

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

The logo for Woden Valley Community Council Inc. features a stylized green and blue graphic to the right of the text. The graphic consists of a blue square with a white cutout, a green square, and a green curved line extending to the right.

PO Box 280 Woden ACT 2606; e-mail info@wvcc.org.au; ph. 0420529747

Mr Simon Corbell MLA
Minister for Planning

Email: corbell@act.gov.au

Dear Minister

**Request to call-in Development Application 201119563: Lease Variation—
Pitch and Putt Golf Course, Block 4 Section 9, Phillip**

The Woden Valley Community Council requests you, as a matter of urgency, to exercise your call-in power under S159 (2) of the *Planning and Development Act (2007)* to refuse the above development application which, if approved, will have the effect of allowing the Canberra Southern Cross Club to redevelop the current site of the Pitch and Putt Golf Course for its own commercial purposes.

The grounds for our request are twofold:

- firstly, that the application raises significant issues of policy in relation to the provision of recreational facilities in the Woden Valley; and
- secondly, that refusal of the application provides a substantial public benefit.

1. Policy issues

With the population of the Woden Town Centre (and the Woden Valley more generally) planned to rise substantially in the next 5 years, it is imperative that a planned approach to the provision of recreational facilities should accompany this development. The Woden Town Centre Master Plan, the only planning-related document prepared by ACTPLA in relation to this area, clearly shows the Pitch and Putt Golf Course remaining on its current site.

There is an additional, consultation-related policy issue. The Canberra Southern Cross Club, reportedly for 'strategic' purposes (including, it would appear the desire to avoid the payment of increased change of use charges) has rushed through this application, without consulting with its own members, or with the Woden Valley Community Council. As Minister, you have a clear responsibility for ensuring that adequate consultation occurs before a proposal of this kind that strikes at the heart of an accepted community facility, is allowed to go forward.

2. Substantial public benefit

The land in question was leased to the Canberra Southern Cross Club for the express purpose of a Pitch and Putt Golf Course on the site. The Canberra Southern Cross Club

now wishes to abandon this use, and to redevelop the site for its own commercial purposes.

This is despite the fact that the Pitch and Putt Golf Club has operated successfully on the site for over 10 years, and is itself a part of the Canberra Southern Cross Club's operations, with some 300 members in the Woden Valley and beyond.

Pitch and Putt is a popular and viable institution, and should continue to be supported through continued leasehold protection. The WVCC's recent survey of Woden Valley residents has shown us how strong the community feeling is on the issue of diminishing recreational facilities in the Woden Valley.

WVCC respectfully requests you to reject Development Application 201119563 by using your call-in power to save one of the few remaining recreational facilities in the Woden Valley.

Yours sincerely
Dr Jenny Stewart
President
WVCC

22 May 2011