



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2012–2013–2014–2015

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 104

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2015

1 The Assembly met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. A quorum of Members not being present, the Speaker (Mrs Dunne) 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 PETITION—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—PAPER

The Clerk announced that the following Member had lodged a petition for presentation:

Mr Doszpot, from 62 residents, requesting that the Assembly take immediate action to require the lessee of the Campbell service station site to make the site safe and secure and keep it safe and secure through regular inspection and repairs, clean up the site and keep it clean, and bring forward a development application as a matter of urgency (Pet 8-15).

Mr Doszpot, by leave, made a statement in relation to the petition and presented the following paper:

Petition which does not conform with the standing orders—Campbell Service station site—Mr Doszpot (770 signatures).

3 A.C.T. BUDGET

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

- (1) notes the:
 - (a) ACT Budget is for Canberra, the world's most liveable city;
 - (b) Budget demonstrates the contrast in the values between the ACT Government and the Commonwealth with continued investment in:



- (i) health for Canberra, despite the Commonwealth renegeing on funding commitments;
- (ii) education for Canberra, despite the Commonwealth renegeing on funding commitments;
- (iii) urban renewal for Canberra, demonstrating the pride we feel in our community; and
- (iv) addressing social inclusion and inequality for Canberra;
- (c) ACT Budget delivers a strong economy as well as prudent financial management in response to a range of shocks to the ACT community including addressing the legacy of Mr Fluffy Loose-fill Asbestos;
- (d) slowing of job cuts in the Australian Public Service and the continued resilience of the private sector provides a sound base for a positive economic outlook;
- (e) ACT Government's investment across Canberra, in our suburban shops, our streets and parks; and
- (f) ACT Budget continues to grow and diversify the economy; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to continue:
 - (a) to provide high quality health and education services to the community;
 - (b) renewal of our suburbs and town centres;
 - (c) to ensure that Canberra's renewal and growth is inclusive; and
 - (d) to support the increasingly diverse ACT economy with sound and productive investment.

Debate ensued.

Mr Smyth moved the following amendment: Omit all words after "That this Assembly", substitute:

- "(1) notes the Government's failure to:
 - (a) sustainably manage the ACT Budget resulting in a deficit of approximately \$408 million;
 - (b) manage its spending, resulting in increased taxes, rates and charges on ACT families and businesses;
 - (c) diversify the ACT economy after over 13 years in Government—noting the Chief Minister's comment that the ACT economy has 'turned the corner' in light of the recent Commonwealth Budget;
 - (d) deliver and provide transparency on its capital works spending, preferring to label these projects as NFP (not fit for publication) in its spending schedules; and
 - (e) deliver on its vision of City to the Lake, with its latest initiative at West Basin characterised by Western Australia Labor Senator, Glenn Sterle as 'the beginnings of a detention centre'; and
- (2) calls on the Government to detail to the Assembly before the ACT Budget is passed to disclose:
 - (a) its deficit reduction strategy;

- (b) its plan to improve cost of living for ACT families;
- (c) its plan to reduce operating costs for ACT businesses;
- (d) when conveyance duty will be fully abolished; and
- (e) the full cost of the annual availability payment to the Capital Metro project.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7		NOES, 8	
Mr Coe	Ms Lawder	Mr Barr	Mr Corbell
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth	Ms Berry	Ms Fitzharris
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Dr Bourke	Mr Gentleman
Mr Hanson		Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and passed.

4 INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

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

- (1) notes the need to invest in pedestrian, cycling, bus and road infrastructure across Canberra; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) provide funding for the duplication of Gundaroo Drive from Mirrabai Drive to the Barton Highway;
 - (b) provide funding for a flyover at the Barton Highway roundabout;
 - (c) cancel its proposed light rail project; and
 - (d) redirect the \$51.8 million in funding for light rail to the ACTION bus network so it can provide better services and better infrastructure for all Canberrans.

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 INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Debate resumed.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7		NOES, 8	
Mr Coe	Ms Lawder	Mr Barr	Mr Corbell
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth	Ms Berry	Ms Fitzharris
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Dr Bourke	Mr Gentleman
Mr Hanson		Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

And so it was negatived.

