



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2012–2013–2014

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 57

WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2014

- 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 PROPOSED NEW CONVENTION CENTRE**

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

- (1) notes the:
 - (a) broad support for a new Convention Centre from the Canberra business community;
 - (b) Government’s lack of commitment for a new Convention Centre—having spent more on light rail in one year than on a new Convention Centre over 10 years;
 - (c) Government’s failure to align the need for a new Convention Centre with the Federal Government’s infrastructure program and imperatives; and
 - (d) Government’s failure to develop a comprehensive investment ready plan for this project;
- (2) condemns the ACT Government’s inability to adequately prepare for and win support from both the present Coalition and prior Labor Federal governments on strategic infrastructure to provide a soft-landing for our local economy; and
- (3) calls on the Government to provide up to \$10 million in the 2014-2015 ACT Budget to get the new Convention Centre project to shovel ready stage so that they can reapproach the Commonwealth for financial support.

Mr Barr (Minister for Economic Development) moved the following amendment:
Omit all words after “from the Canberra business community”, substitute:



- “(b) the Government’s ongoing commitment for a new Convention Centre;
 - (c) the ALP/Greens Parliamentary Agreement includes progressing the Convention Centre project to an investment ready stage; and
 - (d) that the Government has identified a prime site at an apex of the Parliamentary Triangle, has invested in an Australia Forum scoping study, conducted a workshop with industry experts and key stakeholders to review and confirm the functional requirements for the Convention Centre and is progressing a functional brief reference design and business case; and
- (2) calls on all Members of the Assembly to advocate for Federal Government support of the Convention Centre project.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the:
 - (a) broad support for a new Convention Centre from the Canberra business community;
 - (b) Government’s ongoing commitment for a new convention centre;
 - (c) ALP/Greens Parliamentary Agreement includes progressing the Convention Centre project to an investment ready stage; and
 - (d) Government has identified a prime site at an apex of the Parliamentary Triangle, has invested in an Australia Forum scoping study, conducted a workshop with industry experts and key stakeholders to review and confirm the functional requirements for the Convention Centre and is progressing a functional brief reference design and business case; and
- (2) calls on all Members of the Assembly to advocate for Federal Government support of the Convention Centre project.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

3 ECONOMIC AND JOB GROWTH IN THE A.C.T.

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that the Federal Budget handed down last night will have a direct and long lasting impact on the economy of the ACT;

- (b) that the Federal Budget will result in a decrease funding of direct services to the ACT community;
 - (c) the public sector workforce in Canberra is highly skilled and delivers an important and highly valued service to the broader Australian community;
 - (d) that in other jurisdictions, when significant job losses occur, the Federal Government has provided structural adjustment packages to the affected communities;
 - (e) the ACT Government has outlined plans for a number of high profile infrastructure projects including Capital Metro, the University of Canberra Public Hospital and City to the Lake;
 - (f) that these projects will generate investment and jobs growth in the ACT and promote economic activity for local suppliers and small businesses;
 - (g) the ACT Government remains committed to stimulating and further expanding its support for and investment in our digital economy and local private sector businesses;
 - (h) that our strong health, education and tertiary sectors remain an important part of not only the ACT economy but are a critical element in our growing role as a regional service hub for south east NSW; and
 - (i) the strong commitment the ACT Government has to supporting our tourism and sporting facilities and events to continue to build economic activity in these sectors; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to continue to build and transform our city by investing in Canberra and investing in jobs generation and growth diversifying our economy and to promote jobs growth.

Mr Smyth moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “notes”, substitute:

- “(a) that the Federal Budget handed down last night will have a direct and long lasting impact on the economy of the ACT;
- (b) the public sector workforce in Canberra is highly skilled and delivers an important and highly valued service to the broader Australian community;
- (c) of the estimated 16 500 jobs to be lost as a result of this Budget, approximately 90% or some 14 500 jobs were the result of previous Federal Labor Budgets and economic mismanagement;
- (d) unlike other jurisdictions, the Federal Government continues to provide billions of dollars in employment to the ACT economy;
- (e) the ACT Government has outlined plans for a number of high profile infrastructure projects, but has failed to deliver on important projects—resulting in overwhelming community response being, ‘just get on with it’;
- (f) that these projects will not generate the desired investment and jobs growth in the ACT and promote economic activity for local suppliers and small businesses;
- (g) failed to get Commonwealth funding for a new Convention Centre as a consequence of not having the project at a shovel ready stage after 13 years in Government;

- (h) that the ACT Government has thus far failed to stimulate and further expand its support for local private sector businesses over its last 13 years;
 - (i) that the Government's clean energy schemes have caused discord in regional communities in NSW; and
 - (j) the ACT Government's failure to support our tourism, sporting, and events industry; and
- (2) condemns the ACT Government for its failure to genuinely diversify our City's economy over the last 13 years.”.

Debate continued.

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.

4 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

5 ECONOMIC AND JOB GROWTH IN THE A.C.T.

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Porter, and on the amendment moved by Mr Smyth (*see entry 3*)—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

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

And so it was negatived.

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

6 PLANNING SYSTEM—REVIEW

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

- (1) notes the ACT Government's recent record in the planning portfolio, including:
 - (a) mismanagement of DV 306;
 - (b) counter-intuitive fees and charges that are contrary to the Government's stated intentions;
 - (c) ill-conceived Planning and Development (Project Facilitation) Amendment Bill 2014;
 - (d) lack of consultation regarding the Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2014;
 - (e) growing complexity of the Territory Plan;

- (f) lack of detail and awareness about the development of light rail; and
 - (g) lack of regard for stakeholders including builders, designers, planners and the community at large; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) undertake an independent and holistic review of the Territory Plan; and
 - (b) ensure relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to changes to the planning system.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

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

And so it was negated.

7 MAINTENANCE OF FOOTPATHS

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

- (1) notes:
- (a) that footpaths in Canberra's older suburbs, including Yarralumla, Deakin, Griffith, Forrest and Campbell are in a serious state of neglect, with many cracks and uneven surfaces;
 - (b) that these same suburbs and others have similar issues with overgrown and overhanging street trees and poor lighting; and
 - (c) this makes access for many residents, especially older Canberrans, difficult and dangerous and is preventing many from using walking as an exercise to keep fit and agile; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) publish current maintenance schedules up until the end of this calendar year by the next sitting period in June 2014;
 - (b) publish updates to maintenance schedules quarterly; and
 - (c) urgently prioritise older suburbs for improvements.

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

“notes:

- (1) footpaths in all of Canberra's suburbs require ongoing maintenance and upgrading over time to ensure Canberrans, particularly older residents, are able to use them for transport, recreation and exercise;

- (2) Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS) uses a detailed system of investigation, reporting and prioritisation to decide on upgrades and maintenance schedules, analysing factors such as usage rates and safety; and
- (3) TAMS publishes planned works programs for community path maintenance on its website.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9

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

NOES, 8

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly notes:

- (1) footpaths in all of Canberra’s suburbs require ongoing maintenance and upgrading over time to ensure Canberrans, particularly older residents, are able to use them for transport, recreation and exercise;
- (2) Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS) uses a detailed system of investigation, reporting and prioritisation to decide on upgrades and maintenance schedules, analysing factors such as usage rates and safety; and
- (3) TAMS publishes planned works programs for community path maintenance on its website.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

8 ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—MEMBERSHIP

Mr Smyth, pursuant to standing order 223, moved—That, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 16, Mr Smyth be discharged from the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure for the duration of the Committee’s consideration of a Citizen’s Right of Reply lodged by Mr Gardner and that Mr Coe be appointed in his place.

Question—put and passed.

9 OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS

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

- (1) notes the:
 - (a) investments by the ACT Government into improving the outdoor amenities, parks and facilities of the ACT;
 - (b) importance of investing in urban facilities that support the changing ways Canberrans use their community infrastructure;

- (c) need to examine ways of ensuring that Canberrans have access to quality recreational areas to maintain a healthy lifestyle;
 - (d) commitment by the ACT Government in the 2013-2014 Budget to invest in drinking fountains and barbecue upgrades in parks across the ACT; and
 - (e) commitment by the ACT Government in the 2013-2014 Budget to build a new off-leash dog park in Canberra; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) continue to invest in outdoor recreation areas such as off-leash dog parks, skate parks and community recreational irrigated parks; and
 - (b) investigate the best uses for and partnerships for ACT parks to ensure that they are providing the best utility for the community.

Ms Berry addressing the Assembly—

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

Mr Barr (Deputy Chief Minister) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Ms Berry continued.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

10 UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker made a statement concerning reflections on members of other parliaments in Australia.

11 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Burch (Minister for Education and Training) 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.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly