



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

2012–2013

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 24

WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE 2013

1 The Assembly met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mrs Dunne) 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 PAYROLL TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2013

Mr Smyth, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Payroll Tax Act 2011*.

Paper: Mr Smyth presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Smyth moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Barr—Treasurer) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 BUDGET 2013-2014

Ms Berry, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

(a) that the 2013-2014 ACT Budget:

- (i) aims at building a stronger economy and creating opportunity and fairness for all Canberrans;
- (ii) begins the transformation of our city through major infrastructure projects to meet the challenges of our second century;
- (iii) provides funding to progress with important capital projects such as Capital Metro and City to the Lake that will transform the city;



- (iv) continues the Government's nation-leading taxation reforms and delivers a series of structural reforms that will be made to the Territory Budget to make the operation of government more efficient;
 - (v) returns to a balanced budget in a measured way, to ensure we can continue to provide high quality services and invest in the infrastructure that will transform our city; and
 - (vi) delivers high quality health and education services; and
- (2) supports the projects, reforms and initiatives in the 2013-2014 ACT Budget that aim to build and transform Canberra.

Debate ensued.

Mr Rattenbury, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

- (1) In paragraph (1)(a)(iii), omit "with".
- (2) In paragraph (1)(a)(iv), omit all words after "structural reforms", substitute "to make the Territory Budget and operation of government more efficient".
- (3) In paragraph (1)(a)(v), omit all words after "measured way".
- (4) Insert new paragraph (1)(a)(vii):
 - “(vii) will be now subject to extensive consideration by the Select Committee on Estimates, followed by debate on the detail of each proposed expenditure during the August sittings of the Assembly;”.
- (5) Omit paragraph (2), substitute:
 - “(2) calls on all Members of the Assembly to thoroughly consider each expenditure outlined in the Budget papers and support measures that will make Canberra a more amenable, sustainable and enjoyable place to live.”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that the 2013-2014 ACT Budget:
 - (a) aims at building a stronger economy and creating opportunity and fairness for all Canberrans;
 - (b) begins the transformation of our city through major infrastructure projects to meet the challenges of our second century;
 - (c) provides funding to progress important capital projects such as Capital Metro and City to the Lake that will transform the city;
 - (d) continues the Government's nation-leading taxation reforms and delivers a series of structural reforms to make the Territory Budget and operation of government more efficient;
 - (e) returns to a balanced budget in a measured way;
 - (f) delivers high quality health and education services; and

- (g) will be now subject to extensive consideration by the Select Committee on Estimates, followed by debate on the detail of each proposed expenditure during the August sittings of the Assembly; and
- (2) calls on all Members of the Assembly to thoroughly consider each expenditure outlined in the Budget papers and support measures that will make Canberra a more amenable, sustainable and enjoyable place to live.”—

be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Mr Seselja
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Corbell		Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

4 A.C.T. ECONOMY

Mr Smyth, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- the Government’s failure to disclose job and service cuts to the community in the lead up to the election;
 - the Government’s lack of honesty, in their assurances to Canberrans that their election promises were fully funded;
 - the failure of the Gallagher Labor Government to manage the ACT Budget sustainably, budgeting for a deficit in excess of \$340 million in the current year and borrowings to increase to approximately \$3 billion over the forward estimates;
 - the Government’s inability to deliver important projects on time and on budget, with failures including, but not limited to, the Gungahlin Drive Extension, North Weston Pond, the hospital car park, Emergency Services Headquarters and the Cotter Dam;
 - the ACT Treasurer’s unwillingness to debate the ACT Budget in a public forum; and
 - the Government’s failure to diversify the ACT economy after more than 12 years in Government; and
- (2) condemns the ACT Government for their failure, after 12 consecutive budgets to:
- be honest with Canberrans about projected job and service cuts;
 - deliver vital infrastructure on time and within budget; and
 - put the ACT in a firm financial position, giving Canberrans almost \$3 billion of interest bearing debt for future Canberrans to pay.

Debate ensued.

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 74 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

6 A.C.T. ECONOMY

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Smyth (*see* [entry 4](#))—

Debate resumed.

Paper: Mr Seselja, by leave, presented the following paper:

“Our plan for better local services and lower rates & charges”—Canberra Liberals’ election brochure.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 9	
Mr Coe	Mr Seselja	Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth	Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Mr Hanson		Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury
Mrs Jones		Mr Corbell	

And so it was negatived.

7 SUPREME COURT (APPOINTMENT OF RESIDENT JUDGES) AMENDMENT BILL 2013

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—

Debate resumed.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 9	
Mr Coe	Mr Seselja	Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth	Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Mr Hanson		Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury
Mrs Jones		Mr Corbell	

And so it was negatived.

8 HOME OWNERSHIP INITIATIVES

Dr Bourke, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

(a) the 2013-2014 Budget delivers a package of initiatives aimed at making home ownership more achievable for more Canberrans;

(b) this package includes:

- (i) an increase in the First Home Owner Grant to \$12,500 from 1 September 2013. The grants will be retargeted to new and substantially renovated properties from 1 September 2013;
 - (ii) expansion to the Home Buyer Concession Scheme—the income threshold will rise from \$150,000 to \$160,000;
 - (iii) an increase in the property threshold up until which a full concession is available to \$425,000, with a partial concession for properties valued up to \$525,000;
 - (iv) retargeting of the Land Rent Scheme to lower income households;
 - (v) new dwelling sites in Belconnen, Gungahlin, North Canberra, South Canberra, Woden, Molonglo and Tuggeranong through the Land Release Program; and
 - (vi) delivers high quality services to Canberra; and
- (2) supports the initiatives being delivered by the ACT Government aimed at making home ownership more affordable.

Debate ensued.

Mr Rattenbury, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

- (1) Omit paragraph (1)(b)(vi).
- (2) Omit paragraph (2), substitute:
 - “(2) calls on all Members of the Assembly to thoroughly consider all Government initiatives to assist home ownership to ensure they meet their objectives in a sustainable and equitable way.”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the 2013-2014 Budget delivers a package of initiatives aimed at making home ownership more achievable for more Canberrans;
 - (b) this package includes:
 - (i) an increase in the First Home Owner Grant to \$12,500 from 1 September 2013. The grants will be retargeted to new and substantially renovated properties from 1 September 2013;
 - (ii) expansion to the Home Buyer Concession Scheme—the income threshold will rise from \$150,000 to \$160,000;
 - (iii) an increase in the property threshold up until which a full concession is available to \$425,000, with a partial concession for properties valued up to \$525,000;
 - (iv) retargeting of the Land Rent Scheme to lower income households; and

- (v) new dwelling sites in Belconnen, Gungahlin, North Canberra, South Canberra, Woden, Molonglo and Tuggeranong through the Land Release Program; and
- (2) calls on all Members of the Assembly to thoroughly consider all Government initiatives to assist home ownership to ensure they meet their objectives in a sustainable and equitable way.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

9 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (MINISTERS) BILL 2013

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—

Mr Barr (Deputy Chief Minister) moved—That the debate be adjourned.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Mr Seselja
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Corbell		Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the resumption of the debate be made an order of the day for the next sitting—put and passed.

10 COST OF LIVING PRESSURES

Mr Hanson (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) Canberra families are experiencing increasing cost of living pressures;
 - (b) rates and utility charges have increased significantly since ACT Labor came to power in 2001;
 - (c) the Cost of Living Statement in the 2012-2013 Budget noted an increase of \$641.58 in Government rates and charges on an average Canberra family;
 - (d) the Cost of Living Statement excluded significant and basic Government charges such as parking fees and the utilities tax;
 - (e) the Government has an accumulative deficit of \$575 million over the forward estimates;
 - (f) the Government has embarked on a disproportionately high carbon reduction and renewable energy target;
 - (g) that the Government is currently undergoing a massive restructure of the tax system that, according to numbers provided by the Government, will triple rates revenue; and

- (h) the Government continues to prioritise expenditure on items such as the Skywhale instead of measures that will ease the burden on Canberra families; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) prioritise expenditure decisions to reduce the impact of cost of living pressures on Canberra families; and
 - (b) provide a more comprehensive Cost of Living Statement in the ACT Budget.

Mr Barr (Treasurer) addressing the Assembly—

Adjournment negatived: It being 6 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 9	
Mr Coe	Mr Seselja	Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth	Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Mr Hanson		Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury
Mrs Jones		Mr Corbell	

And so it was negatived.

11 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Barr (Deputy Chief Minister) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.38 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly