

**2001-2002**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**No. 39**

**WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2002**

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1 The Assembly met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. A quorum of Members not being present, the Speaker (Mr Berry) ordered the bells to be rung. A quorum having been formed the Speaker took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

**2 PUBLIC PLACE NAMES AMENDMENT BILL 2002**

Ms Dundas, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Public Place Names Act 1989*, and for other purposes.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Dundas moved - That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Corbell – Minister for Planning) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**3 LITTER AMENDMENT BILL 2002**

Ms Tucker, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Litter Act 1977*.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Tucker moved - That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Corbell – Minister for Planning) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**4 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (BROADCASTING) AMENDMENT BILL 2002**

Mr Berry, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Legislative Assembly (Broadcasting) Act 2001*.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Berry moved - That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Stanhope – Chief Minister) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## **5 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PRECINCTS AMENDMENT BILL 2002**

Mr Berry, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Legislative Assembly Precincts Act 2001*.

*Paper:* Mr Berry presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Berry moved - That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Stanhope – Chief Minister) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## **6 FULL RETAIL COMPETITION – IMPACT ON A.C.T. LOW-INCOME EARNERS**

Mr Cornwell, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly:

- (1) calls upon the ACT Government to prepare a proposal to address the impact of Full Retail Competition (FRC) on ACT low-income earners, pensioners and self-funded retirees for electricity consumption following the introduction of FRC on 1 March 2003; and
- (2) details of the proposal to address the impact of FRC on these groups be made available to this Assembly in the first sitting week of 2003.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

## **7 TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES – IMPLEMENTATION OF MANDATORY CODE OF PRACTICE**

Ms Gallagher, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly recognises that:

- (1) exploitation of outworkers employed in the manufacture of textile, clothing and footwear products in Australia is an issue for all jurisdictions to address;
- (2) outworkers are one of the most exploited groups in the Australian labour market receiving an average wage of \$3.60 an hour;
- (3) consumers have inadequate information on the conditions under which their textile, clothing, and footwear products are manufactured.

Furthermore, the ACT Legislative Assembly calls on the ACT Government to:

- (4) implement a mandatory Code of Practice for Retailers in the ACT to ensure corporate transparency in relation to textile, clothing and footwear contracts;
- (5) establish a Fair Trading Code Administration Committee to oversee the Code of Practice;
- (6) amend the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (1989)* and Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, to ensure jurisdictional consistency for outworkers; and

- (7) move to ethically source all ACT Government textile, clothing and footwear contracts through the government procurement process.

Debate ensued.

Ms Tucker moved the following amendment:

Paragraph (6), after the word “ensure” omit “jurisdictional consistency”, substitute “the best possible protection”.

Ms Tucker, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question – That the motion, as amended, viz:

That this Assembly recognises that:

- (1) exploitation of outworkers employed in the manufacture of textile, clothing and footwear products in Australia is an issue for all jurisdictions to address;
- (2) outworkers are one of the most exploited groups in the Australian labour market receiving an average wage of \$3.60 an hour;
- (3) consumers have inadequate information on the conditions under which their textile, clothing, and footwear products are manufactured.

Furthermore, the ACT Legislative Assembly calls on the ACT Government to:

- (4) implement a mandatory Code of Practice for Retailers in the ACT to ensure corporate transparency in relation to textile, clothing and footwear contracts;
- (5) establish a Fair Trading Code Administration Committee to oversee the Code of Practice;
- (6) amend the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (1989)* and Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, to ensure the best possible protection for outworkers; and
- (7) move to ethically source all ACT Government textile, clothing and footwear contracts through the government procurement process.

be agreed to – proposed.

Debate continued.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

## **8 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

## **9 PAPER**

Mr Stanhope (Chief Minister), presented the following paper:

Residential rental bond assets – Suggested response – Answer to question without notice asked of Mr Stanhope by Ms Dundas and taken on notice on 19 November 2002.

**10 COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS – FUNDING SUPPORT**

Ms Tucker, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the importance of the work of non-government organisations in:
    - (i) the provision and delivery of community services;
    - (ii) the advocacy and representation of members of our community particularly those who are economically or socially disadvantaged or excluded;
    - (iii) contributing to the territory-wide understanding of social and environmental concerns;
  - (b) the generally poor standard of accommodation and equipment in the community sector;
  - (c) the relatively low level of wages accorded workers in that sector; and
- (2) calls on the Government to support the community sector in future budgets by:
  - (a) investing in a marked improvement in the quality of their accommodation and equipment;
  - (b) ensuring that staffing levels are adequate to meet the demands placed upon them; and
  - (c) ensuring that the wages and conditions of community sector employees are brought appreciably closer to levels in the ACT public service.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

**11 LAND ACT REVIEW**

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly notes that:

- (1) the Land Act has been in operation for more than 10 years;
- (2) there have been ongoing criticisms about the complexity and application of the Act;
- (3) the recommendation of the Estimates Committee of the ACT Legislative Assembly for the 2002/2003 Budget that the Land Act be reviewed;

Further that this Assembly calls on the Government to:

- (4) immediately commence a review of the Land Act to be carried out by an independent body such as the Law Reform Commission;
- (5) ensure that the independent body has appropriate resources to carry out the review; and
- (6) delay commencement of the Planning and Land Bill and associated legislation (if it succeeds) until the review has been completed and considered by this Assembly.

Mr Corbell (Minister for Planning) moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after “Further that this Assembly”, substitute “notes that the Government proposes to undertake a review of the Land Act in 2003 with an exposure draft of new legislation in mid 2004.”.

Debate ensued.

Ms Dundas addressing the Assembly –

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*Adjournment negatived:* It being 5 p.m. – The question was proposed – That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Wood (Manager of Government Business) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate –

Question – put and negatived.

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Debate continued.

Mrs Dunne moved the following amendment to Mr Corbell’s proposed amendment:

Insert the words “by an independent body” after “review”.

Debate ensued.

Question – That Mrs Dunne’s amendment to Mr Corbell’s proposed amendment be agreed to – put and negatived.

Question – That Mr Corbell’s amendment be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted –

Ayes, 11		Noes, 6
Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald	Mr Cornwell
Mr Corbell	Mr Quinlan	Mrs Dunne
Mrs Cross	Mr Stanhope	Mr Humphries
Ms Dundas	Ms Tucker	Mr Pratt
Ms Gallagher	Mr Wood	Mr Smyth
Mr Hargreaves		Mr Stefaniak

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question – That the motion, as amended, viz:

That this Assembly notes that:

- (1) the Land Act has been in operation for more than 10 years;
- (2) there have been ongoing criticisms about the complexity and application of the Act;
- (3) the recommendation of the Estimates Committee of the ACT Legislative Assembly for the 2002/2003 Budget that the Land Act be reviewed;

Further that this Assembly notes that the Government proposes to undertake a review of the Land Act in 2003 with an exposure draft of new legislation in mid 2004 –

be agreed to – put and passed.

**12 “WAY TO GO” TRANSPORT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Ms Dundas, pursuant to notice, moved – That following the encouraging results from the “Way to Go” trial in Woden, this Assembly calls on the ACT Government to extend the “Way to Go” transport education program across the ACT, to both households and workplaces, to encourage:

- (1) reduced traffic volumes and reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and
- (2) higher levels of physical activity and better health among Canberrans.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

**13 SYMONSTON TEMPORARY REMAND CENTRE – PROTOCOL**

Mr Smyth, pursuant to notice, moved – That the Assembly notes:

- (1) that all remandees of ACT Corrections are classified as ‘maximum security’;
- (2) that the Minister for Corrections undertook, during Estimates Committee hearings on 26 July 2002, to issue a protocol as to which remandees would be housed at the Temporary Remand Centre at Symonston;
- (3) that the temporary Remand Centre is now open; and
- (4) no protocol has, at this time, been issued;

and calls on the Minister to table the protocol by close of business Wednesday 20 November 2002.

Debate ensued.

*Paper:* Mr Quinlan (Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Corrections) presented the following paper:

Symonston Temporary Remand Centre – Information and protocols covering the transfer of detainees for placement at Symonston Temporary Remand Centre and their transfer back to the Belconnen Remand Centre – Copy of draft agreement between ACT Community Care and ACT Corrective Services, dated 13 November 2002.

Debate continued.

Mr Humphries (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Question – put and negatived.

**14 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Wood (Manager of Government Business) moved – That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.15 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE:** All Members were present at some time during the sitting.

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**M J McRAE**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly