

# Combined Community Councils of the ACT

**Meeting Saturday 7 September 2013 in the Community Room**

**above Belconnen Library, Chandler Street Belconnen.**

**Present** :- Lynn Bott TCC, Eric Trause TCC, Leon Arundell NCCC, Robyn Coghlan BCC, Gary Kent ISCCC, Ewan Brown GCC, Tom Anderson WCCC, Pat McGinn WCCC, Damien Haas BCC, Dr Jenny Stewart WVCC

**1. Apologies** :- Russell Morrison TCC

**2. Draft minutes from previous meeting held on 6 July 2013** these were accepted

**3. Matters arising/Issues identified at last meeting** – Pat to present overview of Quinlan Taxation Review

- Pat presented a very brief outline of the review and the Assembly's response. However having forgotten to bring her notes she undertook to provide a report via email to the CCC's prior to the next meeting. She also informed the group about information provided to her re the practice of fines due on purchased land remaining undeveloped being waived. It is understood that the value of these fines was considerable. Other members cited examples of sites not being redeveloped in both Aranda and Giralang.

***Action** :- Pat to write a paper on Taxation reform to be circulated to all CCC members*

The discussion moved onto the failure of LDA to sell the land in Denmans Prospect, the viability of developing on steep sites in the Molonglo area and development on the old Naval Transmitting Station site.

Letter to ESDD drafted by Leon. The response made by Ben Ponton at the PDF was subsequently supported by Dorte Eklund. Leon is keen to ascertain why ESDD has changed its position and on what legal advice this was based. However Jenny Stewart queried whether we should 'give up' on this particular issue as no progress is being made. It was pointed out that a promise of extra remedial advice would be provided placing emphasis on the outcomes required.

***Action**:- Leon to draft a letter for all CCC members to consider. The letter to asking what are the changes ? what do they mean? What are the controls? And what goes into any consideration of zoning?*

**4. Town centres and planning split between ACTPLA and LDA**

A letter dated 14 July 2013 to the Chief Minister was written by Dr Jenny Stewart on behalf of the CCC. The letter concerning planning in general, the relationship between LDA/ACTPLA and Master Plans was copied to all MLAs. No response has been received from the chief Minister but Shane Rattenbury MLA responded and then wrote to Simon Corbell MLA concerning the matter.

Comment was made about the lack of Master Plans for the Town Centres and in particular about the issues of height restrictions in Gungahlin and the selling of all

spare land in Belconnen for residential development with no apparent thought to preserve future options

There was considerable discussion on how the CCC could obtain leverage to further influence planning outcomes. It was generally agreed that care has to be taken as considerable fallout could occur. The role of the press was discussed with some members considering that they should be utilised first and other members considering that they should be kept as a last resort. Other suggestions were :- a talk with Catherine Carter of the Property Council re land banking/loss of revenue, that communities be more active in raising issues before the government and taking initiatives to them rather than just reacting, that when an issue arises any letter from a CC be cc'd to all MLAs, the use of press releases on specific issues, the development of a CCC newsletter highlighting the top specific issues being sent to all MLAs. Generally the discussion was dynamic with all members feeling that it would be advantageous to raise awareness of the role of CCs with both the public and the MLAs.

The use of the electronic media was then discussed including the possibility of establishing a communal website. However this did not receive universal support due to the already existing workloads.

*Action :- Leon to set up a Facebook page and make all of the CCs administrators.*

*Each CC to make mention of the CCC on their websites*

*Ewan to draw up a timetable for release of a CCC Newsletter*

*Each CC to send Ewan a news item for each Newsletter release*

**5. Draft ACT Water Strategy and review of Water Sensitive Urban Design.** Leon indicated that this was not a well written report. He suggested that it stay as a draft until the Report on the Murray Darling Basin Plan is finalised

**6. Planning issues: precinct codes, TA2013-10, exempt developments** – this matter was discussed to some extent under Item 3. Gary informed the group that the Institute of Engineers is concerned about the quality of certifiers and the regulation of exempt development. They are putting together a list of interested parties in order to hold a consultation about the problems.

**7. Loss of recreational spaces to development.** There was general discussion on this matter including consideration of the letter received from Mr Ted Schultheis. It was felt that there is a need to obtain some more detail before raising this matter further. In particular what are the legal requirements for recreational open space under the Territory Plan.

*Action :- Leon will pursue the standards with Richard Larsen.*

*Robyn will respond to Ted indicating that the matter is of interest to the CCC and suggesting that he talk to a range of users to gain further support.*

**8. Sub-Committee Reports.** The report of the Transport sub Committee was considered briefly and it was noted that the subcommittee is to meet again with the Transport Planners.

*Action :- Leon to put an item about the Transport sub Committee Report on Facebook*

**9. Round Table Discussion on Sharing Information.** This item was part of general discussion but was not specifically addressed

**10. Appointment of CCC Chair/Convenor .** This item was not discussed

**11. Next Meetings and Plans/Schedule for 2014** The next meeting will be hosted and chaired by Tuggeranong on Saturday 9 November

**12. Other Business.**

Gary presented copies of the Press release made by the ISCCC after the Assembly election. In this they highlight the promises made by the political parties at a planning forum held at the ACT Assembly prior to the last ACT Assembly election. Several items related to planning issues.

*Action :- Gary to write to the Greens and the ALP re progress on the promises*

Eric provided information about aircraft noise, the Tralee development and the concerns of the Tuggeranong community. The CC is asking that a Noise Abatement Zone be established.

*Action:- Eric to send a copy of the TCC letter to other CCs*