Matters of public importance

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***Non-sitting and sitting weeks—15 May to 9 June 2017***

**Issue 5/2017**

**Government business**

***Includes all business items presented to the Assembly by the Executive including bills, motions, and papers***

***Bill introduced***

**Appropriation Bill 2017-2018—**

*Summary:* This bill will appropriate money for the purposes of the Territory for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2017.

**Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018—**

*Summary:* This bill will appropriate money for expenditure in relation to the Office of the Legislative Assembly and officers of the Assembly for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2017.

**Lands Acquisition Amendment Bill 2017—**

*Summary:* This bill will amend *the Lands Acquisition Act 1994* to introduce an additional way to facilitate negotiations on the payment of compensation for the compulsory acquisition of land under the Act.

**Road Transport Reform (Light Rail) Legislation Amendment Bill 2017—**

*Summary:* This bill will make a number of amendments to Territory laws relating to road transport legislation to support the operation of light rail within the ACT.

Copies of bills presented to the Assembly and associated explanatory statements can be accessed from the ACT Legislation Register at [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au).

***Bills debated***

[**Appropriation Bill 2017-2018**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_56104/default.asp)**—**

[**Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_56105/default.asp)**—**

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on the bill on 8 June 2017, with the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the ACT Greens giving their responses. Both bills together were referred to the Select Committee on Estimates 2017-2018 for inquiry and report.

[**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_55703/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008* to strengthen the functions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body to consult and provide advice on systemic or whole-of-government issues. The delineation of responsibility between the Elected Body and the ACT Government in the management of operational aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy and service provisions will also be clarified by the amendments. The bill will make amendments in relation to community forums and harmonise the Act with the *Heritage Act 2004*.

*Proceedings:* The bill was agreed to in principle after debate. During the detail stage an amendment was moved by the Government which received the support of all parties.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

[**Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_55871/default.asp)**—**

*Summary:* This bill will make a number of amendments to compliance information requirements contained in the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012*. It will also amend the reporting requirements of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna contained in the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*. The bill also makes technical and editorial amendments to Territory legislation relating to planning, building and the environment.

*Proceedings:* The bill was agreed to in principle after debate. During the detail stage four amendments were moved by the Opposition which were not passed by the Assembly.

The bill was passed by the Assembly.

[**Utilities (Streetlight Network) Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_55874/default.asp)**—**

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Electricity Safety Act 1971*, the *Electricity Safety Regulation 2004* and the *Utilities Act 2000* to ensure that the streetlight network is clearly defined and that a clear distinction exists between the streetlight network and electricity distribution network. The bill will also facilitate access to streetlighting assets and clarify the technical standards that apply.

*Proceedings:* The bill was agreed to in principle after debate. During the detail stage an amendment was moved by the Government which received the support of all parties.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

The following bills were also passed by the Assembly on 6 June 2017.

[**Gene Technology Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_55698/default.asp) (without amendment)

[**Firearms Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_55699/default.asp)(without amendment)

[**Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_55701/default.asp)(with amendment)

A full record of the debates will be available from [here](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard).

***Ministerial statements***

The following ministerial statements were made on 6 June 2017.

The Minister for Health made a statement providing the Assembly with an update on the **System-Wide Review of ACT Health data and reporting**. During the statement the minister outlined the purpose of the review, the expert review panel members and the reporting date of 31 March 2018. The minister presented the statement and moved a motion that the Assembly take note of the paper.

**Suicide in the ACT** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Mental Health. During the statement the minister outlined his priorities in this new portfolio are which include the establishment of an Office for Mental Health. The minister presented the statement and moved a motion that the Assembly take note of the paper.

The following ministerial statement was made on 8 June 2017.

The Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence made a **Safer Families Annual Statement 2017** to outline the Government’s commitments and services in this area to help reduce incidents of family and domestic violence in the ACT. The minister presented the statement and moved a motion that the Assembly take note of the paper.

The full text of the statements made by ministers and members can be accessed from the Assembly [*Hansard*](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard) site.

**Private Members’ business**

***Includes all items presented to the Assembly by all non-Executive Members, including bills and motions***

***Bill introduced***

[**Crimes (Intimate Image Abuse) Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_56128/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to create a new offence for people who distribute an intimate image of another person without consent.

***Exposure draft for a proposed Bill***

[**Crimes (Invasion of Privacy) Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ed/db_56052/default.asp)

*Summary:* This exposure draft of bill allows for consultation to occur on the proposed bill before it is formally introduced into the Assembly. The draft bill outlines proposed amendments to the *Crimes Act 1900* to create new offences for people who distribute an intimate image of another person without consent.

***Motions debated***

**Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm** was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Milligan MLA on 7 June 2017. The motion included calling on the ACT Government to table copies of the crown lease and associated documents for any changes to the lease and report on the final model of care to be delivered at the facility to the ACT indigenous community. During debate an amendment was moved by the Government that included a commitment to provide a ministerial statement by the end of September 2017 outlining the final model of care, services and estimated commencement dates and also to provide the crown lease and chronology of changes to the lease. The amendment was passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

Mrs Jones MLA moved a motion concerning **recidivism rate** on 7 June. The motion included calling on the ACT Government to report on the Throughcare Program impact on rates of recidivism and other measures the Government have taken to reduce help recidivism rates. An amendment moved by the Government committed to providing this information to the Assembly by 21 September 2017. The amendment was passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then agreed to by the Assembly.

**Demonstration housing precincts** were the subject of a motion moved by Ms Le Couteur MLA on 7 June 2017. The motion included calling on the ACT Government, among other things, to deliver one or more demonstration housing precincts which deliver innovative design, construction and planning processes. During debate an amendment was moved by the Government to engage with the community and industry stakeholders on how best to deliver a demonstration housing precinct and to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day in November 2017 with a plan for the delivery of such a project. The amendment was passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 7 June 2017 related to:

Bushfire Abatement Zone—Mrs Jones MLA

Community Facility Zone land—Government transparency—Mr Parton MLA

Health and Wellbeing—Investment—Ms Cody MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly [*Hansard*](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard) site.

**Assembly business**

Independent Integrity Commission—Select Committee

On 6 June 2017, the chair of the SelectComittee, by leave, sought an amendment to the resolution of the Assembly of 15 December 2016, relating to the reporting date for the Committee. The Assembly agreed to the amendment. The Committee is now required to report by the last day in October 2017.

**Papers presented**

The following are papers of interest that were presented during the sitting week:

Budget 2017-2018—

Budget Speech (Budget Paper No. 1).

Budget in Brief (Budget Paper No. 2).

Budget Outlook (Budget Paper No. 3).

Budget Statements for—

A—ACT Executive, Auditor-General, Electoral Commissioner, Office of the Legislative Assembly;

B—Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, together with associated agencies;

C—Health Directorate, ACT Local Hospital Network;

D—Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Legal Aid Commission (ACT), Public Trustee and Guardian;

E—Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate;

F—Education Directorate;

G—Community Services Directorate, ACT Housing; and

H—Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, ACT Public Cemeteries Authority, ACTION.

Statements of Intent 2017-2018—

ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority;

ACT Long Service Leave Authority;

ACT Auditor-General—Report 4/2017—Performance information in ACT public schools *(presented by the Speaker on 6 June)*

ACT Criminal Justice—Statistical Profile—March quarter (*presented by the Attorney-General on 8 June 2017*)

Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm, Block 241 Paddy’s River—Crown lease including an application to vary a crown lease, chronology of lease purpose clause changes, and permitted uses under the Territory Plan(*presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 8 June 2017*)

Petition—Out-of-order—Waramanga shops—Playground, barbeque and recreation areas (*presented by the Manager of Government Business on 8 June 2017*)

**Petition response**

On 6 June 2017 the following ministerial response to a petition was lodged—

Curtin—Draft Master Plan

A copy of the response can be found [here](https://epetitions.act.gov.au/responses/Pet%201-17_Response.pdf).

**Committee activities**

***Committee reports presented***

**Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee**

On 8 June 2017 the chair of the committee presented its report on [Annual and Financial reports 2015–16](:%20http:/www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-justice-and-community-safety/inquiry-into-annual-and-financial-reports-2015-16).  The Committee made 28 recommendations.

The Committee held public hearings on 7 and 8 March 2017.  At these public hearings the Committee heard from Ministers, accompanying directorate and agency officers, and members of governing boards.

The Committee’s report examined and reflected on several key themes that became apparent during its inquiry.  Some of the themes included: restorative justice; new structure of the Human Rights Commission; family violence law reform; community legal education and domestic violence; anti-consorting laws; family and domestic violence initiatives; training and accreditation for rural fire service volunteers; the ACT Policing Agreement; assessing how bail laws are operating; the Safer Families initiative; funding and resourcing of the DPP; and the  intensive orders corrections scheme.

**Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee**

On 8 June 2017 the chair of the committee presented  Report 1 – *Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2015-2016*.

The report presents a summary of the Committee’s inquiry into the 2015-2016 annual reports of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate and the Environment and Planning Directorate, as referred by the Assembly on 16 February 2017. The committee made 24 recommendations in relation to issues raised at the public hearing held in relation to the inquiry. A copy of the report can be accessed [here](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-planning-and-urban-renewal/inquiry-into-annual-and-financial-reports-2015-2016).

**Scrutiny Committee**

[**Scrutiny Report 6**](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-justice-and-community-safety-legislative-scrutiny-role/_recache) *(presented 6 June)*

This report contained the committee’s comments on two bills, five pieces of subordinate legislation, one national law and three government responses.

***Committee statements***

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee a statement relating to petition No. 5–17 (Revenge porn—Criminalisation) as referred to the Committee (pursuant to Standing Order 99A) on 10 May 2017.  The Chair advised that the Committee was considering the particulars of the petition and would consider its response to the petition following presentation of the Minister’s response to the Assembly.

**Public Accounts—Standing Committee**

The chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts informed the Assembly that the committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into Auditor-General’s Report 3/2017 concerning **computer information systems**.

Other statements were also made on 8 June 2017 by the chairs of the:

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

Environment and Transport and City—Standing Committee

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

**Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT**

***Electorate of Brindabella***

Ms Joy Burch (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Mick Gentleman (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Nicole Lawder (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Mark Parton (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Andrew Wall (Canberra Liberals)

***Electorate of Ginninderra***

Ms Yvette Berry (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Tara Cheyne (Australian Labor Party)

Mrs Vicki Dunne (Canberra Liberals)

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Gordon Ramsay (Australian Labor Party)

***Electorate of Kurrajong***

Mr Andrew Barr (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Steve Doszpot (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Elizabeth Lee (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Shane Rattenbury (ACT Greens)

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (Australian Labor Party)

***Electorate of Murrumbidgee***

Ms Bec Cody (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC (Canberra Liberals)

Mrs Giulia Jones (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Caroline Le Couteur (ACT Greens)

Mr Chris Steel (Australian Labor Party)

***Electorate of Yerrabi***

Mr Alistair Coe (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Meegan Fitzharris (Australian Labor Party)

Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

**Next sitting**

**Tuesday, 1 August 2017.**

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