



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021–2022

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 38

WEDNESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2022

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms Burch) took the Chair and made the following acknowledgement of country in the Ngunnawal language:

Dhawura nguna, dhawura Ngunnawal.

Yanggu ngalawiri, dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari.

Nginggada Dindi dhawura Ngunnaawalbun yindjumaralidjinyin.

This is Ngunnawal Country.

Today we are gathering on Ngunnawal country.

We always pay respect to Elders, female and male, and Ngunnawal country.

The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 PETITIONS—MINISTERIAL RESPONSES—RESPONSES NOTED

The Clerk announced that the following responses to petitions had been lodged:

Ms Cheyne (Minister for Human Rights), dated 8 February 2022—Response to e-petition No 32-21, lodged by Dr Paterson on 23 November 2021, concerning enforcement of people's rights under the Human Rights Act.

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, dated 8 February 2022—Response to petition No 44-21, lodged by Ms Lawder on 10 November 2021, concerning antisocial behaviour in Gordon.

The Speaker proposed—That the responses so lodged be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 A.C.T. EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY SUPPORT TO ASSIST THE A.C.T. GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) made a ministerial statement concerning Emergency Services Agency support during the COVID-19 pandemic and presented the following paper:

ACT Emergency Services Agency support to assist the ACT Government COVID-19 response—Ministerial statement, 9 February 2022.

Mr Gentleman moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

4 SENIOR PRACTITIONER ACT—UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED

Ms Davidson (Minister for Disability) made a ministerial statement to update the Assembly on the implementation of the *Senior Practitioner Act 2018* and presented the following papers:

Senior Practitioner Act 2018—The interim update on the implementation, dated February 2022.

Senior Practitioner Act—Update on the implementation—Ministerial statement, 9 February 2022.

Ms Davidson moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question—put and passed.

5 ECONOMIC UPDATE AND THE YEAR AHEAD—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Barr (Chief Minister)—That the Assembly take note of the paper (viz):

Economic update and the year ahead—Ministerial statement, 9 February 2022—

Debate resumed.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Question—put and passed.

6 GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021

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 and passed.

Detail Stage

Clause 1—debated and agreed to.

Clause 2—

On the motion of Mr Gentleman (Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety), pursuant to standing order 182A(b), by leave, his amendment No 1 (*see* Schedule 1) was made.

Paper: Mr Gentleman presented a supplementary explanatory statement to the Government amendment.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 10, by leave, taken together and agreed to.

Clause 11—debated.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 4
Mr Braddock	Mr Gentleman	Mr Cain
Ms Burch	Ms Orr	Mr Hanson
Ms Cheyne	Mr Pettersson	Mr Milligan
Ms Davidson	Mr Steel	Mr Parton
Mr Davis		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—Clause 11 agreed to.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole and agreed to.

Question—That this Bill, as amended, be agreed to—put and passed.

7 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That leave of absence be granted to Ms Stephen-Smith for today due to ill health.

Question—put and passed.

8 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) informed the Assembly that, due to the absence of Minister Stephen-Smith, questions without notice normally directed to the Minister for Health could be directed to the Chief Minister.

9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

10 COMMUNITY FACILITIES—RENEWAL AND GROWTH

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) community facilities and the services that are delivered through these facilities are a fundamental pillar in supporting and strengthening our community;
 - (b) the ACT Government, through the ACT Property Group, holds a large portfolio of community facilities of varying age, functionality and location;
 - (c) the demand for community facilities and the services supported through the provision of facilities is increasing in the ACT, particularly in areas of recent rapid population growth such as Gungahlin; and
 - (d) the ACT Government is undertaking an assessment of ACT Property Group's current community facilities and that the findings of this work could be used to inform future planning and identify opportunities for renewal and growth of community facilities;
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to support emerging and existing community facility needs through the ACT Property Group Portfolio by ensuring that future review work addresses the following priorities:
 - (a) assessing the location and accessibility of community facilities across the ACT;
 - (b) the quality of the facilities provided;
 - (c) the type and range of facilities provided;
 - (d) growing the community facilities land and floor space available; and
 - (e) keeping former schools as community facilities; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to engage with the community services sector to develop community facility demonstration projects as part of a broader strategy:
 - (a) that demonstrate innovative approaches to growing the space and facilities available for community services in the ACT; and
 - (b) amongst these projects, address the difficulty community service organisations have in finding accessible and modern accommodation in town and group centres, including growing regions like Gungahlin.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11 PAPERS

Ms Lawder, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 11 November 2021, presented the following papers:

Climate targets and commitments—

Copy of letter from ACT Liberal Leader, to the Prime Minister, dated 20 December 2021.

Letter from the Prime Minister to the ACT Liberal Leader, dated 14 January 2022.

12 A.C.T. POLICING—RESOURCING

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT Government has underfunded and under-resourced ACT Policing for years;
 - (b) the latest Report on Government Services from the Productivity Commission shows that the ACT has the lowest:
 - (i) number of police per capita in Australia;
 - (ii) funding per person for police in Australia;
 - (iii) clearance rates for property crime in Australia; and
 - (iv) satisfaction of people who had contact with police in Australia;
 - (c) the ACT is the only jurisdiction in Australia to record a negative average annual growth rate in real recurrent expenditure from 2016-17 to 2020-21; and
 - (d) last year, ACT police stopped taking calls from the public in person for certain crimes and moved to online reporting; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) increase the number of police to at least match per capita levels with NSW by 2024; and
 - (b) adequately resource ACT Policing to re-establish face-to-face crime reporting and investigation.

Debate ensued.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) extends its thanks and appreciation to ACT Policing for continuing to keep our community safe in these challenging and uncertain times;
- (2) recognises the ACT Government’s strong record of investment in ACT Policing, including in the 2020-21 Budget, which contained:
 - (a) over \$9.7 million to improve accommodation for our police and emergency services in Gungahlin;
 - (b) \$4.2 million to meet the growing and increasingly complex workload associated with forensic medical services;
 - (c) \$6.6 million to replace ACT Policing’s radio core communication system; and

- (d) over \$11 million for expanded enabling services to support operational capacity;
- (3) notes the ACT Government's record investment of \$33.9 million in ACT Policing in 2019-20;
- (4) acknowledges that police numbers in the ACT continue to grow, with 98 new officers graduating in the past financial year;
- (5) notes that the latest Report on Government Services from the Productivity Commission shows that:
 - (a) ACT Policing continues to enjoy the trust and confidence of the community; and
 - (b) Canberra residents feel safe with one of the highest levels of perceived safety in both the home and public places;
- (6) notes that ACT Policing is exploring a range of modern ways the community can report incidents, crimes and other matters. This will be in addition to the existing reporting arrangements that include Triple Zero (000), police assistance phone lines (131 444), along with attendance at police stations;
- (7) notes the following evidence provided by the Chief Police Officer to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety's inquiry into the Annual and Financial Reports 2019-2020, Appropriation Bill 2020-2021 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2020-2021:

‘We talk about police numbers all the time. It is very difficult to compare the territory with any other jurisdiction in the country because our population is fairly compacted to a very small part of the territory. I always hear people talk about the numbers of police in a place like Tasmania. The fact is, it is three hours between their biggest cities—here it is literally 10 minutes and I can move patrols around very quickly.’; and
- (8) calls on the ACT Government to continue resourcing ACT Policing as Canberra grows, in line with an evidence-based approach.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 4
Mr Braddock	Mr Gentleman	Ms Castley
Ms Burch	Ms Orr	Mr Hanson
Ms Cheyne	Dr Paterson	Mrs Kikkert
Ms Clay	Mr Pettersson	Mr Parton
Mr Davis		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) extends its thanks and appreciation to ACT Policing for continuing to keep our community safe in these challenging and uncertain times;
- (2) recognises the ACT Government’s strong record of investment in ACT Policing, including in the 2020-21 Budget, which contained:
 - (a) over \$9.7 million to improve accommodation for our police and emergency services in Gungahlin;
 - (b) \$4.2 million to meet the growing and increasingly complex workload associated with forensic medical services;
 - (c) \$6.6 million to replace ACT Policing’s radio core communication system; and
 - (d) over \$11 million for expanded enabling services to support operational capacity;
- (3) notes the ACT Government’s record investment of \$33.9 million in ACT Policing in 2019-20;
- (4) acknowledges that police numbers in the ACT continue to grow, with 98 new officers graduating in the past financial year;
- (5) notes that the latest Report on Government Services from the Productivity Commission shows that:
 - (a) ACT Policing continues to enjoy the trust and confidence of the community; and
 - (b) Canberra residents feel safe with one of the highest levels of perceived safety in both the home and public places;
- (6) notes that ACT Policing is exploring a range of modern ways the community can report incidents, crimes and other matters. This will be in addition to the existing reporting arrangements that include Triple Zero (000), police assistance phone lines (131 444), along with attendance at police stations;
- (7) notes the following evidence provided by the Chief Police Officer to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety’s inquiry into the Annual and Financial Reports 2019-2020, Appropriation Bill 2020-2021 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2020-2021:

‘We talk about police numbers all the time. It is very difficult to compare the territory with any other jurisdiction in the country because our population is fairly compacted to a very small part of the territory. I always hear people talk about the numbers of police in a place like Tasmania. The fact is, it is three hours between their biggest cities—here it is literally 10 minutes and I can move patrols around very quickly.’; and
- (8) calls on the ACT Government to continue resourcing ACT Policing as Canberra grows, in line with an evidence-based approach.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

13 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 4.16 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

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

*on leave

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS

Schedule 1

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Amendment circulated by the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

1
Clause 2
Page 2, line 5—

omit

1 January 2022

substitute

1 March 2022
