



## **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**2012–2013**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**No. 30**

**WEDNESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2013**

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- 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 END OF LIFE ISSUES**

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

- (1) notes:
  - (a) that, with an ageing population in the ACT, there is a pressing need to start and sustain a conversation, both in the general community and amongst health professionals, regarding end of life issues;
  - (b) that, as part of the 2013 Budget, the Government included \$1.2 million in funding to increase community awareness and uptake of advanced care plans;
  - (c) that, on 4 May 2013, the ACT Local Hospital Network Council held an End of Life Issues and Decision-Making Forum, as part of its community engagement strategy, that produced a report with six recommendations;
  - (d) that the Government will soon release its Palliative Care Services Plan 2013-2017, which will provide strategic direction for the continued development of palliative care services in the ACT, now and into the future; and
  - (e) the need to ensure that there is an informed and open debate in the community on the need to provide all citizens with the right to die with dignity; and
- (2) calls on the Government to continue raising end of life, palliative care and advanced care planning as issues for community discussion and action.



Debate ensued.

Mr Rattenbury moved the following amendment: Insert new paragraph (1)(c):

“(ca) that funding for Advanced Care Planning to enable ACT Health to develop and implement a range of appropriate care planning tools is part of the shared agenda between ACT Labor and the ACT Greens in the 2012 Parliamentary Agreement;”.

Debate continued.

Mr Rattenbury, who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) that, with an ageing population in the ACT, there is a pressing need to start and sustain a conversation, both in the general community and amongst health professionals, regarding end of life issues;
  - (b) that, as part of the 2013 Budget, the Government included \$1.2 million in funding to increase community awareness and uptake of advanced care plans;
  - (c) that, on 4 May 2013, the ACT Local Hospital Network Council held an End of Life Issues and Decision-Making Forum, as part of its community engagement strategy, that produced a report with six recommendations;
  - (d) that funding for Advanced Care Planning to enable ACT Health to develop and implement a range of appropriate care planning tools is part of the shared agenda between ACT Labor and the ACT Greens in the 2012 Parliamentary Agreement;
  - (e) that the Government will soon release its Palliative Care Services Plan 2013-2017, which will provide strategic direction for the continued development of palliative care services in the ACT, now and into the future; and
  - (f) the need to ensure that there is an informed and open debate in the community on the need to provide all citizens with the right to die with dignity; and
- (2) calls on the Government to continue raising end of life, palliative care and advanced care planning as issues for community discussion and action.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

### **3 PUBLIC SECTOR JOB CUTS**

Mr Hanson (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, having amended his notice, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the importance of ACT and Federal public sector employment to the ACT economy;

- (b) that ACT and Federal Labor and ACT and Federal Greens have cut or plan to cut at least ten thousand public servant jobs; and
  - (c) that ACT and Federal Labor and ACT and Federal Greens continue to be misleading about the extent of the public service job cuts they have made and plan to make in the future;
- (2) calls on the Chief Minister to stop threatening ACT public servants with further job cuts; and
- (3) reaffirms its support and respect for the ACT and Federal public service.

Mr Barr (Treasurer), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

- (1) Omit paragraphs (1)(b) and (c), substitute:
  - “(b) the number of full-time equivalent staff in the ACT Public Service has increased in recent years. The actual for each year has been reported as follows:
    - (i) 18 419—2011-2012;
    - (ii) 17 741—2010-2011;
    - (iii) 16 995—2009-2010; and
    - (iv) 16 721—2008-2009;
  - (c) the ACT Government is committed to not reducing the size of the ACT Public Service;
  - (d) the alternative approach of Liberal State and Territory governments is to reduce the size of the public service, including recent cuts of:
    - (i) 12 800 staff in Queensland;
    - (ii) 10 000 staff in New South Wales;
    - (iii) 4 200 staff in Victoria; and
    - (iv) 1 000 staff in Western Australia;
  - (e) that the Commonwealth Shadow Treasurer supports reducing the size of the public service in Canberra by 12 000. This was confirmed in his recent statement that ‘If you want to start with cuts we have said we will cut 12 000 public servants out of Canberra. That is the starting point.’; and
  - (f) the Assembly is concerned at any major job losses in the Commonwealth Public Service—especially those in the ACT;”.
- (2) Omit paragraph (2), substitute:
  - “(2) reaffirms its support and respect for the ACT and Federal public service.”.

Debate continued.

Mr Gentleman moved the following amendment to Mr Barr’s proposed amendments:  
Add the following amendment:

- “(3) omit paragraph (3).”.

Debate continued.

Amendment to proposed amendments agreed to.

Question—That the amendments, as amended, be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—The motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the importance of ACT and Federal public sector employment to the ACT economy;
  - (b) the number of full-time equivalent staff in the ACT Public Service has increased in recent years. The actual for each year has been reported as follows:
    - (i) 18 419—2011-2012;
    - (ii) 17 741—2010-2011;
    - (iii) 16 995—2009-2010; and
    - (iv) 16 721—2008-2009;
  - (c) the ACT Government is committed to not reducing the size of the ACT Public Service;
  - (d) the alternative approach of Liberal State and Territory governments is to reduce the size of the public service, including recent cuts of:
    - (i) 12 800 staff in Queensland;
    - (ii) 10 000 staff in New South Wales;
    - (iii) 4 200 staff in Victoria; and
    - (iv) 1 000 staff in Western Australia;
  - (e) that the Commonwealth Shadow Treasurer supports reducing the size of the public service in Canberra by 12 000. This was confirmed in his recent statement that ‘If you want to start with cuts we have said we will cut 12 000 public servants out of Canberra. That is the starting point.’; and
  - (f) the Assembly is concerned at any major job losses in the Commonwealth Public Service—especially those in the ACT; and
- (2) reaffirms its support and respect for the ACT and Federal public service.”—be agreed to—put and passed.

#### **4 CHALLENGES FOR RETIREES**

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

- (1) notes:
  - (a) that the ACT has one of the fastest growing populations of people aged 60 years and over and this is expected to grow from 15.5 percent of the ACT population to 19 percent by 2020;
  - (b) that retirees, particularly self-funded retirees in the ACT, are suffering under discriminatory Labor government policies both at the Federal and ACT level;
  - (c) that the Federal Labor Greens government promised to make no changes to superannuation but broke that promise;
  - (d) cost of living pressures such as rates and other taxes and poor economic management, together with a shortage of retirement housing options are all creating unfair financial difficulties on Canberra's independent retirees; and
  - (e) these issues are forcing Canberrans who are nearing retirement to either continue working to ensure they have sufficient funds to meet daily living expenses or selling up and moving to cheaper housing interstate; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
  - (a) recognise the difficulties that current cost of living pressures are causing older Canberrans;
  - (b) stop the tax reforms which are tripling rates for older Canberrans; and
  - (c) write to the Prime Minister to highlight the uncertainty caused by federal Labor policies on older Australians who choose to retire in Canberra.

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 CHALLENGES FOR RETIREES**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Doszpot (*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	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Mrs Jones		Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

And so it was negated.

## 7 2013-2014 BUDGET INITIATIVES

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

- (1) notes:
  - (a) that the 2013-2014 Budget sets out the Government's priorities for this parliamentary term;
  - (b) that, as part of the 2013 Budget, the Government has included funding for a range of priorities and projects which will ensure that while we are building a stronger economy we are also creating fairness and opportunities for all Canberrans;
  - (c) that the Budget includes a number of increased support payments, rebates and new initiatives as part of the Targeted Assistance Strategy including changes to the utility rebate, no interest loan scheme, secondary bursary scheme and flexible arrangements for the payment of parking and traffic infringements to support Canberrans facing financial pressures;
  - (d) that there will be \$3.2 million for further health services for women, children and young people, including community based care, outpatient services and paediatric inpatient services at The Canberra Hospital;
  - (e) the expansion of accessible and free nurse-led walk-in centres to Belconnen and Tuggeranong;
  - (f) that there will be \$11.2 million to further support non-government school students with disabilities, students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, students from low socio-economic backgrounds, and students with a low level of English language proficiency;
  - (g) the support for Canberra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through initiatives such as Community Helping Aboriginal Australians to Negotiate Choices Leading to Employment and Success;
  - (h) further support for government school students in this Budget including initiatives such as Canberra College Cares;
  - (i) that eligible Canberrans through the roll out of DisabilityCare Australia, will be provided with individual support and assistance to meet their needs and assist them to live fulfilling and productive lives;
  - (j) the Government's support for innovative affordable housing schemes such as the CHC Affordable Housing initiative;
  - (k) the introduction of further tax reforms including a progressive rates system; and
  - (l) the revitalising of shopping centres, new drinking fountains and barbeques in recreational areas, design of new walking and cycling infrastructure and upgrades to skate parks which will contribute to Canberra being a more active and vibrant community; and
- (2) calls on the Government to continue examining ways in which we can ensure that we have an inclusive and fair society which creates opportunity for all members of our community.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

