

# NORTH CANBERRA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30pm, 17 August 2011

ACT Sports House, Hackett

### Minutes

Committee members present: Leon Arundell (acting Chair) Laura Turnbull, Bruce Smith  
Members - Waltraud Pix, James Walker, Caroline Le Couteur, Freddie Turnbull,  
Apologies: Jochen Zeil, Richard Larson, Mike Hettinger

**Electoral boundaries and size of assembly:** There was a general discussion about the merits of an expanded ACT Legislative Assembly. The general feeling of the meeting was that an expanded Assembly, consisting of 21 members and an additional Minister, would increase the capacity of the Assembly to get across the full range of ACT issues. In particular, an additional Minister would help to address the excessively wide span of responsibilities of current Ministers.

Action: Bruce will draft a motion proposing one additional Minister and 2 extra members.

**Pedestrian lights:** Leon led a discussion about how to make pedestrian lights more pedestrian-friendly - particularly in regard to median strips and also the waiting period following pressing the button at lights. Points made include:

- 18 pedestrians have been killed since 2003, with 10 involving streets with wide median strips
- a range of options are being considered about the future of Northbourne Ave, many of which include getting rid of the median strip.

Action: Leon will write to the ACT Government supporting changes to pedestrian lights to make them safer for pedestrians.

**Development in Civic:** There was a general discussion about development in Civic. There was concern about the overdevelopment of Civic in comparison to other town centres and the general glut of retail space in Canberra.

**Very Fast Train:** The meeting discussed the issue of how to ensure that decisions about the route of the VFT and a possible Canberra station were not overly influenced by short-term decisions about promoting Canberra airport. In particular people thought that Canberra should be on the main line of the train and not on a spur, and that a station needed to be either located in the city centre or closely linked by public transport to the heart of the city. It was agreed to write to the ACT Government to seek their views about the options under consideration for a possible route and station.

Action: Bruce to write to the ACT Government to find out their position on possible routes for the VFT.

**Supermarket policy:** Discussion focussed on the need to preserve local shopping centres and not to allow larger shopping centres to get even bigger. Bigger shopping centres will not result in more people shopping, they will just drive out smaller supermarkets in local centres.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 September.