

2001-2002-2003

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 70

WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2003

- 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 PETITION

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

Ms Tucker, from 207 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to withdraw Block 12 Section 2 Belconnen, at the intersection of Coulter Drive and Nettlefold Street from inappropriate development and preserve the area as public open space.

**3 GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (PRINCIPLES) GUIDELINE
AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

Ms Dundas, pursuant to notice, as amended, by leave, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Government Procurement (Principles) Guideline 2002 (No 2)* DI2002-58.

Paper: Ms Dundas presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Acting Clerk

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

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

4 NEEDS OF OLDER CANBERRANS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Cornwell – That this Assembly expresses its grave concern at the Government’s lack of commitment to addressing the needs of Older Canberrans, particularly through the provision of aged care facilities and calls on the Government to:

- (1) give priority to aged care facility applications in planning policies and processes;
- (2) be proactive by listing twelve potential sites for future aged care facilities so that applications for Commonwealth funding for beds can be expedited;
- (3) plan a Step-Down facility for southern Canberra;
- (4) improve the location, frequency and quantum of respite care places –

and on the amendment moved by Mr Corbell (Minister for Health): Omit all words after “That this Assembly expresses its”, substitute the following:

“concern at the increasing difficulties older Canberrans are facing in accessing appropriate accommodation and:

- (1) notes that the ACT Government:
 - (a) has given priority to determining applications for direct sale of land for aged care facility proposals providing for approximately 269 beds;
 - (b) has been proactive in initiating work for sites in Belconnen and Tuggeranong with the potential for a minimum of a further 250 beds;
 - (c) has allocated \$5.15 million for a sub-acute facility for the ACT providing post acute rehabilitation, psycho-geriatric and transitional care services;
 - (d) provides respite care through the Burrungiri Crisis Respite Centre for the Aged and has provided \$450,000 for a new pilot program to provide flexible family support for people who care for older Canberrans.
- (2) Urges the ACT and Commonwealth Governments to continue to adopt and implement measures to address this growing level of demand for appropriate accommodation for older Canberrans and their families.” –

and on the amendments moved by Ms Tucker to Mr Corbell’s proposed amendment:

- (1) Add new point
 - (2) calls on the ACT Government to report to the Assembly on the extent to which the above measures meet the unmet needs in all sectors of the population of older Canberrans, and strategies and timelines to meet the remaining unmet need;”
- (2) and renumber point 2 as point 3 –

Debate resumed.

Question – That Ms Tucker’s amendments to Mr Corbell’s proposed amendment be agreed to – put and passed.

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

The Assembly voted:

Ayes, 10

Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald
Mr Corbell	Mr Quinlan
Ms Dundas	Mr Stanhope
Ms Gallagher	Ms Tucker
Mr Hargreaves	Mr Wood

Noes, 7

Mrs Burke	Mr Smyth
Mr Cornwell	Mr Stefaniak
Mrs Cross	
Mrs Dunne	
Mr Pratt	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question – That the motion, as amended, be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted:

Ayes, 10

Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald
Mr Corbell	Mr Quinlan
Ms Dundas	Mr Stanhope
Ms Gallagher	Ms Tucker
Mr Hargreaves	Mr Wood

Noes, 7

Mrs Burke	Mr Smyth
Mr Cornwell	Mr Stefaniak
Mrs Cross	
Mrs Dunne	
Mr Pratt	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative – Motion, as amended, viz:

That this Assembly expresses its concern at the increasing difficulties older Canberrans are facing in accessing appropriate accommodation and:

- (1) notes that the ACT Government:
 - (a) has given priority to determining applications for direct sale of land for aged care facility proposals providing for approximately 269 beds;
 - (b) has been proactive in initiating work for sites in Belconnen and Tuggeranong with the potential for a minimum of a further 250 beds;
 - (c) has allocated \$5.15 million for a sub-acute facility for the ACT providing post acute rehabilitation, psycho-geriatric and transitional care services;
 - (d) provides respite care through the Burrungiri Crisis Respite Centre for the Aged and has provided \$450,000 for a new pilot program to provide flexible family support for people who care for older Canberrans;
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to report to the Assembly on the extent to which the above measures meet the unmet needs in all sectors of the population of older Canberrans, and strategies and timelines to meet the remaining unmet need; and
- (3) urges the ACT and Commonwealth Governments to continue to adopt and implement measures to address this growing level of demand for appropriate accommodation for older Canberrans and their families –

agreed to.

5 2003 A.C.T. LANDCARE AWARDS

Mr Hargreaves, pursuant to notice, moved – That the Assembly congratulates the winners of the 2003 ACT Landcare Awards and recognises the great work done by those involved in the Landcare movement to address the serious environmental challenges facing our region.

Debate ensued.

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

6 TREE PRESERVATION IN BELCONNEN

Ms Dundas, pursuant to notice, moved – That the ACT Government negotiate with the owners of the site at the corner of Nettlefold Street and Coulter Drive a land swap or suitable compensation to ensure the preservation of the magnificent trees on that site.

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.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

8 TREE PRESERVATION IN BELCONNEN

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of debate on the motion of Ms Dundas – That the ACT Government negotiate with the owners of the site at the corner of Nettlefold Street and Coulter Drive a land swap or suitable compensation to ensure the preservation of the magnificent trees on that site –

Debate resumed.

Mr Corbell (Minister for Planning), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Question – That the motion be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted:

Ayes, 9		Noes, 8	
Mrs Burke	Mr Pratt	Mr Berry	Mr Quinlan
Mr Cornwell	Mr Smyth	Mr Corbell	Mr Stanhope
Mrs Cross	Mr Stefaniak	Ms Gallagher	Mr Wood
Ms Dundas	Ms Tucker	Mr Hargreaves	
Mrs Dunne		Ms MacDonald	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

9 MOTOR SPORT FACILITY – MAJURA VALLEY

Mr Stefaniak, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly calls on the ACT Government to build a motor sport facility, including a drag way, in the Majura Valley.

Debate ensued.

Mr Quinlan (Minister for Sport, Racing and Gaming) moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after “That this Assembly,” substitute the following:

“notes that the ACT Government is negotiating with the Commonwealth for the purchase of land in the Majura Valley, which if successful, will allow for the development of a motor sport facility and an ACT correctional facility.” –

Question – That the amendment be agreed to – proposed.

Debate continued.

Mr Quinlan, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

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

Mr Quinlan (Treasurer) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate –
Question – put and negated.

Debate resumed.

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

The Assembly voted:

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative – Motion, as amended, viz:

That this Assembly notes that the ACT Government is negotiating with the Commonwealth for the purchase of land in the Majura Valley, which if successful, will allow for the development of a motor sport facility and an ACT correctional facility – agreed to.

10 A.C.T. ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS TASKFORCE – AVAILABILITY OF CONSULTANT’S REPORT

Ms Tucker, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly calls on the Government to ensure that, by the end of this week, the consultant’s report to the ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Taskforce on the ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Taskforce Consultation is made available to everyone who participated, in line with one of the basic principles of public consultation: that the results of consultation need to be available to all participants.

Debate ensued.

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

Omit the words “by the end of this week”.

Debate continued.

Question – That the amendment be agreed to – put and passed.

Question – That the motion, as amended, be agreed to – put and passed.

11 AVAILABILITY OF CANBERRA'S PUBLIC HOSPITAL WAITING LIST FIGURES

Mr Smyth (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved – That the Government acknowledge the importance of openness and accountability and their election commitment to this end and that this Assembly calls on the Government to:

- (1) make available to Members on the 21st of each month, and table the next sitting day, the waiting list figures for the previous month for elective surgery in Canberra's public hospitals;
- (2) include information on the waiting lists and waiting times broken down by speciality;
- (3) ensure that the waiting lists and times published on the Health Department website are updated on the 21st of each month; and
- (4) ensure that waiting list reports contain at least as much information as was contained in the previous Liberal government's reports.

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

Hospital Waiting Lists – Copy of letter from Minister for Health to Mr Smyth, dated 17 June 2003.

Mr Smyth, by leave was granted an extension of time.

Debate ensued.

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

Omit all words after "That" and insert:

"This Assembly:

- (1) notes that the previous Liberal Government did not publish hospital waiting list information on a set date;
- (2) notes the provision of information by speciality monthly could lead to identification of specific patients and/or specialists given the small size of the ACT system and that reporting in this manner does not assist the analysis of performance of the health system;
- (3) notes that the ACT Health web site will be amended to include all information in the monthly waiting list report as well as quarterly waiting times for all specialities. The web site will be active from September 2003;
- (4) notes that the waiting list information prepared by the Stanhope Government provide more information and are more accurate than previous reporting due to the auditing practice introduced by this Government;
- (5) calls on the Government to table, the waiting list figures for the previous month for elective surgery in Canberra's public hospitals on the next Assembly sitting day."

Debate continued.

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

The Assembly voted:

Ayes, 7		Noes, 8	
Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald	Mrs Burke	Mrs Dunne
Mr Corbell	Mr Quinlan	Mr Cornwell	Mr Smyth
Ms Gallagher	Mr Wood	Mrs Cross	Mr Stefaniak
Mr Hargreaves		Ms Dundas	Ms Tucker

And so it was negatived.

Ms Tucker, by leave, spoke again and moved the following amendments together:

- (1) paragraph (1), omit the words ‘on the 21st of each month, and table the next sitting day’, and insert in their place:
 “and table in the Assembly as soon as practicable after they are prepared”
- (2) paragraph (1), insert after the word ‘the’ and before the words ‘waiting list figures’:
 “‘Information Bulletins – Patient Activity Data’ and the”
- (3) paragraph (3), omit the words ‘on the 21st of each month’, and insert in their place:
 “as soon as practicable after they are produced”.

Debate continued.

Question – That Ms Tucker’s amendments be agreed to – put and passed.

Question – That the motion, as amended, viz:

That the Government acknowledge the importance of openness and accountability and their election commitment to this end and that this Assembly calls on the Government to:

- (1) make available to Members, and table in the Assembly as soon as practicable after they are prepared, the ‘Information Bulletins – Patient Activity Data’ and the waiting list figures for the previous month for elective surgery in Canberra’s public hospitals;
- (2) include information on the waiting lists and waiting times broken down by speciality;
- (3) ensure that the waiting lists and times published on the Health Department website are updated as soon as practicable after they are produced; and
- (4) ensure that waiting list reports contain at least as much information as was contained in the previous Liberal government’s reports –

be agreed to – put and passed.

12 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 6.53 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m

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

T DUNCAN
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly