

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING FORUM (EPF)
RECORD OF MEETING
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm Thursday 28 February 2019

Community Councils and Industry

Marea Fatseas - Inner South Canberra Community Council
Pat McGinn - Weston Creek Community Council
Warwick Lavers - Weston Creek Community Council
Kevin Cox - Gungahlin Community Council
Denis O'Brien - (attendance in a personal capacity)
Damien Haas - Belconnen Community Council
Ryan Hemsley - Public Transport Association of Canberra
Peter Elford - Gungahlin Community Council
Imogen Featherston - Planning institute of Australia
David Denham - Inner South Canberra Community Council
Glenys Patulny - Tuggeranong Community Council
Jeff Ibbotson - Pedal Power
Michael Hopkins - Master Builders' Association
Andrew Collins - Australian Institute of Architects
Craig Wallace - ACTCOSS
Leon Arundell - North Canberra Community Council

ACT Government

Ben Ponton - Director - General, EPSDD (**Chair**)
Gene McGlynn - EPSDD
Geoff Davidson - TCCS
Angela Trevithick - TCCS
Laura Marcantonio - EPSDD note taker

Apologies

Peter Moore - Kingston Barton Residents Group (KBRG)
Jenny Mobbs - COTA
Tom Anderson - Weston Creek Community Council

1) Welcome and apologies

Ben Ponton (Chair) welcomed members and apologies were noted.

Item 3 was discussed prior to Item 2.

2) Notes and actions from previous meeting

The Chair proposed endorsement of the minutes from the previous meeting.

Mr Arundell advised that he wished to raise an issue regarding the minutes of the previous meeting. He suggested that the Chair had a conflict of interest in relation to the issue he wished to raise and invited the Chair to step down while the matter was discussed. The Chair asked Mr Arundell whether his issue had anything at all, in any way, to do with Technical Amendment 2012 - 06. Mr Arundell confirmed that it did. In response, the Chair reiterated previous advice to Mr Arundell that the matter he referred to has been extensively canvassed and investigated over a number of years. The Chair cautioned Mr Arundell that pursuing this issue, when the Government and the Public Service has advised him that it will not communicate with him further, was not appropriate in the Forum and that Mr Arundell should not seek to raise the issue again in this forum. The Chair advised Mr Arundell that should he continue to raise the issue, the Chair would give further consideration to the continuance of his invitation to attend the Forum, in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Mr Arundell noted the Chair's comments and continued to pursue the issue with the forum. As a result, the Chair moved to put to vote whether the forum would allow Mr Arundell to continue to discuss Technical Amendment 2012 - 06 and associated issues.

The motion to allow Mr Arundell to continue to discuss the matter was voted in the negative by the majority.

The minutes were endorsed by the Forum.

The Chair suggested Marea speak to the EPSDD notetaker after the meeting about follow-up from the previous meeting on dwelling statistics.

3) Terms of Reference

The Chair referred to a suggestion by Marea Fatseas to include a representative from the ACT Heritage Council on the Forum. The Chair advised that while the Heritage Council is a group that is administratively supported by the Directorate, it may not be appropriate for ongoing representation and that representation could be by invitation on a case by case basis. The Chair undertook to discuss the proposal with the Chair of the Heritage Council nonetheless.

Jeff Ibbotson made the following suggestions for inclusion in the Terms of Reference:

1. Clause 1.3 - New 1.3.5 - Responding to issues raised in the Forum - agreed by the Forum.
2. Earlier distribution of minutes and call for agenda items - agreed by the Forum.
3. Clarity that members can contribute to the outcomes, rather than just being 'presented to' – agreed by the Forum.

The Terms of Reference were endorsed by the Forum, subject to the above amendments.

4) Director - General's Key Activities Report

By exception.

The Forum sought further information on ‘renewables’, specifically the opportunity for large ‘district’ batteries.

The Chair introduced Mr Gene McGlynn, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Sustainability, EPSDD. Mr McGlynn explained the Virtual Power Plant principle to the Forum, and how it serves a very similar purpose to a large or ‘district battery’.

Peter Elford queried the next steps in the process for the Gungahlin Town Centre Planning Refresh. Specifically, Mr Elford sought information on the process of considering submissions to the refresh including how feedback on submissions from the community will be communicated.

The Chair advised that the refresh may result in a potential Territory Plan Variation and undertook to provide further information to Mr Elford, and the Forum on the next steps of the submission process either out of session or at the next meeting.

The Forum discussed the City and Gateway Framework and the NCAs resulting Amendment 91 to the National Capital Plan (NCP). Michael Hopkins advised that he had contacted the NCA to seek an extension of time to make a submission to Amendment 91, however, the NCA did not agree to an extension of time.

Imogen highlighted that recommendations regarding building height and character within the City and Gateway Framework would be captured through amendments to the National Capital Plan and variations to the Territory Plan.

5) Climate Change Strategy – Presentation

The Chair introduced Mr Gene McGlynn, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Sustainability, EPSDD, to present the Climate Change Strategy.

Mr McGlynn gave an overview of the carbon budget and what action is required by 2050 to achieve a stabilisation of global warming, as well as how the ACT can be a leader in this achievement.

Mr McGlynn outlined how climate can, and in some cases already is, affecting us. Statistics were shown to the Forum indicating the community has overwhelmingly supported the adoption of targets and a pathway to manage climate change; and to be accountable for those targets until we reach net zero emissions.

The Forum noted that the ACT is on track to achieve by 2020: 100% renewable electricity; and a 40% reduction (of 1990 levels) in greenhouse gas emissions. Mr McGlynn displayed a graph of the projected emissions profile of the ACT in 2020, which highlighted transport and gas energy as the largest emitters of greenhouse gases.

Mr McGlynn discussed the Living Infrastructure Plan and displayed a visual snapshot of components of living infrastructure and their application across the urban landscape.

The Forum discussed the notion of employment hubs and shared offices which may reduce travel requirements and therefore transport emissions.

Mr McGlynn noted that the Climate Change Strategy will require, and the Government is committed to, ongoing community engagement.

The Forum discussed the percentage of emissions reductions as a result of the commencement of light rail stage 1.

Gas use reduction was also discussed, specifically in the context of the Ginninderry development. Mr McGlynn informed the Forum that there has been a 15% market share shift from gas to electricity.

The Forum broadly discussed:

- The possibility of hydrogen use.
- Integrated system plan – generation that supports the grid to ensure readiness for higher than usual electricity demand.
- The need for greater education about the need to ‘turn off gas’.
- Adjustment planning.
- Building efficiencies - how we upgrade established buildings.

6) Transport Strategy – Presentation

The Chair introduced Mr Geoff Davidson, Executive Branch Manager, Place Coordination and Planning, TCCS.

Mr Davidson tabled copies of the Executive Summary of the Moving Canberra 2019 - 2045: Integrated Transport Strategy.

Mr Davidson acknowledged that he has attended a few community council meetings recently with a very similar presentation. He also acknowledged the community’s feedback into the strategy and outlined the important linkages between the Planning Strategy, the Climate Change Strategy and the Transport Strategy.

Mr Davidson highlighted that to date, 208 responses have been received through the YourSay website, noting the focus areas for consultation are: Active Travel, Future Transport, Safety and Accessibility.

Marea highlighted key points of interest that were raised at the Inner South Canberra Community Council meeting recently:

- Drones
- Residential speed limits
- Active travel and safety on shared paths
- Cross border transport issues
- Changes to the bus network.

The Forum discussed the study and report undertaken by Professor Peter Newman on Autonomous Rail Transit (ART) – or ‘trackless trams’, as a suggested other mode of transport. It was noted that the technology is no more advanced than what we currently operate with the bus network.

The Forum discussed the requirement for needs based analysis.

It was suggested that survey work be continuous and include better technology to measure distances travelled.

The Forum discussed car sharing as a transport mode and it was highlighted that the term ‘carshare’ in its true form does not occur here.

7) Other Business

The process of knock - down - rebuilds and trees being treated as exempt developments was highlighted as an issue which the Chair advised is currently receiving attention as the matter of concern is known.

It was noted that the Freedom of Information pathway has been the only available option to access building plans. The Chair undertook to raise the matter with Access Canberra and update the Forum at its next meeting.

8) Next meeting

11 April 2019.

Meeting closed at 6:10pm

Appendix A Action Summary Table

As at 28 February 2019

No.	Action	Status
1	The Chair undertook to discuss the proposal (to have standing representation of the Heritage Council at the EPF) with the Chair of the Heritage Council.	
2	The Chair undertook to raise the matter (of access to building plans outside of the Freedom of Information process) with Access Canberra and update the Forum at its next meeting.	
3	The Chair undertook to provide further information to Mr Elford, and the Forum on the next steps of the submission process (to the Gungahlin Town Centre Planning Refresh) either out of session or at the next meeting.	
4	Amend Terms of Reference in accordance with agreed changes (as identified in the minutes of 28 February 2019).	Completed