7 PUBLIC HOUSING—NORTHBOURNE AVENUE CORRIDOR

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the ACT Government’s pursuit of light rail down the Northbourne corridor;
 - (b) the ACT Government’s public housing program includes selling all public housing properties along the Northbourne Avenue corridor, which includes the Dickson Flats and connected vacant land, Dickson Garden Flats, Owen Flats, Northbourne Flats in Braddon and Northbourne Flats in Turner;
 - (c) the ACT Government’s plans to relocate public housing tenants from the Northbourne Avenue corridor to public housing properties that are not yet built;
 - (d) the ACT Government’s timeframe for relocation has not yet been disclosed to residents, who are living with uncertainty;
 - (e) that under this Government, these public housing properties have been allowed to seriously deteriorate to the point where they are almost uninhabitable;
 - (f) the resettlement of public housing tenants may dislocate them from their community and important services;
 - (g) ACT residents who are public housing tenants deserve safe and secure housing, with access to transport, education and training opportunities, employment and support services; and
 - (h) public housing tenants who are relocated may experience transport disadvantage and social exclusion; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to guarantee that no public housing tenants who wish to remain close to the city or along the Northbourne corridor will be forcibly resettled to make way for light rail.

Ms Berry (Minister for Housing) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes:
- (a) the Government’s strong commitment to deliver Stage 1 of the Capital Metro project from the Canberra CBD to Gungahlin;
 - (b) that the Government has entered into an asset recycling initiative with the Federal Government, and that the proceeds from this initiative will be directed to the Capital Metro project;

- (c) that the Government has commenced a major public housing renewal program, including 1288 older public housing properties across the ACT which are included in the asset recycling initiative signed with the Federal Government;
 - (d) that the public housing properties included in the public housing renewal program were built in the early days of Canberra, do not meet the needs of today's tenants and are expensive for people to live in due to their poor energy efficiency and high maintenance costs;
 - (e) that the 2015-2016 ACT Budget includes an investment of more than \$159 million for replacement housing for 352 public housing properties as part of this program;
 - (f) that the ACT Government is working closely with tenants of these properties to identify their housing needs and preferences so that tenants can be relocated into properties that meet their individual needs, and that this work will continue for the duration of the housing renewal program;
 - (g) that the Government is responding to the needs and preferences of tenants along the proposed Northbourne Avenue redevelopment sites, by providing accommodation within the 800 metre corridor (including Flemington Road), in the inner north and the city, where possible; and
 - (h) that the Government will be maintaining the 'salt and pepper' approach to public housing in existing suburbs, and expanding this approach to public housing in new and developing areas; and
- (2) calls on the Government to continue its public housing renewal program so that public housing tenants are provided with modern housing that meets their individual needs.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 7	
Mr Barr	Mr Corbell	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Ms Berry	Ms Fitzharris	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Mr Gentleman	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the Government's strong commitment to deliver Stage 1 of the Capital Metro project from the Canberra CBD to Gungahlin;
 - (b) that the Government has entered into an asset recycling initiative with the Federal Government, and that the proceeds from this initiative will be directed to the Capital Metro project;
 - (c) that the Government has commenced a major public housing renewal program, including 1288 older public housing properties across the ACT

which are included in the asset recycling initiative signed with the Federal Government;

- (d) that the public housing properties included in the public housing renewal program were built in the early days of Canberra, do not meet the needs of today's tenants and are expensive for people to live in due to their poor energy efficiency and high maintenance costs;
 - (e) that the 2015-2016 ACT Budget includes an investment of more than \$159 million for replacement housing for 352 public housing properties as part of this program;
 - (f) that the ACT Government is working closely with tenants of these properties to identify their housing needs and preferences so that tenants can be relocated into properties that meet their individual needs, and that this work will continue for the duration of the housing renewal program;
 - (g) that the Government is responding to the needs and preferences of tenants along the proposed Northbourne Avenue redevelopment sites, by providing accommodation within the 800 metre corridor (including Flemington Road), in the inner north and the city, where possible; and
 - (h) that the Government will be maintaining the 'salt and pepper' approach to public housing in existing suburbs, and expanding this approach to public housing in new and developing areas; and
- (2) calls on the Government to continue its public housing renewal program so that public housing tenants are provided with modern housing that meets their individual needs.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

8 WODEN ATHLETICS FACILITY

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the recent opening of the upgraded Woden Athletics facility;
 - (b) that this \$7 million facility was originally budgeted for \$4.7 million and frequently promoted as being built to national standards as an elite venue;
 - (c) that the construction was to include internal car parking, upgraded athletics facilities and an improved playing surface for the Woden Football Club;
 - (d) the seating capacity has been reduced by over 50 per cent; and
 - (e) the new ground falls short of expectations with a deteriorating playing surface, no shaded spectator stands, no scoreboard, no additional car parking and obstructed views for spectators and officials; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) immediately address the shortcomings of the football playing surface to allow matches to be played safely for the duration of the current season;
 - (b) explain why the seating capacity was reduced and no sun shades installed;
 - (c) inform the community how the ground will deal with crowds for major events such as potential athletics meets and Capital Football events;

- (d) meet the ground users to assess other shortcomings of the grounds; and
- (e) assure Canberra families that local sport and local facilities are as important to Canberra as international matches and elite level sports.

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Sport and Recreation) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes:

- (a) the upgraded Woden Park was officially opened on 14 February 2015;
- (b) the original budget of \$4.5 million was increased to a total of \$7 million to enhance the facilities, and to supplement the user groups’ priorities;
- (c) that the final construction included internal car parking, upgraded athletics facilities, and improved playing surface for the entire sporting community;
- (d) that the seating capacity is dependent on need, and is made up of easily relocatable aluminium bleacher seating which may be moved from site to site as required;
- (e) there is currently capacity for at least 500 people, and further capacity is being developed;
- (f) the new grounds provide a resilient drought proof surface that has received 102.25 hrs of match play for football since February 2015 and is currently receiving remedial work to aid in strengthening the newly established grass growth;
- (g) the provision of a scoreboard that could cater to the needs of both football and athletics was outside the scope of available funds at the time of the redevelopment; and
- (h) extra internal car parking was included in the redevelopment of Woden Park, and approximately 1500 car parks are within walking distance; and

(2) calls on the Government to:

- (a) continue to work with Capital Football and Athletics ACT on options for managing the newly established playing surface;
- (b) continue work underway to accommodate additional bleacher seating on the eastern side of the park, utilising the relocatable seating units at Sports and Recreation Services’ disposal to respond to demand as needed;
- (c) continue, in consultation with Athletics ACT, plans to provide shade cover for the existing seating units;
- (d) continue to regularly meet with ground users to ensure the grounds are being well managed and maintained; and
- (e) reiterate its commitment to providing high quality sports grounds for use by local, community, national, international and elite sports.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) the upgraded Woden Park was officially opened on 14 February 2015;
 - (b) the original budget of \$4.5 million was increased to a total of \$7 million to enhance the facilities, and to supplement the user groups' priorities;
 - (c) that the final construction included internal car parking, upgraded athletics facilities, and improved playing surface for the entire sporting community;
 - (d) that the seating capacity is dependent on need, and is made up of easily relocatable aluminium bleacher seating which may be moved from site to site as required;
 - (e) there is currently capacity for at least 500 people, and further capacity is being developed;
 - (f) the new grounds provide a resilient drought proof surface that has received 102.25 hrs of match play for football since February 2015 and is currently receiving remedial work to aid in strengthening the newly established grass growth;
 - (g) the provision of a scoreboard that could cater to the needs of both football and athletics was outside the scope of available funds at the time of the redevelopment; and
 - (h) extra internal car parking was included in the redevelopment of Woden Park, and approximately 1500 car parks are within walking distance; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) continue to work with Capital Football and Athletics ACT on options for managing the newly established playing surface;
 - (b) continue work underway to accommodate additional bleacher seating on the eastern side of the park, utilising the relocatable seating units at Sports and Recreation Services' disposal to respond to demand as needed;
 - (c) continue, in consultation with Athletics ACT, plans to provide shade cover for the existing seating units;
 - (d) continue to regularly meet with ground users to ensure the grounds are being well managed and maintained; and
 - (e) reiterate its commitment to providing high quality sports grounds for use by local, community, national, international and elite sports."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

9 URBAN RENEWAL

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

- (1) notes:
- (a) the pride the ACT community feels in our town centres, suburbs and urban villages;
 - (b) that the 2015 ACT Budget invests heavily in renewing our suburbs and town centres; and

- (c) that the 2015 ACT Budget provides for more mowing, more cleaning and more of the municipal services that the Canberra community expect; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) continue renewal in our suburbs, local shops and town centres; and
 - (b) ensure Canberra continues to look and feel like the world's most liveable city.

Debate ensued.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning) addressing the Assembly—

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

Ms Burch (Manager of Government Business) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

10 MAGNA CARTA—800TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that 15 June 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta; and
 - (b) the historic and legal significance of the Magna Carta; and
- (2) affirms the importance of the rule of law to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Burch (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.47 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mrs Jones* and Ms Porter*.

*on leave

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly