomorrow night (1 November 2018).

Q. Will there be extra car parking while these people park and ride?

A. No. Group centres are not a good place for Park and Ride. Bike and Ride is good for Group centres. You need to lobby for a bike cage. These include looking at Park and Rides along the Rapid Routes including near the RSPCA. We are looking across the whole Territory. We are marking bays so the parking can be legitimised

Q. Is parking being checked?

A. Yes, we are booking people.

Q. Where are the shelters? There are only two now.

A. There are some oldschool bunkers available for use.

Q. Do you have a forward plan for this? Any plans for ride sharing.

A. Yes. There is good technology for matching trips eg using mini buses. We are getting a back end system up in the future. We do partner with Uber for Christmas time and off peak concessions are working well.

Q. Are you considering using Kenny Koala on the bus to show parents who are concerned about safety?

A. We are looking at Buddy Bus as well.

- There has been a proposal for a food truck but the ACT government is putting up barriers.
- There has been a lack of leadership, professionalism and accountability in relation to this lack of facilities. There needs to be some basic planning.
- The Mingle is the problem. All land has been earmarked for development. Many things have been started but there is nowhere for people who have made connections to meet.

Meeting with Meegan Fitzharris

- The meeting concentrated on the bus network, the Walk-in-Centre, which is scheduled to be finished by November 2019 and the lack of consultation in the Molonglo Valley.

Q. Are they refurbishing the current building? Is it in the Masterplan? What about the Community Centre?

A. Yes, they are refurbishing the current building and it is in the Masterplan. The Masterplan does not dictate what is to be done; it is up to the owners. Masterplans have a thirty-year time frame and are often changed. The site is still owned by the ACT government. Tom Anderson had a discussion with Chris Steel about this and other issues relating to the Weston Group Centre recently.

Insurance Cover

- Funding is provided by the ACT government who used to organise the insurance but now they are not going to. It is very hard for the Community Councils to organise it as they do not have much experience in this area.

Community Contribution Scheme

- This comes from gambling revenue. An ACT government committee was established to suggest some changes but the community did not like the changes recommended ie that the whole amount [8%] go to a fund held by the Chief Minister. The outcome is now that of net gaming machine revenue 0.4% goes to gambling harm prevention and mitigation, 0.4% to community charitable causes and 8.0% to the community directly by the Clubs [as it used to be].

Next month's meeting

- This will be on fire safety, bushfires and evacuation plans. Let everyone know to come.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 28 November 2018
Chapman Primary School
Perry Drive
Chapman