## **8 ROADWORKS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

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

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) poor coordination and planning of road works has meant that several key road works projects have occurred in the ACT simultaneously with negative impacts on commuters;
  - (b) temporary speed limits are often implemented too early or at times when no construction work is taking place which diminishes confidence in the temporary speed limits which are justified;
  - (c) speed limits across the ACT are complicated and often seem inconsistent to motorists;
  - (d) many roads have speed limits that are poorly signposted which can lead motorists to a perception of entrapment; and
  - (e) there has been considerable community concern about the Government’s implementation of speed cushions and other traffic calming devices; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
  - (a) develop road, parking, cycling, pedestrian and public transport infrastructure before existing infrastructure reaches capacity;
  - (b) ensure that road works are undertaken in a coordinated fashion;
  - (c) ensure that temporary traffic management plans reflect the actual risk and requirements for reduced speed, relative to the stage of construction and time of day;
  - (d) conduct an internal review of speed limit policy in the ACT, especially in suburban areas with a view to simplifying the current arrangements;
  - (e) request community feedback about poorly signposted roads so that the Government can best comply with Australian Standard 1742; and
  - (f) address concerns in West Belconnen by:
    - (i) removing all the speed cushions on Spofforth Street and considering alternative traffic treatments for the street;
    - (ii) following implementation of subparagraph (f)(i), undertaking an assessment of the traffic impact on surrounding roads and then considering any further traffic treatments, if necessary;
    - (iii) improving pedestrian access across Starke Street near Kingsford Smith School; and
    - (iv) ensuring that the roads in question are appropriately policed.

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services) moved the following amendment: Omit paragraphs (1) and (2), substitute:

- “(1) notes that:
- (a) major roadworks projects across the ACT have an impact on commuters and can cause travel delays;

- (b) although several key roadworks projects are occurring in the ACT simultaneously, these are timed to help address expected population and travel growth, particularly in new residential areas such as the Molonglo Valley;
  - (c) Roads ACT recently undertook a review of speed limits and speed signs on Canberra's arterial roads and has implemented its outcomes; and
  - (d) following community consultation, the ACT Government is implementing traffic calming measures in various parts of Canberra to improve safety and to reduce speeding, rat running and traffic volumes; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) undertake roadworks and temporary traffic management plans in a coordinated fashion;
  - (b) continue to monitor and update traffic signage, including by responding to community feedback;
  - (c) consider traffic concerns in West Belconnen, including specific issues such as pedestrian access near Kingsford Smith School, through Roads ACT's traffic warrant system;
  - (d) implement the announced revision of traffic calming measures on Spofforth Street—which reduce the amount of speed humps and add chicanes—as well as the announced traffic calming measures on surrounding Holt streets; and
  - (e) continue working with ACT police to ensure appropriate traffic enforcement on Canberra roads.”.

Mr Rattenbury addressing the Assembly—

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

Ms Burch (Minister for Education and Training) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

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Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

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AYES, 8

Mr Barr	Mr Corbell
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

NOES, 7

Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) major roadworks projects across the ACT have an impact on commuters and can cause travel delays;
  - (b) although several key roadworks projects are occurring in the ACT simultaneously, these are timed to help address expected population and travel growth, particularly in new residential areas such as the Molonglo Valley;
  - (c) Roads ACT recently undertook a review of speed limits and speed signs on Canberra’s arterial roads and has implemented its outcomes; and
  - (d) following community consultation, the ACT Government is implementing traffic calming measures in various parts of Canberra to improve safety and to reduce speeding, rat running and traffic volumes; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) undertake roadworks and temporary traffic management plans in a coordinated fashion;
  - (b) continue to monitor and update traffic signage, including by responding to community feedback;
  - (c) consider traffic concerns in West Belconnen, including specific issues such as pedestrian access near Kingsford Smith School, through Roads ACT’s traffic warrant system;
  - (d) implement the announced revision of traffic calming measures on Spofforth Street—which reduce the amount of speed humps and add chicanes—as well as the announced traffic calming measures on surrounding Holt streets; and
  - (e) continue working with ACT police to ensure appropriate traffic enforcement on Canberra roads.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 9 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.49 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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

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**Tom Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly