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Protecting, promoting and enhancing the economic, cultural, social and environmental well-being of the residents of North Canberra

The North Canberra Community Council receives funding and support from the ACT Government



Agenda: General Meeting 7pm 19 July 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85638940113?pwd=aTd0UUU9YL2NUVDFQOU85RGF2MGcvUT09>

Meeting ID: 856 3894 0113
Passcode: 184577

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **7.10pm Sarah and Mel Gregory, Suburb Zero ACT Community Group (see attachment below)**

 2. **7.40pm Discussion of wood burning stoves (required reading see attached)**

 3. **7.55pm Leon Arundell Presentation on 'ACT Public Transport Futures'**
- 8.15pm Chair's Report 'On holiday'**
- 8.20 Treasurer's report**
- 8.25pm Other business**

Close of meeting

Minute taker for the meeting: Ian Hubbard

Committee meetings and general meetings are currently held on alternative months. The next meetings are 16/08/2023 Committee, 20/09/2023 General.

Suburb Zero ACT Community Group

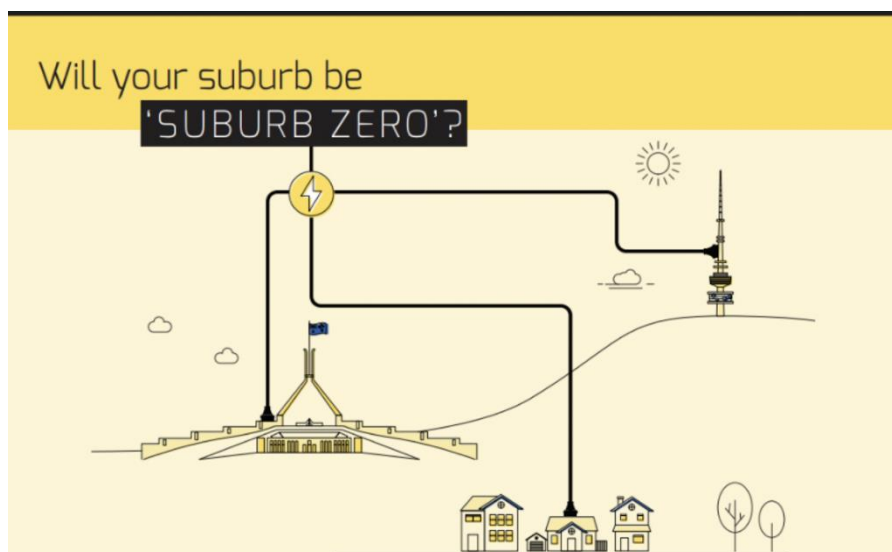
A project called Suburb Zero ACT (details below) which is working to increase the speed of electrification in Canberra.

The project has been initiated by Australian inventor Saul Griffith and [Rewiring Australia](#). Saul has been advising President Joe Biden on the electrification transition in the US and most recently, he also helped devise part of the policy framework for the US Inflation Reduction Act to speed the transition away from fossil fuels.

I'm a member of the Canberra Working Group that's been set up to advocate for this project, which consists of local environmental organisations like Australian Parents for Climate Action (AP4CA), the ACT Conservation Council, The Climate Reality Project and People's Climate Assembly - among others.

We'd love to let your members know about this initiative and how they can get involved.

Thanks so much for your help and please let me know if you have any questions.



As the cost of living continues to rise, imagine you could save money and help take climate action at the same time.

We want Canberra to be the first city and territory to be fully electric. We're ahead nationally and globally; collectively we can be fully electric in next to no time. Great for our future and gentle on our bank balance - what's not to love?

[Suburb Zero ACT](#) is a pilot project in Canberra to subsidise and support up to 1500 houses in one suburb to install:

- solar panels
- battery storage
- heat pump water heating
- heat pump reverse cycle heating and cooling
- induction stove top
- electric vehicle

This will help households save up to \$5000 a year in energy costs, reduce emissions and accelerate our energy transition to renewables.

We want to sign up as many people as possible to show that Canberrans want this and want it to happen now.

We would love to put organisational and business logos on our website to show our supporters. Please let us know if you're interested in adding your logo.

Let's lead the way to electrification!



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we live on and pay respects to the Elders of the ACT region past, present and emerging.

Position Paper by Johnston and May – Discussion for NCCC General Meeting

The Department of Environment and Energy's [National Pollution Inventory](#) shows that domestic solid fuel burning is responsible for more than two thirds of particle air pollution in Canberra. The same report shows that motor vehicles are responsible for 10.1% of particle air pollution.

The ACT [Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment](#) says in her report released in March 2023, *"While some estimates suggest that less than five per cent of Canberra households rely on wood as their primary source of heating, wood heaters account for a large fraction of Canberra's fine particle air pollution in winter months. This situation is particularly concerning given current understandings that there is no safe concentration of particles for sensitive people."*

Fine particle air pollution in Downer was more than 3 times above the World Health Organization standard and more than double the Australian standard on the night of 7 June 2023 and continued for most of the evening. (See attached PPT)

Fine particle air pollution in Lyneham was more than 5 times above the World Health Organization standard and more than 3 times the Australian standard on the night of 7 June 2023. These levels persisted throughout the evening. On the night of 11 June 2023 air pollution levels were recorded at 114. (See PPT)

In 2021 by an [Asthma Australia](#) survey of 25 thousand people which found only 28% of the general population and 18% of people with asthma said they are able to protect themselves from wood heater smoke when present and people with asthma reported they were twice as likely to get respiratory symptoms when wood heater smoke was in the air.

The survey found:

- People exposed to woodfire heaters are largely unable to protect themselves. Only 28% of the general population and 18% of people with asthma said they are able to protect themselves from woodfire heater smoke when present.
- People in Australia, particularly those with asthma, are supportive of regulations to reduce the impact of woodfire heaters. More than three-quarters of the general population (77%) agree that woodfire heaters should not be allowed in urban or built-up areas and over half agree they should be phased out (55%) or banned (54%).
- Support for regulation was even higher amongst people with asthma with 84% supporting regulation of woodfire heaters in urban or built-up areas, 71% supporting a scheme to phase them out and 65% agreeing they should be banned.

In a Position Paper released in 2022, the [Cancer Council ACT](#) recommended people avoid burning wood and substitute wood burning heaters for alternative, cleaner sources of heating to reduce air pollution and their risk of cancer.

The Heart Foundation also acknowledges the strong research evidence indicating exposure to air pollution, including wood fire smoke, is detrimental to cardiovascular health, particularly for people living with cardiovascular disease.

The recent Sydney Air Quality Study conducted by the NSW government shows that residential wood heater emissions have the greatest level of PM2.5 pollution across Greater Sydney and result in an estimated 269 attributable number of premature deaths with a health cost of \$2,239 million. The associated years of life lost are 3,279 with an annual health cost of \$2,046 million (greater than any other source of air pollution). With less than 5% of households using wood as main heating and perhaps another 5% burning wood as supplementary heating, the health costs equate to over \$10,000 per wood heater per year.

The estimated health cost in the ACT is \$8,000 per wood heater per year.

Given the huge health costs involved, leading respiratory physicians and academic centres have been calling for action on this important public health issue for some time. An example of the latter is the Centre for Air pollution, energy and health Research (CAR), a National Health and Medical Research Council Centre for Research Excellence in Australia. It is the only group of its kind nationally to bring together researchers focusing on the impacts of air pollution and new versus traditional forms of energy on our health.

ACTION BY NCCC

A letter of support ASAP from the NCCC calling on the ACT Government to adopt and fully implement recommendations of the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (report attached, with recommendations on last page).

(The government is finalising its response to this report soon, and the more community groups that support its sensible recommendations, the better.)