

APPROPRIATION BILL 2013-2014 AND APPROPRIATION
(OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2013-2014

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2013-2014

AUGUST 2013

VOLUME 1 OF 3: COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA	Chair
Dr Chris Bourke MLA	Deputy Chair
Mr Mick Gentleman MLA	Member
Mr Brendan Smyth MLA	Member

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Mr Alistair Coe MLA
Mr Steve Doszpot MLA
Mrs Giulia Jones MLA
Mr Andrew Wall MLA

SECRETARIAT

Committee Secretary	Mrs Nicola Kosseck
Assisting Secretaries	Dr Brian Lloyd, Ms Margie Morrison, Mr Andrew Snedden and Ms Veronica Strkalj
Assistant Secretaries	Ms Lydia Chung, Mr John Croker and Ms Zeena Irani
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RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT

On 28 February 2013, the Legislative Assembly for the ACT resolved that:

- (1) a Select Committee on Estimates 2013-2014 be appointed to examine the expenditure proposal contained in the Appropriation Bill 2013-2014, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2013-2014 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2013-2014 Budget and prepare a report to the Parliament;
- (2) the committee be composed of:
 - (a) two Members to be nominated by the Government; and
 - (b) two Members to be nominated by the Opposition;
to be notified in writing to the Speaker by 4 pm today;
- (3) an Opposition Member shall be elected chair of the committee by the committee;
- (4) funds be provided by the Parliament to permit the engagement of external expertise to work with the committee to facilitate the analysis of the Budget and the preparation of the report of the committee;
- (5) the committee is to report by Tuesday, 6 August 2013;
- (6) if the Assembly is not sitting when the committee has completed its inquiry, the committee may send its report to the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing, publishing and circulation; and
- (7) the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.¹

¹ Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), *Minutes of Proceedings No. 144*, Thursday 29 March 2012, para. 5, pp. 1851-1852.

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VOLUME 3 OF 3: DISSENTING REPORT

DISSENTING REPORT: DR CHRIS BOURKE AND MR MICK GENTLEMAN

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

- 1.20** The Committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedures of the Eighth ACT Legislative Assembly conduct a review of the need for, and effectiveness of, specialist budget adviser services to the Select Committee on Estimates.

RECOMMENDATION 2

- 2.9** The Committee recommends that the ACT Government freeze its implementation of the taxation reform until the modelling of the 20 year impact on residential and commercial general rates is known.

RECOMMENDATION 3

- 2.10** The Committee recommends that the Budget not be passed because of its lack of delivery, high levels of deficit and deceitful plan to massively increase commercial and residential rates.

RECOMMENDATION 4

- 2.13** The Committee recommends that the ACT Government address the underlying deficit as a matter of priority.

RECOMMENDATION 5

- 2.19** The Committee recommends that the Lease Variation Charge be fixed at the rate applied for the 2012-2013 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION 6

- 2.29** The Committee recommends that the ACT Government request the incoming Commonwealth Government to review indexation arrangements for former Commonwealth Public Servants.

RECOMMENDATION 7

- 2.35** The Committee recommends that the Appropriation Bill debate not be brought on until such time as the Treasurer has presented an amended bill and relevant budget documents detailing the effect of the ICRC determination on the ACTEW Water dividend and balance sheet.

RECOMMENDATION 8

- 2.43** The Committee recommends that the ACT Auditor-General conduct a comprehensive performance audit on ACTEW.

RECOMMENDATION 9

2.48 The Committee recommends that the Chief Minister provide a reconciliation of what the Commonwealth would have provided for education funding had the Gonski arrangements not be put in place.

RECOMMENDATION 10

2.52 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with the full detail of the process that led to the gifting of the *Skywhale* hot air balloon to a Victorian hot air balloon operator.

RECOMMENDATION 11

2.53 The Committee recommends that the Executive director, Culture and Communications either substantiate his allegations that there were safety concerns with Picture This Ballooning that led to their not being considered for the gifting of the *Skywhale* or apologise unreservedly.

RECOMMENDATION 12

2.58 The Committee recommends that the Assembly move immediately to pass legislation that would provide for a sixth minister.

RECOMMENDATION 13

2.59 The Committee recommends that, after legislation providing for a sixth minister is passed, the Chief Minister immediately appoint a sixth minister.

RECOMMENDATION 14

2.60 The Committee recommends that all standing committees in the Assembly be comprised of three Members, with a non-government majority.

RECOMMENDATION 15

3.8 The Committee recommends that the Government better manage their procurement processes to minimise the number of tenders withdrawn or cancelled causing loss to tenderers.

RECOMMENDATION 16

3.10 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government further extend the provision of online tendering.

RECOMMENDATION 17

3.14 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include women with disabilities as a target group for marketing this initiative.

RECOMMENDATION 18

3.16 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Assembly quarterly on the progress of the 'data cleansing' of information held in the Chris21 system until the process is completed.

RECOMMENDATION 19

3.21 The Committee recommends that the Government make public as soon as practicable the report into the future of the Home Loan Portfolio.

RECOMMENDATION 20

3.25 The Committee recommends that when the line 'other expenses' is the largest in the financial statements that where possible the amount be broken down further or more detailed information be included in the notes.

RECOMMENDATION 21

3.30 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make public as soon as practicable the report into the future ownership of ACTTAB.

RECOMMENDATION 22

3.34 The Committee recommends that ACTEW Water detail through the Minister responsible to the Assembly the proposed costs of the following Cotter Dam elements—concrete; steel; excavation—at the following price points—\$145,000,000; \$250,000,000; \$363,000,000; \$405,000,000—by the last sitting day in August this year.

RECOMMENDATION 23

4.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop specific strategies for the Tourism industry for:

- accommodation;
- events; and
- new attractions.

RECOMMENDATION 24

4.12 The Committee recommends that the Economic Development Directorate develop an improved maintenance schedule to avoid closure of sports ground facilities due to neglect and decline as was the case with the Narrabundah Velodrome.

RECOMMENDATION 25

4.21 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the proposed on and off arrangements from the Majura Parkway with a view to constructing an interchange at the northern end on Majura Park to allow for greater access to Majura Park and the airport.

RECOMMENDATION 26

4.22 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the Commonwealth Government to deliver an interchange for the Majura Park complex.

RECOMMENDATION 27

4.26 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide analysis of what infrastructure will be required to support the proposed Riverview development.

RECOMMENDATION 28

4.31 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency detail every year in its Statement of Intent the number of construction ready blocks 'on the shelf' available for immediate release.

RECOMMENDATION 29

4.32 The Committee recommends that the Budget document the number of dwellings to be released, broken down by type, such as standard residential blocks, terraces and town houses.

RECOMMENDATION 30

4.33 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency update their website with accurate information about the timing of the development of new suburbs.

RECOMMENDATION 31

4.35 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency present the reasons why there was only one registered bidder for the Denman auction.

RECOMMENDATION 32

4.36 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency advise the Community Services Directorate on the capability of the market to develop property, such as redevelopment of the Allawah, Bega and Currong (ABC) flats site.

RECOMMENDATION 33

4.43 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail in the Assembly, before the recommencement of debate on the Appropriation Bill 2013-2014, the cost implications of Variation 306 on:

- the land release program; and
- house and land prices in the ACT.

RECOMMENDATION 34

4.44 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency undertakes a review of Variation 306.

RECOMMENDATION 35

4.45 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Economic Development apologise for officials describing the response by 'segments of the industry' as 'hysteria' with regard to Variation 306.

RECOMMENDATION 36

5.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider extending the restorative justice program to adults.

RECOMMENDATION 37

5.13 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider linking policy, guidelines, black letter law, regulations and instruments in connected and accessible ways when redeveloping the ACT Legislation Register.

RECOMMENDATION 38

5.19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government not proceed with the proposed cuts to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and review the funding for the Office to ensure the capability and funding of the office matches the workload.

RECOMMENDATION 39

5.30 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government recover the overpayment of estimated parking revenue from the Woden Tradesmen's Union Club.

RECOMMENDATION 40

5.31 The Committee recommends that the Justice and Community Safety Directorate present all the documentation surrounding the negotiations for parking with the Tradesmen's Union Club to the Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION 41

5.32 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with full details of the cost discrepancy between the estimate of parking revenue and the actual amount received by the ACT Government for all entities with which the ACT Government holds parking contracts over the previous five years and an explanation as to why any entities have been paid an amount more than was actually received by the Government.

RECOMMENDATION 42

5.33 The Committee recommends that the Justice and Community Safety Directorate present the Assembly with information about the Office of Regulatory Services' financial arrangements for the provision of pay parking on non-government land.

RECOMMENDATION 43

5.40 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with details of recidivism rates for ACT prisoners for the last 10 years.

RECOMMENDATION 44

5.44 The Committee condemns the ACT Government for misleading the community when the then Attorney General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA stated in 2007 that the Alexander Maconochie Centre would have adequate capacity for 25 years.

RECOMMENDATION 45

5.53 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government immediately establish a fifth judge in the Supreme Court of the ACT.

RECOMMENDATION 46

5.54 The Committee recommends that the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety Committee inquire into the management and the effectiveness of the ACT Supreme Court.

RECOMMENDATION 47

5.60 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate acquiring an additional "Bronto" high fire fighting platform and associated staffing.

RECOMMENDATION 48

5.61 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release all internal reviews and documents relating to the capability and funding of each of the four emergency services of the Emergency Services Agency.

RECOMMENDATION 49

5.65 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expedite the establishment of an ACT Rural Fire Service Museum.

RECOMMENDATION 50

5.70 The Committee recommends that that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with full details of the impact of \$15 million cut to ACT Policing.

RECOMMENDATION 51

5.75 The Committee recommends that, following the delays identified in a recent incident regarding a warrant, the ACT Government should provide the Assembly with the outcomes of any internal reviews and/or discussions the ACT Coroner into the warrant process.

RECOMMENDATION 5 2

5.80 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail for the Assembly whether or not it is concerned that the shortfall in the Legal Aid Commission funding will affect the ability of individuals seeking legal assistance to fully participate in the ACT legal system.

RECOMMENDATION 5 3

6.7 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider reporting Health and Community Care and ACT Local Hospital Network accountability indicators together in future budgets.

RECOMMENDATION 5 4

6.12 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government use the most up to date data when compiling the Budget papers.

RECOMMENDATION 5 5

6.18 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly on why the ACT is the worst or near worst performing jurisdiction in elective surgery achievements.

RECOMMENDATION 5 6

6.19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly about when the ACT will achieve national average or better than the national average in elective surgery performance.

RECOMMENDATION 5 7

6.24 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly why the ACT has the longest emergency department waiting times in the country and why ACT waiting times have deteriorated so significantly.

RECOMMENDATION 5 8

6.27 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide details to the Assembly on the key lessons learnt from Western Australia's successful implementation of the emergency department four-hour length of stay rule.

RECOMMENDATION 5 9

6.29 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly of the outcomes from the action plan that was developed in response to the ACT Auditor-General's 2012 report into *Emergency Department Performance Information* and the PricewaterhouseCoopers report into the *integrity of Emergency Department records and processes at The Canberra Hospital*.

RECOMMENDATION 60

6.31 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly why it has taken so long to backfill the Executive Director for Critical Care position.

RECOMMENDATION 61

6.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop strategies to educate older Canberrans on the dangers of alcohol use in relation to the risk of falls and subsequent injuries.

RECOMMENDATION 62

6.38 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a quarterly report to the Assembly outlining the progress, scope, budget and delivery date of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and other Drug Rehabilitation centre.

RECOMMENDATION 63

6.44 The Committee commends the staff of the QEII for providing a wonderful service over the last 50 years.

RECOMMENDATION 64

7.7 The Committee recommends that when the ACT Government becomes aware of errors in the Budget Papers those corrections be made available to the Estimates Committee as soon as practicable rather than waiting for the day that the Directorate or Agency appears before the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION 65

7.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Library Service consider installing a Wi-Fi zone in Civic Square.

RECOMMENDATION 66

7.12 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services detail his strategy for the delivery of road infrastructure in the ACT for the Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION 67

7.15 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services remove the speed humps on Spofforth Street.

RECOMMENDATION 68

7.17 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services present the Assembly with the program of road duplications in the Territory.

RECOMMENDATION 69

7.19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government manage road works in a coordinated way to avoid multiple projects occurring at the same time in the same location (e.g. Charnwood shops).

RECOMMENDATION 70

7.23 The Committee recommends that the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate present in the Budget information about the waste tonnage sent to landfill, broken down by residential kerbside collection and commercial waste.

RECOMMENDATION 71

7.26 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government finalise, as a matter of urgency, the on-going issues at the Pialligo Quarry.

RECOMMENDATION 72

7.31 The Committee recommends the ACT Property Group clearly articulate in an online published document the policy of providing facilities for community groups.

RECOMMENDATION 73

7.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail the strategy for improving the financial and patronage performance of ACTION.

RECOMMENDATION 74

7.37 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake a complete review of the ACTION network.

RECOMMENDATION 75

7.38 The Committee recommends that ACTION feeder buses synchronise with the inter-town buses.

RECOMMENDATION 76

7.41 The Committee recommends the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services demonstrate how many existing bus users will cease using buses and use Capital Metro instead.

RECOMMENDATION 77

7.43 The Committee recommends that ACTION publish detailed information from the MyWay ticketing system including: boardings by route; average distance; fare types; timeliness of buses; and other network information.

RECOMMENDATION 78

7.45 The Committee recommends that ACTION publish the total operating cost of the Compressed Natural Gas fleet versus diesel buses.

RECOMMENDATION 79

- 8.11** The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide details to the Assembly of how the transition of disability service providers to DisabilityCare will be implemented at least six months prior to commencement of the launch in the ACT, to ensure sufficient preparation time.

RECOMMENDATION 80

- 8.15** The Committee recommends that the Minister for Disability, Children and Young People detail for the Assembly what coordination and consultation took place between the ACT and the Commonwealth regarding the Commonwealth's \$22 million television advertising campaign in order to ensure that ACT residents receive the essential information on DisabilityCare.

RECOMMENDATION 81

- 8.21** The Committee recommends that the Community Services Directorate provide details in its annual report about the number of Welcome to Country ceremonies commissioned by the ACT Government and the associated budget allocation.

RECOMMENDATION 82

- 8.24** The Committee recommends that the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs outline action he is taking with regards to concerns raised by Mr Stanhope, former Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, about the conduct of meetings of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council.

RECOMMENDATION 83

- 8.26** The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct a review of all Indigenous program funding in the ACT and ensures that the investment is meeting the *Closing the Gap* targets.

RECOMMENDATION 84

- 8.27** The Committee recommends that when reporting Indigenous statistics and where possible and appropriate, actual numbers should be given as well as a percentage given the small sample size.

RECOMMENDATION 85

- 8.34** The Committee recommends that the Community Services Directorate ensure the staffing levels at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre meet operational needs at all times.

RECOMMENDATION 86

- 8.35** The Committee recommends that the Community Services Directorate include an accountability indicator in the 2013-14 Budget that measures the number of days

where operational capability at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is not met due to insufficient staffing levels.

RECOMMENDATION 87

8.39 The Committee recommends the ACT Government increase its efforts to shorten time lines for adoption in the ACT.

RECOMMENDATION 88

8.48 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Housing clarify for the Assembly the policy on tenure in public housing and evicting public housing tenants who earn more than \$80,000 per year.

RECOMMENDATION 89

8.49 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Housing clarify for the Assembly whether or not he still supports the housing tenure policy the ACT Greens took to the 2012 ACT Election.

RECOMMENDATION 90

9.5 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in the budget the number of stop-work notices issued.

RECOMMENDATION 91

9.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report the number of Development Applications assessed.

RECOMMENDATION 92

9.11 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the impact Variation 306 is having on the workload of Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate.

RECOMMENDATION 93

9.17 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a strategy for the redevelopment of public housing units on Northbourne Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION 94

9.23 The Committee recommends that the Government clearly publish the operations of the Carbon Neutral Fund.

RECOMMENDATION 95

9.24 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in the budget information about the targets and performance of the Territory regarding greenhouse gas emissions.

RECOMMENDATION 96

9.27 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government as a matter of priority establishes a single Nature Conservation Agency.

RECOMMENDATION 97

9.33 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make publicly available the current Cost Benefit Analysis and that all further analysis be publicly available as it is completed.

RECOMMENDATION 98

9.34 The Committee recommends that the Capital Metro Agency publish a detailed timeline of the light rail project on an ACT Government website.

RECOMMENDATION 99

9.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release the submission to Infrastructure Australia and all other documents relating to light rail.

RECOMMENDATION 100

9.38 The Committee recommends that the Capital Metro Agency publish a detailed budget of the light rail project on an ACT Government website.

RECOMMENDATION 101

9.40 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail how the Capital Metro project will be funded.

RECOMMENDATION 102

9.41 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release all details concerning the cost of running the Capital Metro, the amount expected to be collected through the fare box, the degree of supplementation to be paid and the exposure of the Territory in a Public Private Partnership due to an under achievement of projected boarding.

RECOMMENDATION 103

9.43 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail how much rates and land tax will increase on the Capital Metro route.

RECOMMENDATION 104

9.46 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make publically available maps detailing the areas of expected greater density along the route of the Capital Metro.

RECOMMENDATION 105

9.49 The Committee recommends that the Government detail what impact Capital Metro will have on ACTION.

RECOMMENDATION 106

9.50 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail the projected patronage of Capital Metro.

RECOMMENDATION 107

9.53 The Committee recommends that the governance arrangements for Capital Metro, including names of planning and steering committee Members, be published on an ACT Government website.

RECOMMENDATION 108

9.60 The Committee recommends that the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment consider the effects of the ACT Governments tax policy, land release program and the Capital Metro on the environment of the ACT as well as the sustainability of the ACT

RECOMMENDATION 109

10.5 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with more detail as to how the National Education Reforms will be implemented at an individual school level in the ACT.

RECOMMENDATION 110

10.6 The Committee recommends that ACT Government should lobby to ensure a consistent approach is taken to the National Education Reform Agreement across all education sectors in the ACT.

RECOMMENDATION 111

10.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with more detail on how improvements to teacher quality and teacher training entry qualifications will be determined and the commencement of these initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION 112

10.11 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with a breakdown of full-time employee (FTE) numbers in each year's budget papers so as to better define the number of teaching positions compared with current numbers of Directorate staff.

RECOMMENDATION 113

10.27 The Committee recommends that The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) provide the Assembly with an outline of the modelling that was done to determine the costs of CIT's graphic design course.

RECOMMENDATION 114

10.29 The Committee recommends that The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) provide the Assembly with an outline of the modelling and consultation undertaken to determine which current CIT courses will move to full fee recovery.

RECOMMENDATION 115

10.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government set and publish strategic and accountability indicators for the Higher Education Portfolio.

RECOMMENDATION 116

10.38 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide and detail proposed arrangements to the Assembly on ensuring the impact of any overlap between portfolios and programs in the ACT higher education sector between the Higher Education Portfolio, the Education Portfolio and the Economic Development Portfolio is minimised.

RECOMMENDATION 117

10.40 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Higher Education report to the Assembly every six months on the progress of and outcomes achieved by the Higher Education Portfolio.

RECOMMENDATION 118

11.10 The Committee recommends that the budget for the ACT Auditor General office be set by the ACT Legislative Assembly on a motion moved by the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

RECOMMENDATION 119

13.6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate funding ICT adequately to ensure:

- resources are available for ICT technical support in ACT public schools, and
- all systems are up to a consistent standard as outlined in the Australian Education Union 2013-2014 Budget Submission.

RECOMMENDATION 120

13.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government examine the need for additional English as an Additional Language or Dialect programs in ACT schools.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2 1

13.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate funding English as an Additional Language or Dialect education to bring all students up to the level of 4.0 English proficiency.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2 2

13.11 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review ACT public schools facilities and provide a statement to the Assembly on the conditions of schools and the status of capital investment.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2 3

13.12 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government honour their election commitment to fund the promised \$70 million for upgrades and maintenance of ACT Government education facilities.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2 4

13.14 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an explanation to the Assembly of ALP's 2012 election commitments, and provide an update on the status of commitments considering a lack of funding in the 2013-14 ACT budget papers.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2 5

13.17 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide details to the Assembly about whether the \$6.2 million in savings from the Education and Training Directorate will be job losses or efficiency dividends, and provide the status of that in the 2013-14 ACT budget.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2 6

13.19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct a review of funding for the Canberra Institute of Technology with attention to whether funding is appropriate to ensure quality of education and to attract and retain the required number of quality teachers from the various industries.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2 7

13.25 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with the complete timetable for implementing the reduction of stamp duty and the reform in rates for the next 20 years or until the reform is complete.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2 8

13.29 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reduce penalties around property development commencement and completion in line with statements

made by the Treasurer to the Property Council in June 2012, and explore other options to prevent land banking.

RECOMMENDATION 1 2 9

13.33 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to investigate the development of Public Private Partnerships for infrastructure programs.

RECOMMENDATION 1 3 0

13.38 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail the programs and resources that are currently being provided to gifted and talented education.

RECOMMENDATION 1 3 1

13.41 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate options to establish gifted and talented education program hubs throughout the ACT community.

RECOMMENDATION 1 3 2

13.42 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a publicly accessible database of schools that provide gifted and talented children education programs and resources.

RECOMMENDATION 1 3 3

13.43 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government look at "tools on the market" that identify students that might benefit from a gifted and talented program.

RECOMMENDATION 1 3 4

13.44 The Committee recommends the ACT Government looks at options for acceleration of gifted and talented students.

RECOMMENDATION 1 3 5

13.48 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government engage with the University of Canberra and the Australian Catholic University to develop an undergraduate subject on gifted and talented student education.

RECOMMENDATION 1 3 6

13.55 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an explanation on the allocation of \$318,000 in the Budget for the Preschool Matters program rather than the \$400,000 initially promised.

RECOMMENDATION 1 3 7

13.59 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify the process of how Diversity ACT is funded and how it was determined that the funding would come from the Youth Portfolio.

RECOMMENDATION 138

13.60 The Committee recommends the ACT Government investigate support for accommodation programs for at-risk, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people.

RECOMMENDATION 139

13.61 The Committee recommends that listing of Diversity ACT's funding be listed under a new budget line, the current listing in Youth Engagement and Family Support for Youth does not recognise its wide and varying function.

RECOMMENDATION 140

13.67 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reach a decision on the location for the new RSPCA facility and detail funding arrangements to construct and operate the facility.

RECOMMENDATION 141

13.70 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an additional \$250,000 to the RSPCA to ensure its activities are sustainable into the future.

RECOMMENDATION 142

13.71 The Committee recommends the ACT Government ensure the new RSPCA facility contributes to animal welfare.

RECOMMENDATION 143

13.72 The Committee recommends the ACT Government investigates supporting the co-habitation of the RSPCA and the Domestic Animal Services in the new facility.

RECOMMENDATION 144

13.76 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a statement on why it considers its fair that older people who have previously paid stamp duty are now required to pay substantially higher rates.

RECOMMENDATION 145

13.82 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail to the Assembly before the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2013-2014 the arrangements for the successor for the Cultural Council.

RECOMMENDATION 146

13.83 The Committee recommends that post-Loxton Review and the Centenary year that the ACT Government develop a vision, a strategy to deliver the vision and an action plan for the Arts in the ACT for the next 25 years, to be tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in February 2014.

RECOMMENDATION 147

13.84 The Committee recommends the ACT Government look to further support its commitment to the arts.

RECOMMENDATION 148

13.85 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government benchmark Arts ACT against the arts sectors across Australia.

RECOMMENDATION 149

13.86 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate linking wage levels in the arts sector with those of the community sector.

RECOMMENDATION 150

13.87 The Committee recommends the investigation of peer assessment on arts projects and funding which is linked to these projects.

RECOMMENDATION 151

13.88 The Committee recommends the investigation of an initiative to link the private sector with the ACT arts sector.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTPS	ACT Public Service
AEU	Australian Education Union
AMC	Alexander Maconochie Centre
ANU	Australian National University
CFC	Cultural Facilities Corporation
CIE	Centre for International Economics
CIT	Canberra Institute of Technology
CHANCES	Community Helping Aboriginal Australians to Negotiate Choices leading to Employment and Success
CMTD	Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate
CSD	Community Services Directorate
CPS	Canberra Preschool Society
DA	Development Application
DAS	Domestic Animal Service
EALD	English as an Additional Language or Dialect
EDD	Economic Development Directorate
EDIS	Emergency Department Information System
EPIC	Exhibition Park in Canberra
ESA	Emergency Services Agency
ESDD	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
ESO	Enhanced Service Offer
ETD	Education and Training Directorate
FTE	Full time equivalent employee
GP	General Practitioner
GTLGG	ACT Gifted and Talented Local Support Group

ICRC	Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
ICT	Information and communication technologies
JACS	Justice and Community Safety Directorate
LDA	Land Development Agency
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
OLA	Office of the Legislative Assembly
QON	Question on Notice
QTON	Question Taken on Notice
RFS	Rural Fire Service
ROGS	Report on Government Services
RSPCA ACT	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ACT
SCOA	Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association (ACT)
TAMS	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate
TCH	The Canberra Hospital
TFA	ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority
TQI	Teacher Quality Institute
UC	University of Canberra
WWDACT	Women with Disabilities ACT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 28 February 2013 the Legislative Assembly for the ACT (the Assembly) established the Select Committee on Estimates 2013-2014 to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2013-2014 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2013-14 as well as any revenue estimates proposed by the ACT Government in the 2013-14 Budget.
- 1.2 The Appropriation Bill 2013-2014² and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2013-14³ were introduced in the Assembly on 4 June 2013. Immediately after presenting the Appropriation Bill 2012–2013, the Treasurer presented to the Assembly papers on the bills,⁴ as is required by the *Financial Management Act 1996* (ACT).⁵

STRUCTURE OF REPORT

- 1.3 The structure of this report by the Select Committee on Estimates 2013-2014 (the Committee) is as follows.
- 1.4 Volume One contains the Committee's Report:
- This introduction, Chapter One, outlines the conduct of the inquiry, provides an overview of the structure of the report and provides an outline of the 2013-14 Budget papers.
 - Each following chapter reflects the issues discussed at the Committee's public hearings in relation to individual Directorates and their associated agencies.
 - Within each chapter, issues are dealt with by output class.
 - Where possible, the key issues for each output class which have led to recommendations by the Committee are discussed at the start of the relevant output class section. All other issues discussed at the hearings in relation to individual output classes are then documented in a listing at the bottom each section.
 - The final chapter reflects the issues raised by community and industry groups who appeared before the Committee at a public hearing. Similar to other chapters, the key issues which have led to recommendations by the Committee are discussed at the start of each section, followed by a listing of other issues discussed by the witnesses from each organisation.

² Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings No. 23*, Tuesday 4 June 2013, para. 10, pp. 213-214.

³ Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings No. 23*, Tuesday 4 June 2013, para. 11, p. 214.

⁴ Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings No. 23*, Tuesday 4 June 2013, para. 10, pp. 213-214.

⁵ *Financial Management Act 1996* (ACT), Section 10.

- Volume Two contains the Appendices to the report. These provide details of the witnesses that appeared at the public hearings, a list of exhibits tabled, indexes of Questions Taken on Notice and Questions on Notice, details of the community and industry groups that provided written feedback to the Committee, the feedback survey sent to community and industry groups and the report of the specialist budget adviser.
- Volume Three contains the Dissenting Report prepared by Dr Chris Bourke and Mr Mick Gentleman.

CONDUCT OF THE INQUIRY

- 1.5 The Committee held public hearings over 12 days from 14 June 2013 to 1 July 2013 inclusive and deliberated on the Committee's report in three days of private meetings.
- 1.6 In the hearings, the Committee heard evidence from the Ministers of all ministerial portfolios; the officers of all Territory Owned Corporations such as ACTEW, all ACT statutory officers including the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT with senior officers from the Office of the Legislative Assembly, the ACT Electoral Commissioner and the ACT Auditor-General. The Committee also heard from community and industry groups in the ACT as detailed in Chapter 13 of this report.
- 1.7 Appendix A in Volume Two of this Report provides a list of Ministers, Directorate officials and all other witnesses who appeared before the Committee.
- 1.8 Hansard transcripts of the evidence provided at the hearings are available on the Inquiry webpage.⁶ The exhibits and submissions received are also available on the webpage. Public hearings can be viewed at the *Committees on Demand* section of the Assembly website, a portal of audio-visual recordings of committee hearings.⁷
- 1.9 A total of 205 questions were taken on notice (QTONs) by Ministers and Officials during the hearings. An additional 70 questions on notice (QONs) were submitted subsequent to the hearings, taking the total number of questions to 275. Appendix E in Volume Two of this Report provides a listing of the question subjects, the Minister to whom the question was addressed, and the date answers for each question were received. This listing was current as at 4 pm on 31 July 2013. At that time, the answers to 1 QTONs and 4 QONs were outstanding. This equates to 5 out of 275 questions or 82 per cent answered.
- 1.10 The Committee notes that Standing Order 253A of the Legislative Assembly states:
- When presenting its report, the Chair of the Select Committee on Estimates will present to the Assembly a schedule listing questions on notice for which answers were

⁶ Select Committee on Estimates 2013-2014 Inquiry webpage available at: http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/select_committees/Estimates-2013-2014

⁷ Committees on Demand webpage available at: <http://committees.parliament.act.gov.au/>

not provided during the annual estimates inquiry. Outstanding questions on notice will be provided to the Clerk within 30 days from the tabling of the estimates report. The Speaker will present to the Assembly the answers received after the report has been tabled and a schedule of questions on notice outstanding after the 30-day period.

- 1.11 The QTONs, QONs and answers to both sets of questions are also available on the Inquiry webpage.⁸

SPECIALIST BUDGET ADVISER

- 1.12 As is permitted by Standing Order 238 of the Assembly and as provided for in the Committee's Resolution of Appointment, the Committee agreed to engage a specialist adviser to provide independent economic and financial analysis of the ACT Budget 2013-14 and advice on the technical aspects of the ACT Budget 2013-14.⁹

- 1.13 The Centre for International Economics (CIE) was selected via a competitive tender process to provide the specialist budget adviser services to the Committee. CIE provided the Committee with a report on the Budget entitled *ACT Budget Review 2013-14*.

- 1.14 The specialist budget adviser report is provided at Appendix F in Volume Two of this Report and on the Inquiry webpage on the Legislative Assembly's website.¹⁰

PRACTICE OF ENGAGING A SPECIALIST BUDGET ADVISER

- 1.15 The Committee notes that in 2009 the Seventh Assembly's Standing Committee on Administration and Procedures (Administration and Procedures Committee) conducted an inquiry on:

...the merit of appointing a Parliamentary Budget Officer to strengthen the capacity of the Assembly to better hold government to account by increasing transparency in its fiscal planning framework and improve scrutiny of the estimates process...¹¹

- 1.16 The inquiry was proposed in a Parliamentary Agreement between ACT Labor and the ACT Greens for the Seventh Assembly¹² and referred by the Seventh Assembly in February 2009. The 2009 Administration and Procedures Committee report provides the background and

⁸ Select Committee on Estimates 2013-2014 Inquiry webpage.

⁹ ACT Legislative Assembly (2013) *Standing Orders and Continuing Resolutions of the Assembly*, February 2013. Also see ACT Legislative Assembly (2009) *Companion to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory*, p. 301.

¹⁰ Select Committee on Estimates 2013-14 Inquiry webpage.

¹¹ Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, 7th Assembly, *The Merit of Appointing a Parliamentary Budget Officer*, 2009, available at: <http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/previous-assemblies/Standing-Committees-Seventh-Assembly/Standing-Committee-on-Administration-and-Procedure/01.-Parliamentary-Budget-Officer>.

¹² *Parliamentary Agreement for the Seventh Legislative Assembly for the ACT*, Appendix 1, Clause 2.12.

reasoning behind the practice established in the Seventh Assembly of engaging a specialist budget adviser.

- 1.17 The Administration and Procedures Committee of the Seventh Assembly concluded in its report that temporarily appointing an expert consultant for the duration of the Estimates process presented a flexible approach that is the most appropriate model for the ACT Legislative Assembly.¹³

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 1.18 The Committee notes that external specialist budget advisers have been engaged by the respective Estimates committees to scrutinise each of the 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 ACT Budgets.
- 1.19 The Committee believes, following four years of engaging a specialist budget adviser in accordance with the approach recommended by the Administration and Procedures Committee of the Seventh Assembly, that it is timely for a review to be conducted of the need for, and effectiveness of, the service.

Recommendation 1

- 1.20 The Committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedures of the Eighth ACT Legislative Assembly conduct a review of the need for, and effectiveness of, specialist budget adviser services to the Select Committee on Estimates.**

STRUCTURE OF THE 2013-14 BUDGET PAPERS

- 1.21 The 2013-14 ACT Budget is presented in four papers:¹⁴
- **Budget Paper No. 1:** The Treasurer's speech to the Legislative Assembly outlining the Government's Budget strategies and key features of the Budget;
 - **Budget Paper No. 2:** A summary of the overall budgetary position together with information on the Government's expenditure priorities in key service delivery areas;
 - **Budget Paper No. 3:** Budget Overview. Summarises the 2013-2014 Budget and forward estimates for the general government sector, the public trading enterprise sector and the total Territory Government. Details of the projected 2013-2014 Budget results are provided, as well as background information on the development of the 2013-2014 Budget, including economic conditions and federal financial relations.

¹³ Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, 7th Assembly, *The Merit of Appointing a Parliamentary Budget Officer*, 2009, p. 15.

¹⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 1, p. ii.

- Budget Paper No. 3 also provides an overview of the Territory's infrastructure investment program and details of the 2013-2014 expenditure, revenue and capital initiatives.
- **Budget Paper No. 4: Budget Estimates.** Provides information on each directorate and Territory authority and corporation including output classes (where relevant), descriptions of functions, roles and responsibilities, together with major strategic priorities.
- Full accrual financial statements and notes are provided for the general government sector as well as details of the Territory's public trading enterprises.

1.22 **Budget in your Region.** In addition to the four papers, an interactive map for the 2013-14 Budget Papers has been developed containing supplementary information about ACT Government infrastructure and capital works projects that are in progress or included in the 2013-14 Budget.¹⁵

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 1.23 The Committee thanks everyone who participated in, or otherwise assisted during, this Inquiry.
- 1.24 These include, among others, representatives of ACT community and industry groups, the ACT Government Ministers, the Members of the Assembly, the Members' staff, ACT Government officials, and the staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

¹⁵2013-14 Budget, *Budget in Your Region*, available at <http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2013-2014/maps>.

2 CHIEF MINISTER AND TREASURY DIRECTORATE AND RELATED AGENCIES

- 2.1 The Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate (the Directorate) provides strategic policy advice and high level support to the Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and the Cabinet on policy development, service delivery and whole of government issues; preparation of the annual budget and whole of government financial reports; and advice on financial management, economic issues and revenue policy; in addition to support through machinery of government and Cabinet processes.¹⁶
- 2.2 The Directorate also provides policy and procedural support for the leadership role of the Head of Service, who chairs the ACT Public Service Strategic Board.¹⁷
- 2.3 Budget Paper Number 3 for 2013-14 states that the Directorate holds responsibility for:
- access to Government information;
 - ACT Public Service;
 - ACT Public Sector workers compensation improvement;
 - Audit services to Government;
 - borrowing and funds management;
 - budget process and financial reporting;
 - Centenary of Canberra;
 - communication and community engagement;
 - fiscal and economic policy including competition and regulatory reform;
 - government strategy and policy;
 - insurance policy;
 - intergovernmental relations;
 - private sector industrial relations and workers compensation;
 - regional development;
 - sustainability policy and coordination;
 - support to Cabinet;
 - taxation and revenue policy; and
 - work safety policy.¹⁸

¹⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 29.

¹⁷ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 29.

¹⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 3, p. vi.

THE TREASURER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.4 On Monday 17 June and Tuesday 18 June 2013 the Treasurer and his officials appeared before the Committee. The Treasurer's portfolio responsibilities are detailed in Budget Paper No. 4.¹⁹

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

COST OF LIVING STATEMENT

- 2.5 The Cost of Living Statement is set out, with assumptions and figures, in Budget Paper Number 3.²⁰
- 2.6 The Committee considered the following matters regarding the Cost of Living Statement:
- changes in the presentation of the Cost of Living Statement in the 2013 Budget and that of the previous year;²¹
 - whether the cost of living had increased from the previous year;²² and
 - variables relevant to the Cost of Living Statement, in particular the pending determination by the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) on charges for water and sewerage.²³

TAX REFORM

- 2.7 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding tax reform:
- whether, and to what degree, ACT households would benefit from reforms to ACT taxes and charges;²⁴
 - an increasing tax revenue of the Territory, year-on-year;²⁵
 - a shift from relying on taxes such as stamp duty and insurance tax to a revenue raised from rates;²⁶
 - the number of ACT residents affected by reductions in stamp duty, and broader implications for the ACT economy;²⁷
 - changes to the First Home Owner Grant;²⁸ (See QON No. 21)

¹⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. v.

²⁰ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 43-58.

²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 90-91. The Treasurer indicated pages 54- 57 of Budget Paper No. 3.

²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 91.

²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 93.

²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 96-97.

²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 98-99.

²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 98-99.

²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 99-100.

²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 100.

- whether the changes would have an inflationary effect;²⁹
- rates of release under the Land Release Program;³⁰
- revenue collected from rates, in particular projected revenue from commercial and residential ratepayers;³¹ (See QTON No. 140)
- prospects of tax reform by the ACT in association with the Commonwealth;³²
- time-lines for the phasing-out of stamp duty in the ACT;³³
- implications of the ACT tax reform package in the long-term, and the extent to which this can be accurately predicted;³⁴ and
- the number of people who pay stamp duty in the ACT each year and numbers expected to be affected by the progressive abolition of stamp duty.³⁵

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 2.8 In the Committee's view the outcome of tax reforms is unclear. In particular, it regards it as a matter for concern that the tax burden is being shifted from taxes to rates, commercial and domestic, without long-term analysis of effects.

Recommendation 2

- 2.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government freeze its implementation of the taxation reform until the modelling of the 20 year impact on residential and commercial general rates is known.**

Recommendation 3

- 2.10 The Committee recommends that the Budget not be passed because of its lack of delivery, high levels of deficit and deceitful plan to massively increase commercial and residential rates.**

- 2.11 The Committee notes that in its public hearings with the Treasurer the budget deficit was also discussed. This is detailed in the budget papers, which indicate a 'forecast General Government Sector (GGS) Headline Net Operating Deficit of \$253.6 million in 2013-14' and a 'forecast return to surplus in 2015-16 and 2016-17'.³⁶

²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 100-101.

³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 101-102.

³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 102, 126-127.

³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 104.

³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 104-105.

³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 106-109.

³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 108-109.

³⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 3, p. 1.

2.12 The Committee views the projected budget deficit with concern.

Recommendation 4

2.13 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government address the underlying deficit as a matter of priority.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

2.14 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the employment outlook in the ACT:

- the current rate of unemployment in the ACT;³⁷
- measures in the current and recent budgets designed to foster employment in the ACT;³⁸
- the contribution of the ACT public service, the ACT education sector, tourism, and the Commonwealth public service to employment in the ACT;³⁹
- the ACT's exposure to higher risk of unemployment as a result of current and projected job cuts by Commonwealth agencies, and its effects on consumer and business sentiment in the ACT;⁴⁰
- the effects of public sector job cuts in other jurisdictions, at other times, for the purpose of ascertaining a sense of the potential effect of Commonwealth public sector job on the ACT;⁴¹
- the effect of Commonwealth public sector job cuts on revenue collection by the ACT Government;⁴² and
- the dependence of the ACT private sector on public sector employment, in view of mooted reductions in staff numbers in the Commonwealth public service.⁴³

ACT CREDIT RATING

2.15 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the ACT's credit rating:

- the ACT's current credit rating at AAA and the significance of a high credit rating for the health of the economy;⁴⁴

³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 109.

³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 109-110.

³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 110.

⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 110.

⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 111.

⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 111.

⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 112.

⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 113.

- the annual process in which Standard and Poor’s reviews the ACT’s credit rating;⁴⁵
- the implications of the credit rating for the ACT’s ability to borrow funds and the cost of money;⁴⁶
- the level of debt carried by the ACT compared with other jurisdictions;⁴⁷
- borrowings by ACT entities including ACTEW and lines of credit extended to the University of Canberra;⁴⁸
- levels of debt carried by the ACT, including current and future borrowings;⁴⁹
- comparisons of borrowings by the ACT and other jurisdictions;⁵⁰
- ACT borrowings in connection with ACTEW and the University of Canberra;⁵¹
- potential benefits of further development of the University of Canberra for ACT export earnings;⁵²
- other ACT services exports;⁵³ and
- any benefits flowing to the ACT Government as a result of providing a line of credit to the University of Canberra.⁵⁴ (See QTON No. 145)

INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

2.16 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding investment in capital infrastructure in the ACT:

- variations in the level of investment in capital infrastructure in the ACT;⁵⁵
- provision for future investment in capital infrastructure such as the Capital Metro light rail project, University of Canberra hospital, and construction at Canberra Hospital;⁵⁶
- timelines for projected capital infrastructure projects, and stage of funding and preparation for those projects;⁵⁷
- the end of post-GFC stimulus capital infrastructure spending and its influence on current levels of investment;⁵⁸

⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 113.

⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 113.

⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 113.

⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 115.

⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 115.

⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 144.

⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 144.

⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 144-145.

⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 145.

⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 145.

⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 115.

⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 116.

⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 117-118.

⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 117-118.

- capital infrastructure for 'new initiatives' in the health portfolio, including 'Calvary [Hospital] car park, the design of the UC public hospital, further work on the continuity of health services as part of the infrastructure upgrades, walk-in centres at Belconnen and Tuggeranong and the mobile dental clinic';⁵⁹ and
- implications of the ACT's credit rating on borrowing for these projects.⁶⁰

LEASE VARIATION CHARGE

2.17 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the Lease Variation Charge (LVC) in the ACT:⁶¹

- the degree to which the LVC could be considered a 'distortive tax';⁶²
- whether the monies collected under the LVC had been applied to projects to improve urban infrastructure;⁶³
- whether the LVC would raise the revenues anticipated;⁶⁴ and
- when the LVC is payable within the timeline of each transaction.⁶⁵

COMMITTEE COMMENT

2.18 The Committee is concerned that the Lease Variation Charge may have an adverse effect on business in the ACT. In its view the LVC should be capped at 2012 levels rather than becoming an avenue for a higher tax impost on future development in the ACT.

Recommendation 5

2.19 The Committee recommends that the Lease Variation Charge be fixed at the rate applied for the 2012-2013 financial year.

BUDGET REFORMS

2.20 On 4 June 2013 the Treasurer made reference to budget reforms in his speech accompanying the introduction of the Appropriation Bill 2013-2014 into the Legislative Assembly.⁶⁶

⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 120.

⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 120-121.

⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 122.

⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 122.

⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 122-123.

⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 123-124.

⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 124-125.

⁶⁶ Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Debates*, 4 June 2013, pp. 2217-2227.

2.21 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding reform to the budget process:

- 'major infrastructure investment and urban renewal in the city over the rest of this decade';⁶⁷
- funding for DisabilityCare, within the context of a national funding mechanism;⁶⁸
- investments in the education sector associated with Gonski reforms;⁶⁹
- relativities between education funding from the Commonwealth to date and that projected under Gonski reforms (See QTON No. 141);⁷⁰ and
- whether, in particular, the ACT would receive more or less funding money from the Commonwealth for education, in view of existing, expiring and future arrangements, and indexation settings applied to them.⁷¹

SAVINGS INITIATIVES

2.22 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding savings initiatives in the budget:

- changes in presentation of savings initiatives in the Budget Papers;⁷²
- whether savings projected in the previous year's budget were achieved;⁷³ (See QTON No. 142)
- changes to the presentation of information on ceasing initiatives in the budget papers (See QTON No. 143);⁷⁴ and
- whether savings indicated for the education portfolio would result in reductions in staff numbers (See QTON No. 144).⁷⁵

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND THE EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

2.23 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the work of the Expenditure Review Committee:

- the ongoing nature of expenditure review;⁷⁶
- items listed as 'supporting operational capacity' in the budget papers;⁷⁷

⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 127.

⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 127-128.

⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 127-128.

⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 128-129.

⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 128-134.

⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 134-135.

⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 135.

⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 136-137.

⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 137-140.

⁷⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 141.

⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 142.

- workers' compensation for Corrective Services and the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) as separate items alongside 'operational capacity' items;⁷⁸
- reasons for the need for further appropriations for workers' compensation for Corrective Services and ESA;⁷⁹ and
- a directorate operational review for Corrective Services.⁸⁰

CAPITAL METRO

2.24 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the proposed Capital Metro light rail project:

- whether Treasury had provided advice on the viability of the project;⁸¹ (See QTON No. 146)
- whether the project had been approved;⁸² and
- the cost of the project.⁸³

2.25 Capital Metro was also discussed with the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development at the hearing on 24 June 2013. Details can be found in Chapter Nine of the report (Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate).

SUPERANNUATION PROVISION ACCOUNT

2.26 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the Superannuation Provision Account:

- assumptions made in the budget about rates of return on investment for the Account;⁸⁴
- the maximum extent of superannuation liabilities and the year that will be reached;⁸⁵
- amounts of capital injection into the Account;⁸⁶
- investment policies for the Account;⁸⁷
- the ACT's superannuation liability compared with other jurisdictions;⁸⁸ (See QTON No. 147)

⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 142.

⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 142-143.

⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 143-144.

⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 146.

⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 146.

⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 146-147.

⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 158.

⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 158-159.

⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 158-159.

⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 159.

⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 160.

- projections that the ACT will cover defined-benefit liabilities by 2030;⁸⁹
- servicing costs and other factors which could affect the ACT's capacity to cover liabilities;⁹⁰
- current deferred beneficiaries who have left the schemes and ACT employment but who are owed a benefit upon retirement;⁹¹ and
- outcomes of previous litigation in the High Court which have a bearing on superannuation liabilities.⁹²

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 2.27 The Committee views with concern liabilities which arise in connection with former Commonwealth Public Servants for which the ACT bears responsibility. It notes that this liability arises from arrangements made at the advent of self-government, and that in the lead-up to self-government the ACT had limited scope to determine how the superannuation of public servants transferring from Commonwealth to ACT public sector would be managed.
- 2.28 As a result of those settings, the ACT carries a very significant burden, particularly for a small jurisdiction, of liabilities generated from superannuation schemes that are now no longer available because it is widely recognised that they are too expensive for governments to maintain.

Recommendation 6

- 2.29 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government request the incoming Commonwealth Government to review indexation arrangements for former Commonwealth Public Servants.**

TERRITORY BANKING ACCOUNT

- 2.30 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the Territory Banking Account:
- a reduction in estimated interest on the Account compared with that projected in last budget (See QTON No. 148);⁹³
 - present rates of return on the account;⁹⁴

⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 161.

⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 161-162.

⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 162-163.

⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 163-164.

⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 164-165.

⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 166.

- borrowings for infrastructure and the current levels of borrowing reflected in the budget papers;⁹⁵
- budget inflows and outflows through the territory banking account;⁹⁶ (See QTON No. 149)
- quantum of cash reserves in the ACT;⁹⁷
- the transition to a new banking provider for the Account;⁹⁸ and
- the introduction of new accountability indicators for the Account.⁹⁹

ACT COMPULSORY THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE REGULATOR

2.31 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the Compulsory Third-Party Insurance Regulator:

- wording used in a letter to a constituent;¹⁰⁰
- the nature of any barriers to the entry of further third-party insurers to the Compulsory Third-Party (CTP) insurance market in the ACT;¹⁰¹
- the nature of proposals introduced in the Assembly for changes to CTP insurance arrangements in the ACT;¹⁰²
- the impact of early treatment and rehabilitation on costs for CTP insurance;¹⁰³
- variations in income for the CTP scheme in the ACT;¹⁰⁴ and
- prospects for legislative change in the ACT regarding CTP.¹⁰⁵

INDEPENDENT COMPETITION AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

2.32 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the work of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (the ICRC):

- the ICRC's review of ACTEW's water and sewerage pricing;¹⁰⁶
- the potential disparity between assumptions made in the budget and the consequences of lower prices for water and sewerage, if that is the recommendation of the ICRC;¹⁰⁷

⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 166-168.

⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 168.

⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 169.

⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 169.

⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 170.

¹⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 170-172.

¹⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 172.

¹⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 172-173.

¹⁰³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 173-174.

¹⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 175.

¹⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 175-177.

¹⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 147.

¹⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 147-148.

- whether ACTEW will pay a dividend to the budget in future years if prices for water and sewerage are reduced;¹⁰⁸
- the quantum of the possible difference in dividends by ACTEW in light of a new determination;¹⁰⁹
- the process employed by the ICRC in considering water and sewerage pricing;¹¹⁰
- reasons for delays in the completion of the ICRC's report process;¹¹¹
- implications of costs borne by ACTEW on water and sewerage pricing;¹¹²
- the role of the ICRC in implementing the Council of Australian Governments' Australian energy market agreement;¹¹³
- the role of the ICRC in "facilitating an appropriate balance between efficiency, environment and social considerations";¹¹⁴
- the ICRC's role reporting on greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT;¹¹⁵
- implications of greenhouse gas emission targets on the ACT economy;¹¹⁶ and
- the methodology employed by the ICRC in order to calculate greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT.¹¹⁷

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 2.33 The Committee notes that the determination by the ICRC on water and sewerage pricing has implications for the budget bottom-line that are yet to be fully analysed and understood.
- 2.34 It views this situation with concern, in particular due to the fact that the Assembly will, as things stand, be obliged to vote on an Appropriation Bill that is not fully costed.

Recommendation 7

- 2.35 The Committee recommends that the Appropriation Bill debate not be brought on until such time as the Treasurer has presented an amended bill and relevant budget documents detailing the effect of the ICRC determination on the ACTEW Water dividend and balance sheet.**

¹⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 147-148.

¹⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 148.

¹¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 148.

¹¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 149.

¹¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 151.

¹¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 152-153.

¹¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 153.

¹¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 154.

¹¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 155.

¹¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 155.

RECALL HEARINGS

2.36 On 1 July 2013 the Committee held recall hearings. The ICRC, ACTEW and the Treasurer and his staff appeared before the Committee.

2.37 At the hearings the Committee considered the following matters.

ICRC – RECALL HEARING

2.38 In relation to the ICRC the Committee considered:

- changes in prices for water and sewerage from the ICRC’s draft determination to its final determination, and elements contributing to that change, in particular the basis for calculations;¹¹⁸
- the Fair Cost Recovery Scheme and its implications;¹¹⁹
- implications of different cost-setting scenarios for the solvency of ACTEW;¹²⁰
- ‘intergenerational transfer’ and investments in water security;¹²¹
- comparisons between prices for water and sewerage in the ACT and those in other jurisdictions;¹²²
- distinctions between calculations based on economic flows and accounting flows, and their implications for variations between the draft and final determinations;¹²³
- methodologies for calculating determinations, in particular the use of the ‘hypothetical firm’ as a basis for calculating determinations;¹²⁴
- different price settings and trends, in the final determination, for water and sewerage;¹²⁵
- whether the prices set in the final determination will provide sufficient revenue so that ACTEW can service debt;¹²⁶
- a second submission provided by ACTEW to the ICRC during its deliberations on the determination;¹²⁷
- the nature and significance the risk of insolvency by ACTEW in certain price-setting scenarios;¹²⁸ and
- forecasted operating costs for ACTEW.¹²⁹

¹¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1266-1267.

¹¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1267-1268.

¹²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1267-1268.

¹²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1268-1269.

¹²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1269.

¹²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1269.

¹²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1270.

¹²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1270.

¹²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1270.

¹²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1271.

¹²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1271-1272.

¹²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1273.

ACTEW – RECALL HEARING

2.39 In relation to ACTEW the Committee considered:

- proposed figures for operating expenditure for ACTEW;¹³⁰
- attitudes on cost recovery evidenced in development of the ICRC’s determination on water and sewerage;¹³¹
- risks of insolvency by ACTEW;¹³²
- the nature and quality of the working relationship between ACTEW and the ICRC;¹³³
- revenue implications of the ICRC’s final determination on prices for water and sewerage;¹³⁴
- potential effects of the determination on the budget, in view of ACTEW’s obligation return a dividend to government;¹³⁵
- ‘intergenerational transfer’ of investment in water security;¹³⁶
- changes in consumer attitudes to water;¹³⁷
- comparisons of ACTEW’s gearing ratio with utilities in other jurisdictions;¹³⁸
- the quantum of capital repayments by ACTEW each year;¹³⁹ (See QTON No. 273)
- ACTEW’s approach to managing and servicing debt;¹⁴⁰
- ACTEW’s practice of borrowing to repay debt and servicing debt from revenue;¹⁴¹
- comparisons with utilities in other jurisdictions regarding their use of debt to fund infrastructure investment;¹⁴² and
- the extent to which ACTEW is exposed to variations in interest in terms of managing and servicing debt.¹⁴³ (See QTON No. 274)

2.40 Other Matters in relation to ACTEW are discussed in Chapter Three of this report (Commerce and Works Directorate).

TREASURER – RECALL HEARING

2.41 In relation to the Treasurer the Committee considered:

¹³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1274-1275.

¹³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1275.

¹³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1275-1276.

¹³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1276.

¹³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1276-1277.

¹³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1277-1278.

¹³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1278.

¹³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1278-1279.

¹³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1279.

¹³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1280.

¹⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1280-1281.

¹⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1281-1282.

¹⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1282.

¹⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1282.

- whether there would be a variation in the dividend paid by ACTEW to the ACT Government as a result of the prices set in the ICRC's determination on water and sewerage;¹⁴⁴
- potential impacts on the ACT budget as a result of the determination;¹⁴⁵
- the nature and value of the ICRC determination process;¹⁴⁶
- potential risks arising from insufficient investment in infrastructure for water security;¹⁴⁷
- whether there had been a series of different costs quoted over time for the new Cotter Dam;¹⁴⁸
- the longevity of the practice of ACTEW paying dividends to the ACT Government;¹⁴⁹
- how long it would take to pay off the capital cost of the new Cotter Dam;¹⁵⁰
- information provided by the ACT Government to the public about the cost of the Dam;¹⁵¹ (See QTON No. 275)
- the nature and extent of any communications between the Treasurer and his officers and the ICRC during its determination process;¹⁵² (See QTONs No. 276 and No. 277)
- the role of population projections for the ACT in goal-setting for water infrastructure;¹⁵³
- advice received about increases in project costs for the Cotter Dam (See QTON No. 278);¹⁵⁴ and
- whether ACTEW's infrastructure investments were considered prudent and efficient.¹⁵⁵

COMMITTEE COMMENT

2.42 In view of the matters considered on the Recall Day, the Committee makes the following recommendation:

Recommendation 8

2.43 The Committee recommends that the ACT Auditor-General conduct a comprehensive performance audit on ACTEW.

¹⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1283.

¹⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1283-1284.

¹⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1285.

¹⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1285-1286.

¹⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1286-1287.

¹⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1289.

¹⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1289-1290.

¹⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1290-1291, 1293-1294.

¹⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1291-1293.

¹⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, pp. 1294, 1295.

¹⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1293.

¹⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 1 July 2013, p. 1295.

THE CHIEF MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.44 The Committee heard from the Chief Minister and officials on 25 June 2013 to discuss the Chief Minister's portfolio responsibilities.
- 2.45 The Budget Papers also reflect the Chief Minister's role as Minister for Regional Development and responsibilities as Chief Minister for the Arboretum.¹⁵⁶

GOVERNMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY

- 2.46 The Committee considered the following matters regarding Government Policy and Strategy:
- employment of people with a disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT Public Service;¹⁵⁷
 - implications of the Agreement on National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS);¹⁵⁸ and
 - differences in Commonwealth education funding to the ACT as a result of Gonski reforms.¹⁵⁹ (See QTON No. 264)

NATIONAL EDUCATION REFORMS

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 2.47 In the Committee's view it is important for the ACT Government to assess the financial implications of national reforms to education funding.

Recommendation 9

- 2.48 The Committee recommends that the Chief Minister provide a reconciliation of what the Commonwealth would have provided for education funding had the Gonski arrangements not be put in place.**

PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT

- 2.49 The Committee considered the following matters regarding Public Sector Management:
- the commitment to maintain employment levels in the ACT Public Service;¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 3, p. v.

¹⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 878-880.

¹⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 881.

¹⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 881-886; QTON No. 264.

¹⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 886-887.

- the process of negotiating enterprise agreements with unions;¹⁶¹
- accountability indicators for the implementation of government policy and projects;¹⁶²
- savings programs (See QTON No. 266);¹⁶³
- a new format for ACT strategic plan in the next financial year;¹⁶⁴
- progress on implementing the recommendations of the Hawke review (See QTON No. 265);¹⁶⁵
- staff changes due to staff transfer from Treasury and injury management safety;¹⁶⁶
- decrease in budget for this agency from \$42 million to \$30 million;¹⁶⁷
- a review of recruitment guidelines in connection with an Auditor-General's report on Public Sector recruitment;¹⁶⁸
- demographic information on the ACT and the surrounding region;¹⁶⁹
- trends of overseas migration into the ACT (See QTON No. 267);¹⁷⁰ and
- implementation of the Respect, Equity and Diversity (RED) Framework.¹⁷¹

COORDINATED COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.50 The Committee considered the following matters regarding Coordinated Communications and Community Engagement, in connection with the Centenary of Canberra program:

- public opinion on the Skywhale hot-air balloon;¹⁷²
- the appointment of and remuneration package for the Centenary Creative Director;¹⁷³
- movements in numbers of tourists into the ACT as a result of the Centenary;¹⁷⁴ and
- the procurement and selection process, ownership, and operation of the *Skywhale* hot air balloon (See QTONs No. 268, No. 269 and No. 270).¹⁷⁵

¹⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 887-889.

¹⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 889-890.

¹⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 890-893.

¹⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 893.

¹⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 894-895; QTON No. 265.

¹⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 895-896.

¹⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 895-895.

¹⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 896-897.

¹⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 897-899.

¹⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 897-898; QTON No. 267.

¹⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 898-899.

¹⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 900-901; 905-909.

¹⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 900-904.

¹⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 904-905.

¹⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 905-909; QTON No. 268, No. 269 and No. 270.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 2.51 The Committee has significant concerns regarding the procurement, subsequent management, and overall value to the ACT community, of *Skywhale*.

Recommendation 10

- 2.52 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with the full detail of the process that led to the gifting of the *Skywhale* hot air balloon to a Victorian hot air balloon operator.**

Recommendation 11

- 2.53 The Committee recommends that the Executive director, Culture and Communications either substantiate his allegations that there were safety concerns with Picture This Ballooning that led to their not being considered for the gifting of the *Skywhale* or apologise unreservedly.**

ACT EXECUTIVE

- 2.54 The Committee considered the following matters regarding the ACT Executive:
- whether there should be a sixth minister in the ACT;¹⁷⁶
 - the complexion and membership of parliamentary committees;¹⁷⁷
 - the size of the ACT Legislative Assembly in 2015;¹⁷⁸
 - the role and responsibilities of the committee system;¹⁷⁹ and
 - contemporary communication and community-engagement methodologies.¹⁸⁰

SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 2.55 The Committee wishes to underscore its concern over present arrangements in the Legislative Assembly.
- 2.56 In particular it wishes to place on record its concern over the size and organisation of the present ministry. In the Committee's view the present five ministers are insufficient to address the business of government in the ACT. The complexity of relationships between agencies and ministers shows that this is problematic and, at the same time, reduces the transparency of government.

¹⁷⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 910-911.

¹⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 911.

¹⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 911.

¹⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 912-914.

¹⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 914.

2.57 With the number of Members in the Assembly stable until at least the next ACT election, this is closely linked to the complexion and size of parliamentary committees. It is the Committee's view that the present four-Member—two government, two opposition—arrangement for committees prevents them from doing their proper work, which is holding the Executive to account. This cannot occur when the Government holds an effective veto over committee decisions due to tied votes being resolved in the negative.

Recommendation 12

2.58 The Committee recommends that the Assembly move immediately to pass legislation that would provide for a sixth minister.

Recommendation 13

2.59 The Committee recommends that, after legislation providing for a sixth minister is passed, the Chief Minister immediately appoint a sixth minister.

Recommendation 14

2.60 The Committee recommends that all standing committees in the Assembly be comprised of three Members, with a non-government majority.

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

2.61 The Committee considered the following matters regarding the Arboretum:¹⁸¹

- a new irrigation system;
- tree loss; and
- numbers of visitors.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2.62 The Committee considered the following matters regarding Regional Development:

- updated demographic figures on the ACT and surrounding regions and their implications for regional development;¹⁸²
- trends on overseas migration into the ACT;¹⁸³ and
- that a Select Committee was inquiring into regional development.¹⁸⁴

¹⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 917-918, 919.

¹⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 897-899.

¹⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 897-898.

¹⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 919.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

- 2.63 Budget Paper 4 states that the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations holds responsibility for ‘private sector industrial relations and workers compensation’ and ‘work safety policy’.¹⁸⁵
- 2.64 It also states that the Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate is responsible for providing ‘strategic policy advice and high level support’ to the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, described in detail under Output 1.3: Industrial Relations Policy.¹⁸⁶
- 2.65 On 19 June 2013 the Committee the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations appeared before the Committee with his officers. The Committee considered the following matters in the portfolio:
- the roles and responsibilities of an additional 12 WorkSafe inspectors;¹⁸⁷
 - total numbers of WorkSafe inspectors;¹⁸⁸
 - levies imposed on insurers to cover costs of the new inspectors and other regulatory costs;¹⁸⁹
 - how insurers will pass on cost of levies to policyholders and Government policy on this;¹⁹⁰
 - work safety implications of asbestos in infrastructure currently being replaced in connection with the National Broadband Network (NBN);¹⁹¹
 - progress on implementation of recommendations of WorkSafe ACT’s *Getting home safely* report;¹⁹²
 - the process by which WorkSafe ACT receives and manages complaints, including in relation to the Cotter Dam;¹⁹³ and
 - measures taken by WorkSafe ACT to educate employers and workers about work safety, and avenues through which to raise concerns.¹⁹⁴

¹⁸⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p.v.

¹⁸⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 36-37.

¹⁸⁷ Proof Transcript of Evidence 19 June 2013, p.455.

¹⁸⁸ Proof Transcript of Evidence 19 June 2013, p.456.

¹⁸⁹ Proof Transcript of Evidence 19 June 2013, pp. 455-456.

¹⁹⁰ Proof Transcript of Evidence 19 June 2013, p.457.

¹⁹¹ Proof Transcript of Evidence 19 June 2013, p.457.

¹⁹² Proof Transcript of Evidence 19 June 2013, pp. 457-458.

¹⁹³ Proof Transcript of Evidence 19 June 2013, pp. 458-462.

¹⁹⁴ Proof Transcript of Evidence 19 June 2013, pp. 462-463.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE AUTHORITY

2.66 The Long Service Leave Authority is discussed in its *Statement of Intent 2013-14*.¹⁹⁵

2.67 On 19 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the Long Service Leave Authority:

- the Authority's investment strategy and performance of its investments;¹⁹⁶
- assessments of liabilities for long service leave against funds on hand;¹⁹⁷
- measures taken to ensure compliance with long service schemes managed by the Authority, in terms of education and compliance inspections;¹⁹⁸
- proposed amendments to the Act governing the Authority;¹⁹⁹
- the quantum of the levy imposed on employers to support the scheme;²⁰⁰ and
- the status of the Manning Clark office building as a significant asset under the Authority's administration.²⁰¹

¹⁹⁵ 2013-14 Budget, *ACT Long Service Leave Authority Statement of Intent*.

¹⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 463-464.

¹⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p.464.

¹⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 465-466.

¹⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p.466.

²⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 466-467.

²⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p.467.

3 COMMERCE AND WORKS DIRECTORATE

3.1 The Commerce and Works Directorate is responsible for three main business functions: the Shared Services Centre, the ACT Revenue office and the ACT Insurance Authority. The Directorate also provides policy advice in respect of government business enterprises.²⁰²

3.2 The Committee heard from the Treasurer on Monday 17 June and Tuesday 18 June 2013 in relation to the following Output Classes:

- Revenue and Government Business Management (Output Class 1)²⁰³
 - Revenue and Government Business Management (Output Class 1.1)
- Shared Services ICT (Output Class 2)²⁰⁴
 - Shared Services ICT (Output Class 2.1)
- Shared Services Procurement (Output Class 3)²⁰⁵
 - Shared Services Procurement (Output Class 3.1)
- Shared Services Human Resources (Output Class 4)²⁰⁶
 - Shared Services Human Resources (Output Class 4.1)
- Shared Services Finance (Output Class 5)²⁰⁷
 - Shared Services Finance (Output Class 5.1)

3.3 On Monday 17 June 2013 the Committee also discussed issues in relation to the following:

- Home Loan Portfolio;²⁰⁸
- The ACT Insurance Authority;²⁰⁹
- ACTTAB;²¹⁰ and
- ACTEW.²¹¹

²⁰² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 163.

²⁰³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 162-166.

²⁰⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 167, 170, 190, 194.

²⁰⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 167, 168, 171, 191, 194, 598-599 and 609.

²⁰⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 168, 171, 192, 194, 598, 600, 610, 612.

²⁰⁷ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 169, 172, 193, 194, 598, 600, 611.

²⁰⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 195-201.

²⁰⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 433-440.

²¹⁰ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 459-465.

²¹¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 449-457.

REVENUE AND GOVERNMENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

3.4 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding Revenue and Government Business Management:

- the development of new web-based applications for the Revenue Office;²¹²
- how the Revenue Office provides ‘advice to assist taxpayers in meeting their obligations’;²¹³
- utilisation rates for office space;²¹⁴
- estimated employment levels;²¹⁵
- changes in staffing levels for the Revenue Office;²¹⁶
- the arrears profile for the Office;²¹⁷ (See QTON No. 151)
- numbers of outstanding bad debts;²¹⁸ (See QTON No. 150)
- compliance efforts with regard to land tax and payroll tax;²¹⁹ (See QTON No. 152)
- numbers of cases taken to courts each year for debt collection.²²⁰

SHARED SERVICES ICT

3.5 On 18 June 2013 the Committee considered the following Shared Services ICT matters:

- Shared Services ICT’s approach to the market for a data centre, the use of a Commonwealth panel of providers, and the tender process;²²¹
- benchmarking of Shared Services ICT’s costs against peer organisations;²²²
- Shared Services ICT’s record in protecting against attacks on government websites;²²³
- Shared Services ICT’s support of the rollout of new school ICT networks;²²⁴ and
- performance rating of ICT systems.²²⁵

²¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 178-179.

²¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 179-180.

²¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 180-181.

²¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 181.

²¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 182.

²¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 182-183.

²¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 184-185.

²¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 185-186.

²²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 187.

²²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 231-234.

²²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 234-235.

²²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 235.

²²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 235-236.

²²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 236-237.

SHARED SERVICES PROCUREMENT

3.6 On 18 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding Shared Services Procurement:

- the cancellation of a Health Directorate project at Canberra Hospital;²²⁶ (See QTON No. 175, No. 176 and No. 177)
- a ‘new small business criterion for requests for tender’;²²⁷
- the extent to which online platforms support ACT tender processes;²²⁸
- pre-qualification schemes for tenders;²²⁹ (See QTON No. 170)
- instances where trusts were not allowed to tender;²³⁰ (See QTON 172)
- tenders received for a proposed new Data Centre;²³¹ (See QTON No. 173) and
- Shared Services Procurement’s role in managing capital works projects by agencies.²³²

TENDERING PROCESSES

COMMITTEE COMMENT

3.7 The Committee views with concern the ACT Government’s withdrawal late in a tender process for capital infrastructure in the health area.

Recommendation 15

3.8 The Committee recommends that the Government better manage their procurement processes to minimise the number of tenders withdrawn or cancelled causing loss to tenderers.

3.9 The Committee noted that the ACT Government is increasing the proportion of tenders available online.

Recommendation 16

3.10 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government further extend the provision of online tendering.

²²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 237-241.

²²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 241-242.

²²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 242-243.

²²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 243-244, 245-246.

²³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 246.

²³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 231.

²³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 244-245.

SHARED SERVICES HUMAN RESOURCES

3.11 On 18 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding Shared Services Human Resources:

- the implications of high numbers of people acting in higher duties in ACT public service positions;²³³
- how performance standards for recruitment are set;²³⁴
- the provision of 'tactical services to directorates' by Shared Services Human Resources;²³⁵
- internal and external provision of training;²³⁶ and
- current and future HR information management system solutions, including cleansing of data held in the present Chris21 system.²³⁷ (See QTONs No. 171 and No. 174)

SHARED SERVICES FINANCE

3.12 On 18 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding Shared Services Finances:

- a new contract with Westpac as provider for the Territory Bank Account and tender requirements and a microcredit loan scheme associated with the contract;²³⁸ (See QTONs No. 167, No. 168 and No. 169), Shared Services Finance's role in in-house printing and electronic publishing;²³⁹
- payment of invoices (See QTON No. 166);²⁴⁰ and
- ACTPS of Finance's development and maintenance of the Oracle e-business suite.²⁴¹

MICROCREDIT LOANS

3.13 Committee notes that the Government's microcredit budget initiative was welcomed by Women with Disabilities ACT.

Recommendation 17

3.14 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include women with disabilities as a target group for marketing this initiative.

²³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 244-247.

²³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 247-248.

²³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 248-249.

²³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p.249.

²³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 249-252.

²³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 253-255.

²³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 255.

²⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 258.

²⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 255-258.

EMPLOYEE DATA

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 3.15 The Committee takes the view that the management of employee data is a significant and sensitive part of government responsibilities. It notes the data cleansing project currently being undertaken on data held in the Chris21 system.

Recommendation 18

- 3.16 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Assembly quarterly on the progress of the 'data cleansing' of information held in the Chris21 system until the process is completed.**

HOME LOAN PORTFOLIO

- 3.17 The Home Loan Portfolio is responsible for the administration of home loans, which were granted by the Commissioner for ACT Housing to assist low-income households in achieving home ownership. All ACT Government home buyer lending ceased in 1996.²⁴²
- 3.18 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the Home Loan Portfolio:
- the number of loans in arrears, and measures to address this;²⁴³
 - progressive reductions in the number of home loans in the Portfolio;²⁴⁴
 - the anticipated year for closure of the portfolio;²⁴⁵
 - 'deferred assistance' for loan holders in financial distress;²⁴⁶
 - 'transactions involving owners affecting accumulated funds';²⁴⁷
 - the effectiveness of a new financial management system;²⁴⁸
 - a review of the Portfolio by KPMG, concerned with capital adequacy, and its recommendations;²⁴⁹ (See QTON No. 155) and
 - administrative costs entailed by managing the Portfolio.²⁵⁰

²⁴² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 195.

²⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 196.

²⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 196.

²⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 196.

²⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 196-197.

²⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 197.

²⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 198.

²⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 198.

²⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 199.

REVIEW OF THE HOME LOAN PORTFOLIO

- 3.19 In public hearings the Committee heard that there had been an internal review of the Home Loan Portfolio, regarding capital adequacy.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 3.20 The Committee expressed interest in the above report and took the view that it would be in the public interest for the review report to be made public.

Recommendation 19

- 3.21 The Committee recommends that the Government make public as soon as practicable the report into the future of the Home Loan Portfolio.**

ACT INSURANCE AUTHORITY

- 3.22 As the ACT Government's captive insurer, the ACT Insurance Authority (the Authority) works to protect the assets and services of the Territory by providing risk management and insurance services to a large and diverse group of ACT Government client agencies and entities.²⁵¹
- 3.23 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the ACT Insurance Authority:
- the significance of the Authority's use of a captive insurance model;²⁵²
 - the apportioning of risk, under the model, between self-insured risk and that passed on to reinsurers;²⁵³
 - delivery of a program of general and targeted risk management training courses to Territory agencies;²⁵⁴
 - the Authority's 'indirect' provision of advice on 'public liability insurance for territory use of public space or community use of territory space';²⁵⁵
 - insurance provision for the National Arboretum;²⁵⁶
 - the balance between ordinary expenses and 'other expenses' for the Authority, listed in the budget;²⁵⁷

²⁵¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 433.

²⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 188-189.

²⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 189-190.

²⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 190-191.

²⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 191-192.

²⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 192-193.

²⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 193.

- average claim size in the property class;²⁵⁸
- final settlement of claims from 2003 bushfires;²⁵⁹
- a large figure for 'other expenses' for this output in the budget papers;²⁶⁰
- items listed for 'Other Expenses' and 'Current Assets' on the Authority's financial statements;²⁶¹ (See QTON No. 153 and 154) and
- key performance indicators for the average number of days to process insurance claims and comparisons with private-sector insurance providers.²⁶²

USE OF 'OTHER EXPENSES'

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 3.24 The Committee views with concern the use of the term 'other expenses' to present proportionally large amounts of money in the budget papers.

Recommendation 20

- 3.25 The Committee recommends that when the line 'other expenses' is the largest in the financial statements that where possible the amount be broken down further or more detailed information be included in the notes.**

ACTTAB LIMITED

- 3.26 ACTTAB Limited (ACTTAB) is a Territory-owned Corporation which provides betting services including pari-mutuel and fixed odds betting services.²⁶³

- 3.27 Budget Paper No. 4 for the 2013-14 Budget also states that 'that:

ACTTAB strives to provide a competitive wagering business that will maximise sustainable returns to its shareholders and maintain its commitment to the ACT community, particularly in relation to support of community organisations and sporting bodies.²⁶⁴

²⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 193.

²⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 194.

²⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 193.

²⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 193, 195.

²⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 194-195.

²⁶³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 459.

²⁶⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 459.

3.28 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding ACTTAB:

- 'a review commissioned into ACTTAB about the viability ... of ACTTAB remaining within the government or not';²⁶⁵
- 'implementing and delivering strategies to minimise the harmful effects of gambling';²⁶⁶
- self-exclusions by problem gamblers;²⁶⁷
- measures to 'enhance the capability, diversity and flexibility' of the ACT workforce;²⁶⁸
- variations in 'cash flows from investing activities';²⁶⁹
- ACTTAB policy on advertising, particularly in relation to advertising live odds;²⁷⁰ and
- two matters where fraud had been alleged.²⁷¹

COMMITTEE COMMENT

3.29 The Committee considers that the future of ACTTAB, in particular as to whether it continues to operate as a Territory-owned corporation, is an important matter. It notes that a report on this matter has been produced.

Recommendation 21

3.30 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make public as soon as practicable the report into the future ownership of ACTTAB.

ACTEW CORPORATION

3.31 The Budget papers describe ACTEW Corporation's role as providing 'safe, innovative and sustainable water, energy and related services to support the economic, cultural and social development of the Capital Region.'²⁷²

3.32 On 17 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding ACTEW:

- costings for the Cotter Dam;²⁷³ (See QON No. 27)
- Development Applications ('DAs') for the Dam;²⁷⁴ (See QTONs No. 156 and No. 157)
- a stated intention to increase focus on business outcomes and customer management;²⁷⁵

²⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 199.

²⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 200.

²⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p.200.

²⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 200.

²⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 200.

²⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 201.

²⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 201.

²⁷² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 449.

²⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 203.

²⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 204-205.

²⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 205-206.

- drinking-water quality in the ACT;²⁷⁶
- water quality for outflows to the Murray-Darling river system;²⁷⁷
- plans and completion dates for the Cotter Dam;²⁷⁸ (See QTONs No. 158 and No. 159)
- meetings of the Bulk Water Alliance;²⁷⁹ (See QTON No. 160)
- whether projected costings for the Dam had changed over time;
- components of the overall cost of the Dam;²⁸⁰ (See QTON No. 161)
- measures to address environmental effects of work on the Dam on fauna and flora;²⁸¹ (See QTON No. 162)
- cracks in the dam wall arising from a flood event and other causes;²⁸²
- the cost of remediating cracks arising from the flood event;²⁸³
- sourcing of commodities for the Dam and measures taken to manage the cost of those commodities;²⁸⁴ (See QTON No. 163)
- amounts of excavation and concrete required for work on the dam;²⁸⁵ (See QTON No. 164)
- quality assurance for the dam project;²⁸⁶
- the number and cost implications of interruptions to concrete pours for the dam;²⁸⁷ (See QTON No. 165)
- treatment of bio-solids arising from sewerage processing;²⁸⁸
- variances in interest items shown for ACTEW;²⁸⁹
- costs of servicing loans and the outlook for debt held by ACTEW;²⁹⁰ and
- a reduction in positions within ACTEW following the acquisition of its water business.²⁹¹

²⁷⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 206-207.

²⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 207, 221-223.

²⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 208.

²⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 210-211.

²⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 208-209, 210-211.

²⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 212-214.

²⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, p. 215

²⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 216-217.

²⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 217-218.

²⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 218-219.

²⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 219-220.

²⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 220-221.

²⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 222-223.

²⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 222-223.

²⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 224-226.

²⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 17 June 2013, pp. 227-228.

COTTER DAM

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 3.33 The Committee views with concern the progress increase in the cost of the Cotter Dam from the figure given at the first announcement that the Dam would proceed (\$145M) to the final figure of \$405M. The Committee takes the view that under these circumstances it is important to identify contributing factors to these cost increases.

Recommendation 22

- 3.34 The Committee recommends that ACTEW Water detail through the Minister responsible to the Assembly the proposed costs of the following Cotter Dam elements—concrete; steel; excavation—at the following price points—\$145,000,000; \$250,000,000; \$363,000,000; \$405,000,000—by the last sitting day in August this year.**
- 3.35 The Committee also heard from ACTEW on 1 July 2013 in relation to the ICRC water pricing determination. This matter is discussed in detail in Chapter Two (Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate and Related Agencies).

4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

4.1 The primary purpose of the Economic Development Directorate is to contribute to the economic and social development of the Canberra region, through securing the future productivity, jobs and infrastructure, and improving the Territory's economic performance and overall wellbeing of its people.²⁹²

4.2 The Directorate provides services through the following Output Classes:

- Economic Development (Output Class 1)
 - Economic Development Policy (Output Class 1.1)²⁹³
 - Business Development (Output Class 1.2)²⁹⁴
 - Tourism (Output Class 1.3)²⁹⁵
 - Sport and Recreation (Output Class 1.4)
 - Venues and Events (Output Class 1.5)²⁹⁶
 - Land Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery (Output Class 1.6)²⁹⁷

4.3 The Budget Papers outline the following Ministerial responsibilities relevant to the Directorate:

- Minister for Economic Development:
 - Business support programs;
 - Coordinator-General;
 - Land development;
 - Land release policy (including the Land Release Program);
 - Major land and property project facilitation; and
 - Skills and economic development'.²⁹⁸
- Minister for Tourism and Events:
 - Tourism and events (including Territory venues).²⁹⁹
- Minister for Sport and Recreation.³⁰⁰

²⁹² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 127.

²⁹³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 133, 135.

²⁹⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 133, 136.

²⁹⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 134, 138.

²⁹⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 134, 138.

²⁹⁷ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 135, 139.

²⁹⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. v.

²⁹⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. v.

³⁰⁰ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. v.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

4.4 On 18 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding Economic Development Policy:

- the red tape reduction program;³⁰¹
- the Directorate's responsibilities for assessment in connection with the 'city to the lake' program;³⁰²
- plans toward a new convention centre;³⁰³
- updates for the Infrastructure Plan;³⁰⁴ and
- preparations for the co-location of the three ACT racing clubs.³⁰⁵

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

4.5 On 18 June 2013 the Committee considered the following Business Development matters:

- the Directorate's provision of 'programs, initiatives and business policy advice to support business development in the ACT';³⁰⁶
- the Global Connect program;³⁰⁷
- education as a service export;³⁰⁸
- the Digital Enterprise Centre;³⁰⁹
- Canberra BusinessPoint; (See QTON No. 6)³¹⁰
- the Innovation Connect Grants Program; (See QTON No. 7)³¹¹
- ScreenACT and the Screen Investment Fund; (See QTON No. 8)³¹²
- the ACT's involvement with National ICT Australia (NICTA);³¹³
- the ACT's skilled and business migration program (See QTON No. 10);³¹⁴
- the Centre for Exporting Government Solutions;³¹⁵
- the Innovation Connect program;³¹⁶ and

³⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 275-278.

³⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 281-282

³⁰³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 282-284.

³⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 287-288.

³⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 289-290.

³⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 279-280.

³⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 284-285, 294-295.

³⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 286.

³⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 287.

³¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 291-294.

³¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 295-296.

³¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 296-298.

³¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 298-299.

³¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 299-304.

³¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 304-305.

- the Entry 29 business-incubation space.³¹⁷

TOURISM

4.6 On 18 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding Tourism:

- an increase in funding for tourism;³¹⁸
- expenditures on the Enlighten festival, Canberra Convention Bureau, the tourism events fund, the national capital education and tourism project and international marketing to New Zealand and Singapore;³¹⁹
- occupancy rates in ACT hotels;³²⁰
- other dimensions of international marketing for tourism into the ACT, and the significance of direct flights from Asia into Canberra;³²¹
- effects on tourism, and other implications, of the Canberra Centenary;³²²
- the human brochure program;³²³ and
- visitor satisfaction numbers and economic benefits to the ACT.³²⁴

COMMITTEE COMMENT

4.7 The Committee takes the view that more could be done to promote key elements of the ACT's tourism industry.

Recommendation 23

4.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop specific strategies for the Tourism industry for:

- **accommodation;**
- **events; and**
- **new attractions.**

³¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 305-306.

³¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 306-307.

³¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 338.

³¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 339.

³²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 339-340.

³²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 341-343.

³²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 343-345.

³²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 345-346.

³²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 347-349.

SPORT AND RECREATION

4.9 On 18 June 2013 the Committee heard about the following key Sport and Recreation issues:

MAINTENANCE OF SPORTING GROUNDS

4.10 The Committee enquired about the funding allocated in the budget for additional staff to assist in the maintenance of sporting grounds. The Minister advised that the additional staff will assist in a range of areas related to upgrading sports infrastructure such as improving irrigation systems and resurfacing sportsgrounds.³²⁵

COMMITTEE COMMENT

4.11 The Committee recognises the value of sporting grounds to the ACT community and notes the importance of ensuring that these facilities are well maintained.

Recommendation 24

4.12 The Committee recommends that the Economic Development Directorate develop an improved maintenance schedule to avoid closure of sports ground facilities due to neglect and decline as was the case with the Narrabundah Velodrome.

OTHER ISSUES

4.13 The Committee also heard about the following Sport and Recreation matters:

- provision of funding to house community sports facilities as part of a sports hub at the University of Canberra;³²⁶
- funding allocated to progress the design work stage of upgrading facilities at Greenway, which has also involved consultation with a Greenway oval subcommittee;³²⁷ (See QON No. 34)
- capital works projects including:
 - Lyneham sports precinct central amenities;³²⁸
 - netball infrastructure upgrade;³²⁹ (See QTON No. 12)
 - Melrose synthetic football facility design;³³⁰
 - Narrabundah velodrome upgrade;³³¹ (See QON No. 33)

³²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 334-335.

³²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 329-330.

³²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 330-331.

³²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 331-332.

³²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 332.

³³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 332-333.

- recruitment of staff to undertake work related to maintenance of sporting grounds;³³²
- increase in fees to hire sporting grounds, with some variation in the level of increase across facilities;³³³
- role of Sport and Recreation in the whole-of-government commitment to tackle obesity;³³⁴
- sports grants program;³³⁵
- community motorsport development program grants;³³⁶ (See QTON No. 13) and the
- progress of a study undertaken to assess the need for additional indoor sporting space.³³⁷

VENUES AND EVENTS (INCLUDING EPIC)

4.14 On 18 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding Venues and Events:

- attendance numbers at public sporting events;³³⁸
- events planned at Stromlo Park, including the WEMBO world solo mountain bike championships, and further development of Stromlo Park;³³⁹
- the long-term plan for Canberra Stadium in light of 'possible development of a stadium in Civic as part of the city to the lake',³⁴⁰
- 'new spectator facilities and media infrastructure' and events at Manuka Oval;³⁴¹
- results of a review of catering at Manuka and Canberra Stadium;³⁴²
- the Qhopper application, 'a product ... for iPhones that would see people able to order their food and beverages from their seats';³⁴³
- the tourism major events fund,³⁴⁴ and
- a low-cost tourist accommodation project at EPIC (Exhibition Park in Canberra).³⁴⁵

³³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 333-331.

³³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 334-335.

³³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 335-336.

³³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 336-337.

³³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 337.

³³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 337-338.

³³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 337-338.

³³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 350-351.

³³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 351-352.

³⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 352-354.

³⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 355-356.

³⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 356-357.

³⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 357.

³⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 357-358.

³⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 358-359.

LAND STRATEGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

- 4.15 On 18 June 2013 the Committee heard about the following key Land Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery issues:

MAJURA PARK ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

- 4.16 The Committee was informed that funding for the Majura Park Estate development provides for design work for road infrastructure to facilitate land release adjacent to the existing Majura Park estate. The new road will be between the new Majura Parkway and the existing Majura Road.³⁴⁶
- 4.17 The Committee sought additional details about the precise location and design of the new road infrastructure which will allow for land release in the surrounding area³⁴⁷ and was advised about proposed arrangements for an off-ramp off the Majura Parkway which will come down into the development estate. A feasibility study has been commissioned to develop an initial design of where the ramp will be located.³⁴⁸
- 4.18 The Committee was further advised that approximately 30 to 40 hectares are expected to be available for a business park and other industrial uses.³⁴⁹

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 4.19 The Committee considers planning arrangements in connection with new road works for Majura Parkway to be significant.
- 4.20 The Committee expressed concern about some of the road infrastructure options being explored for the Majura Park Estate development and believes that further planning and analysis be undertaken.

Recommendation 25

- 4.21 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the proposed on and off arrangements from the Majura Parkway with a view to constructing an interchange at the northern end on Majura Park to allow for greater access to Majura Park and the airport.**

³⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 314.

³⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 314-317.

³⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 314-317.

³⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 318.

Recommendation 26

- 4.22 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the Commonwealth Government to deliver an interchange for the Majura Park complex.**

RIVERVIEW DEVELOPMENT

- 4.23 The Committee enquired about the Government's role in the Riverview land release and was advised that the Riverview project will remain a Land Development Agency land release. Mr Dan Stewart, Deputy Director-General, Land Development Agency Strategy and Finance observed that the project 'is unique in the sense that we will be engaging an external party to assist in the formal development of the area in question'.³⁵⁰
- 4.24 The Directorate will assist in preparing the Territory Plan Variation and the engagement with the National Capital Authority.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 4.25 The Committee notes that the Economic Development Directorate will engage an external party to assist in the development of the Riverview land area and feels it would be beneficial if analysis of the required infrastructure for the development was made publically available.

Recommendation 27

- 4.26 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide analysis of what infrastructure will be required to support the proposed Riverview development.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 4.27 The Committee also heard about the following Land Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery issues:
- the relationship between Land Strategy And Infrastructure Delivery and the Land Development Agency;³⁵¹
 - rollover of expenditure for capital works projects:³⁵²
 - the Narrabundah long stay caravan park;³⁵³
 - John Gorton Drive extension;³⁵⁴

³⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 311.

³⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 307-309.

³⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 309-311.

³⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 309.

³⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 309.

- Manuka Oval redevelopment;³⁵⁵
- sale of blocks in the first suburbs of Molonglo;³⁵⁶
 - projects at Coombs and North Weston;
- engagement and negotiations with the Services Club about the redevelopment of their site;³⁵⁷
- progress of the Riverview land release project;³⁵⁸
- median house prices in the ACT;³⁵⁹
- Majura Park Estate development, including the planning and development for the Majura parkway;³⁶⁰
- Capital Metro Project and its associated land release opportunities and connections with other capital works projects;³⁶¹
 - potential relocations of the racetrack and EPIC to the Majura Valley, and planning arrangements around the expansion of the Majura Parkway;³⁶²
- comparisons between Capital Metro and a similar project on the Gold Coast in Queensland;³⁶³ (See QTON No. 12)
- Eastern broadacre strategy;³⁶⁴
- update about the City to the Lake project including:³⁶⁵
 - progress on determining the uplift value (that is, increasing property values);³⁶⁶ (See QTON No. 11)
 - links to the Capital Metro project;³⁶⁷;
 - infrastructure—residential, sport and recreational, transport;³⁶⁸
 - community consultation in connection with the City to the Lake program;³⁶⁹
 - projects associated with City to the Lake;³⁷⁰
 - lessons learned from the Kingston Foreshore development;³⁷¹

³⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 310-311.

³⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 310.

³⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 310.

³⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 311-312.

³⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 312-313.

³⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 313-320.

³⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 318-320.

³⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 318-319.

³⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 320-322.

³⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 320.

³⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 320-327.

³⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 320-322.

³⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 321.

³⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 322-324.

³⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 322, 324-325.

³⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 322

³⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 323

- comparative analysis of City to the Lake and urban planning in the Melbourne CBD;³⁷²
- the Australia Forum proposal;³⁷³
- plans for a basilica;³⁷⁴ and
 - planned upgrade to the Isabella weir at Lake Tuggeranong.³⁷⁵

LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

4.28 The Land Development Agency (LDA) has responsibility for developing and releasing Territory-owned land for residential, commercial, industrial, community and other non-urban purposes. The LDA is a Territory authority established by section 31 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*.³⁷⁶

LAND RELEASE PROGRAM

- 4.29 The Committee considered the following matters regarding the Land Release Program:
- an update on whether the land release program targets will be met for 2012-13 and how the targets will be achieved in future years;³⁷⁷
 - the breakdown of blocks within the land release program by land use type;³⁷⁸
 - the implications for the land release program of the recently announced joint venture between the ACT Government and the Riverview Group for the new residential development in West Belconnen;³⁷⁹
 - the level of public infrastructure required for the Riverview Group development;³⁸⁰
 - funding for the government's housing affordability strategy and the number of homes delivered through the OwnPlace program;³⁸¹
 - an update on the Denman Prospect Englobo sale;³⁸²
 - outcomes for commercial businesses of the mixed use development at Kingston;³⁸³

³⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 323-324.

³⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 325-326.

³⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 326-327.

³⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 327-328.

³⁷⁶ *Land Development Agency Annual Report 2011-12*, p. 8; 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 515.

³⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 259-261.

³⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 261.

³⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 261-262.

³⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 262.

³⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 262-263.

³⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 263-264.

³⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 275.

- interaction between LDA and the Community Services Directorate with respect to the Allawah, Bega and Currong (ABC) flats redevelopment;
- timeline for development of the suburb of Lawson, Belconnen;³⁸⁴
- application and benefits of the green star communities rating tool;³⁸⁵ and the
- number of times that LDA has been the sole proponent for a Territory Plan Variation.³⁸⁶
(See QTON No. 5)

TRANSPARENCY

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 4.30 It is the Committee's view that land development, and land release in particular, is of central importance in the ACT. As a result, it considers that transparency of process is critical.

Recommendation 28

- 4.31 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency detail every year in its Statement of Intent the number of construction ready blocks 'on the shelf' available for immediate release.**

Recommendation 29

- 4.32 The Committee recommends that the Budget document the number of dwellings to be released, broken down by type, such as standard residential blocks, terraces and town houses.**

Recommendation 30

- 4.33 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency update their website with accurate information about the timing of the development of new suburbs.**

PROPERTY MARKET

- 4.34 The Committee also considers that the business of land development and sales should be carried out with due attention to the market and within the scope of what is possible to achieve given market conditions.

³⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 269.

³⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 270-271.

³⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 273.

Recommendation 31

- 4.35 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency present the reasons why there was only one registered bidder for the Denman auction.**

Recommendation 32

- 4.36 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency advise the Community Services Directorate on the capability of the market to develop property, such as redevelopment of the Allawah, Bega and Currong (ABC) flats site.**

VARIATION 306 TO THE TERRITORY PLAN

- 4.37 The Committee considered the following matters regarding Variation 306 to the Territory Plan:
- implications of Territory Plan Variation No 306 (Variation 306) for the housing market;³⁸⁷
 - impact of Variation 306's solar provisions on built form and estate design;³⁸⁸
 - timeline for development of the suburb of Lawson, Belconnen;³⁸⁹ and the
 - application and benefits of the green star communities rating tool.³⁹⁰
- 4.38 The Committee was advised that the LDA provided comments on Variation 306 as part of the standard Cabinet submission consultation process.³⁹¹
- 4.39 The Committee was also advised that the LDA is currently working through the impact of Variation 306 on the market.³⁹²
- 4.40 When discussing the different components of Variation 306, Mr Dawes, Director-General/Chief Executive Officer, Land Development Agency said:

I know there has been a bit of hysteria from certain segments of the industry, but I think actually when you look into it there are some very, very good provisions. I think already it is a matter of education with the industry organisations that have those concerns.³⁹³

³⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 264-267, 269-270.

³⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 267-269.

³⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 269.

³⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 270-271.

³⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 265.

³⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 264.

³⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 264.

- 4.41 The Committee enquired about the implications of solar provisions in Variation 306 with particular reference to the suburb of Lawson. Directorate officials confirmed that all blocks within Lawson will 'accommodate a house compliant with the 306 variations'.³⁹⁴

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 4.42 The Committee notes that a level of uncertainty and concern about Variation 306 remains in the community.

Recommendation 33

- 4.43 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail in the Assembly, before the recommencement of debate on the Appropriation Bill 2013-2014, the cost implications of Variation 306 on:**

- the land release program; and
- house and land prices in the ACT.

Recommendation 34

- 4.44 The Committee recommends that the Land Development Agency undertakes a review of Variation 306.**

Recommendation 35

- 4.45 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Economic Development apologise for officials describing the response by 'segments of the industry' as 'hysteria' with regard to Variation 306.**

ACT GAMBLING AND RACING COMMISSION

- 4.46 The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission (the Commission) is an independent statutory authority established under the *Gambling and Racing Control Act 1999* to control, supervise and regulate gambling and racing activities in the Territory.³⁹⁵

³⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, p. 269.

³⁹⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 423.

4.47 On 26 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding Output 1.1:
Gambling Regulation and Harm Minimisation:

- plans to reduce the overall number of poker machines in the ACT;³⁹⁶
- requests by the Canberra Casino to operate class A poker machines;³⁹⁷
- potential conflicts of interest for the ACT Labor Government in that it receives funds from Labor clubs which operate poker machines while also being the regulator;³⁹⁸
- projects being undertaken by the Problem Gambling Assistance Fund, providing gambling counselling and support services;³⁹⁹
- the development of ‘an online electronic database for the exclusion of persons who wish to control their gambling activity’ and training to gambling venue staff on the database;⁴⁰⁰
- upgrades to the Gaming and Racing website;⁴⁰¹
- research into gambling commissioned by Gaming and Racing;⁴⁰²
- signage developed to assist problem gamblers;⁴⁰³
- problem gaming and support services provided by Mission Australia;⁴⁰⁴
- the work of Gambling Contact Officers;⁴⁰⁵
- relationship with law enforcement agencies both nationally and internationally;⁴⁰⁶
- winding up of the Sports Alive betting business, involving fraud investigations and liquidation;⁴⁰⁷
- conduct and frequency of audits of betting businesses registered in the ACT;⁴⁰⁸
- current regulation of bookmakers in the ACT;⁴⁰⁹ and
- an audit compliance program at the Canberra Casino.⁴¹⁰

³⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 922.

³⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 922.

³⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 922-924.

³⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 924-925.

⁴⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 925.

⁴⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 925.

⁴⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 925-926.

⁴⁰³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 926.

⁴⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 926-927.

⁴⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 927.

⁴⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 927.

⁴⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 928-929.

⁴⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 929-930.

⁴⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 930-932.

⁴¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 932.

5 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIRECTORATE

5.1 The work of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate comprises a range of activities related to the administration of justice, protection of rights and law reform, law enforcement, business regulation and emergency services.⁴¹¹

5.2 The Directorate provides services through the following Output Classes:

- Justice Services (Output Class 1)
 - Policy Advice and Justice Programs (Output Class 1.1)
 - Legal Services to Government (Output Class 1.2)
 - Legislative Drafting and Publishing Services (Output Class 1.3)
 - Public Prosecutions (Output Class 1.4)
 - Protection of Rights (Output Class 1.5)
 - Electoral Services (Output Class 1.6)
 - Regulatory and Transport Services (Output Class 1.7)
 - Transport Regulation (Output Class 1.8)
- Corrective Services (Output Class 2)
- Courts and Tribunal (Output Class 3)
- Emergency Services (Output Class 4)
- ACT Policing (EBT 1)

5.3 A number of independent statutory offices are administered under the justice and community safety portfolio including:

- ACT Electoral Commission;
- ACT Human Rights Commission;
- Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Legal Aid ACT;
- Public Advocate of the ACT; and the
- Public Trustee for the ACT.

5.4 The Committee dealt with the above areas at public hearings on 14, 19 and 27 June 2013.

⁴¹¹ Justice and Community Safety, http://www.justice.act.gov.au/directorate_functions/about_the_directorate accessed 4 July 2013.

GENERAL

5.5 General issues raised at the hearing on 19 June 2013 included:

- savings measures required of the Directorate for the 2013-14 financial year to be achieved in a range of areas across the portfolio;
- identification of measures to streamline boards and committees to reflect current priorities and identify savings.⁴¹²

POLICY ADVICE AND JUSTICE PROGRAMS

5.6 The Committee heard evidence on the following Policy Advice and Justice Program matters:

- allocation of funding for policy advice and justice programs;⁴¹³
- restorative justice programs, including the Indigenous Guidance Partner,⁴¹⁴ (See QTON No. 75)
- 100% of legislation requested by the Government has been delivered by the Directorate within specified timelines;⁴¹⁵ and the
- provision of funding to establish the Community Legal Hub which will co-locate a range of community legal centres in commercial accommodation.⁴¹⁶ (See QON No. 1)

5.7 The Committee notes that restorative justice is limited to juveniles.

Recommendation 36

5.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider extending the restorative justice program to adults.

LEGAL SERVICES TO GOVERNMENT

5.9 The Committee heard evidence on the following Legal Services to Government matters:

- reduction in the budget allocation for services required from the Government Solicitor;⁴¹⁷
- increase in the volume and complexity of work undertaken by the Government Solicitor;⁴¹⁸

⁴¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 364-366.

⁴¹³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 212; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 361

⁴¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 362-363.

⁴¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 362-363.

⁴¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 362, 405.

⁴¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 368-369.

⁴¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 368-370.

- results from client surveys (undertaken twice a year) indicate a higher than expected level of satisfaction with the ACT Government Solicitor's work;⁴¹⁹ and the
- establishment of the ACT Solicitor-General position to provide equivalence with similar positions in other jurisdictions.⁴²⁰ (See QON No. 1)

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING AND PUBLISHING SERVICES

- 5.10 The Committee was informed about the provision of funding to redevelop the ACT Legislation Register. The first stage of this project will focus on scoping, design and the identification of options for rebuilding the system.⁴²¹
- 5.11 The redevelopment will focus on the technical underpinnings of the system to ensure that technical support for the system continues to be available.⁴²²

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 5.12 The Committee notes that the ACT Legislation Register currently provides a large amount of information to the ACT community which could be further enhanced through greater integration with other legislative documents and policies.

Recommendation 37

- 5.13 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider linking policy, guidelines, black letter law, regulations and instruments in connected and accessible ways when redeveloping the ACT Legislation Register.**

PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

- 5.14 The Committee dealt with the following key issues relating to Public Prosecutions:

FUNDING TO THE OFFICE

- 5.15 The Committee enquired about the Office's target for the percentage of cases where court timetables are met in accordance with the court rules. The current outcome is 59 per cent against a target of 80 per cent.⁴²³ Mr Jon White, Director of Public Prosecutions, explained that

⁴¹⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 216; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 370.

⁴²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 371-372.

⁴²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 373-376.

⁴²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 374.

⁴²³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 217.

there are three issues that contribute to the Office's ability to meet this target: the elevated workload in the Supreme Court trial area and the associated reallocation of resources within the office, the timeliness of briefs of evidence and requested paperwork received from the Australian Federal Police, and the high turnover of staff in the Office's paralegal area.⁴²⁴

5.16 The Committee noted that the Office has received a decreased level of funding in the Budget and enquired about the impact this would have on the Office's ability to meet its targets.⁴²⁵

5.17 The Attorney General, Simon Corbell MLA advised that 'a large part of the reduction in the budget for this year is for the cessation of funding associated with the additional temporary funding provided to the Director for the Supreme Court blitz.'⁴²⁶ On this matter the Director of Public Prosecutions advised that approximately 100 cases were dealt with over the full time period of the blitz.⁴²⁷

COMMITTEE COMMENT

5.18 The Committee expressed concern that the level of funding provided to the Office of Public Prosecutions has decreased despite an increased workload and the difficulties the Office has experienced meeting the targeted number of cases where court timetables are met in accordance with the court rules.

Recommendation 38

5.19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government not proceed with the proposed cuts to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and review the funding for the Office to ensure the capability and funding of the office matches the workload.

OTHER ISSUES

5.20 The Committee also dealt with the following Public Prosecutions issues:

- 59 per cent against a target of 80 per cent of cases where court timetables are met in accordance with the court rules;⁴²⁸
- increased workload in the Supreme Court trial area;⁴²⁹
- decrease in the level of funding for the Office of Public Prosecutions, including the cessation of funding associated with the Supreme Court blitz;⁴³⁰

⁴²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 377.

⁴²⁵ This matter is also discussed further under Courts and Tribunals.

⁴²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 378.

⁴²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 378-379.

⁴²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 377.

⁴²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 377-378.

⁴³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 377-378.

- merits of appointing an additional Supreme Court judge for the ACT and the implications for the level of resources required in the Office of Public Prosecutions;⁴³¹
- provision of witness assistance services for cases where assistance is necessary;⁴³² and
- details of the resources and funding made available to the Director of Public Prosecutions' Office.⁴³³

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS

5.21 The Committee dealt with the following Protection of Rights issues:

- commencement of the new Official Visitor Scheme including the cost of the scheme, administrative arrangements and required infrastructure;⁴³⁴
- services provided to the ACT from the Commonwealth Privacy Commissioner;⁴³⁵
- amendments to performance indicators for the Public Advocate; new indicator relating to responding to new applicants or new appointments within two weeks.⁴³⁶ Data related to the percentage of clients who require intensive interventions no longer collected;⁴³⁷
- progress on the Government's emergency response to child in crisis;⁴³⁸
- update and progress report on the inquiry and audit into Bimberi and the broader youth justice system;⁴³⁹
- level of resourcing available to statutory office holders in the Directorate;⁴⁴⁰
- Victim Support ACT and the implementation of an early intervention team;⁴⁴¹ and
- community engagement activities undertaken by the Human Rights Commission.⁴⁴²

ELECTORAL SERVICES (ACT ELECTORAL COMMISSION)

5.22 On 14 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the ACT Electoral Commission:

- the Commission's participation in a process to consider whether there should be an expansion in the membership of the Legislative Assembly;⁴⁴³

⁴³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 379-380.

⁴³² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 212-213; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 380.

⁴³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 380-381.

⁴³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 382-383.

⁴³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 383.

⁴³⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 217.

⁴³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 383-384.

⁴³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 384.

⁴³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 385.

⁴⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 385-386.

⁴⁴¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 387; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 387.

⁴⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 389.

⁴⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 70.

- whether it was a conflict of interest for the Electoral Commissioner to take part in this process;⁴⁴⁴
- proposals for change of electorate boundaries if there were more Members in the Assembly;⁴⁴⁵
- whether more Members would have a significant impact on the budget of the Electoral Commission;⁴⁴⁶
- levels of enrolment for young people;⁴⁴⁷
- the move, under Federal legislation, to direct enrolment for persons newly eligible to vote based on the use of 'trusted data sources', and the effects of this on voter behaviour;⁴⁴⁸
- the possibility, in the event that the Assembly remains at its present membership of a redistribution of the seven-Member electorate to Ginninderra;⁴⁴⁹
- scheduling and conduct of the consultation process for electoral redistributions;⁴⁵⁰
- historical data on the electoral behaviour of younger voters, particularly in relation to enrolment;⁴⁵¹ and
- the process for replacing Members who leave the Assembly during its term.⁴⁵²

REGULATORY AND TRANSPORT SERVICES

5.23 The Committee dealt with the following key Regulatory and Transport Services issues:

ACT GOVERNMENT PARKING OPERATIONS

5.24 The Committee sought information about the arrangement between the ACT Government and the Woden Tradesmen's Union Club whereby the Government collected money from parking machines on land leased to the Club.⁴⁵³ (See QTON No. 76 and No. 78)

5.25 This matter has also been discussed in the Auditor-General's *Report into the ACT Government Parking Operations* which notes that the fee paid to the Club was based on initial estimates and not actual revenue. Revenue generated from parking machines on the site is likely to be approximately \$178,500, \$66,500 (27 percent) less than the \$245,000 paid to the Club.⁴⁵⁴

⁴⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 70-71.

⁴⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p.71.

⁴⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p.72.

⁴⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 72-73.

⁴⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 73-74.

⁴⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 74-75.

⁴⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 75-76.

⁴⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 76-77.

⁴⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 77-78.

⁴⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 389-397.

⁴⁵⁴ ACT Auditor-General's Office, Report No. 3 of 2013: *ACT Government Parking Operations*, May, p. 7.

- 5.26 During questioning the Committee was advised that ‘from time to time, the revenue predictions with some of the existing parking machines are not met’. Factors such as maintenance and servicing issues mean that it is difficult to calculate revenue targets and projections.⁴⁵⁵
- 5.27 The Minister advised that the \$66,500 would not be recovered as ‘there is no mechanism by which the government can recover revenue beyond that which is actually collected’.⁴⁵⁶
- 5.28 The Minister further advised that the Government terminated the provision of services earlier in 2013.⁴⁵⁷

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 5.29 The Committee expressed concern that the payment made by the ACT Government to the Woden Tradesmen’s Union Club was based on initial estimates and not actual revenue.

Recommendation 39

- 5.30 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government recover the overpayment of estimated parking revenue from the Woden Tradesmen’s Union Club.**

Recommendation 40

- 5.31 The Committee recommends that the Justice and Community Safety Directorate present all the documentation surrounding the negotiations for parking with the Tradesmen’s Union Club to the Assembly.**

Recommendation 41

- 5.32 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with full details of the cost discrepancy between the estimate of parking revenue and the actual amount received by the ACT Government for all entities with which the ACT Government holds parking contracts over the previous five years and an explanation as to why any entities have been paid an amount more than was actually received by the Government.**

Recommendation 42

- 5.33 The Committee recommends that the Justice and Community Safety Directorate present the Assembly with information about the Office of Regulatory Services’ financial arrangements for the provision of pay parking on non-government land.**

⁴⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 390.

⁴⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 390.

⁴⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 391.

OTHER ISSUES

- 5.34 The Committee also dealt with the following Regulatory and Transport Services issues:
- introduction of a Rewards for Safe Drivers Program which will provide a discount on the fee for drivers licence renewal based on good driving history;⁴⁵⁸ (See QON No. 263) and
 - WorkSafe ACT regulatory schemes and changes to the information that will be collected and reported on.⁴⁵⁹

CORRECTIVE SERVICES

- 5.35 The Committee dealt with the following key Corrective Services issues:

RECIDIVISM

- 5.36 The Committee was advised that recidivism data is reported in the annual report and in the Report on Government Services (ROGS). It is not identified as an accountability indicator for the Directorate.⁴⁶⁰ In accordance with ROGS specifications, recidivism is measured by the number of individuals who have been resentenced within a two-year period.⁴⁶¹
- 5.37 The Committee inquired about the availability of recidivism data with respect to detainees who were sentenced in the ACT but may have served a sentence in NSW and are now detained at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).⁴⁶² The Committee was informed that 'you cannot extrapolate the ACT population that was in New South Wales prior to coming here'. Data about the return rate of ACT clients to prison in New South Wales prior to coming to the ACT is not available.⁴⁶³
- 5.38 The Committee sought clarification on the feasibility of further work being undertaken by the Directorate to ascertain recidivism rates for ACT-sentenced prisoners.⁴⁶⁴ (See QTON No. 261 and No. 262)

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 5.39 The Committee expressed concern that historical data about recidivism rates for ACT detainees is not readily available.

⁴⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 397.

⁴⁵⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 219; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 398-399.

⁴⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1049.

⁴⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1050.

⁴⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1049-1050.

⁴⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1049.

⁴⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1050.

Recommendation 43

- 5.40 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with details of recidivism rates for ACT prisoners for the last 10 years.**

ALEXANDER MACONOCHIE CENTRE

- 5.41 The Committee discussed the current capacity of the AMC and the particular operational requirements of each unit of the facility. The current capacity is for 332 detainees.
- 5.42 The Committee was advised about the new design phase for the AMC which will be completed by June 2014. It is envisaged that this design will be undertaken in two phases: (a) 30-bed unit for therapeutic community use and (b) 80-bed cell block.⁴⁶⁵

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 5.43 The Committee expressed concern about the current and future capacity of the AMC. This issue was raised in the Assembly on 5 June 2013.⁴⁶⁶

Recommendation 44

- 5.44 The Committee condemns the ACT Government for misleading the community when the then Attorney General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA stated in 2007 that the Alexander Maconochie Centre would have adequate capacity for 25 years.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 5.45 The Committee also dealt with the following Corrective Services issues:
- provision of funding for a new design phase of the AMC, to be completed by June 2014 and to design for two phases: (a) 30-bed unit for therapeutic community use and (b) 80-bed cell block;⁴⁶⁷
 - changes to reporting processes to realign the prisoner cost per day with the Report on Government Services accounting rules;⁴⁶⁸
 - capacity and occupancy rate of the AMC, including the operational requirements of the different units;⁴⁶⁹

⁴⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1033-1035.

⁴⁶⁶ Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *2013 Week 8 Hansard (5 June)* Available at: <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2013/week08/2291.htm> ; Original discussion in a hearing of the 2007-08 Select Committee on Estimates, *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2007 pp. 205-206 Available at: <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2005/comms/estimates31.pdf>

⁴⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1033-1035.

⁴⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1035.

⁴⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1036-1038.

- feasibility study on future accommodation for the AMC completed in 2011;⁴⁷⁰ (See QTON No. 255)
- AMC processes to protect the safety of detainees and details of incidents that have occurred;⁴⁷¹ (See QTON No. 256)
- whether any actions are pending following a Directorate investigation into incidents involving a former Superintendent;⁴⁷² (See QTON No. 257)
- access to and level of engagement with employment and education programs provided at the AMC;⁴⁷³ (See QTON No. 258 and No. 259)
- supplementation of operational capacity to provide funding for: AMC core utility costs (gas, water electricity), detainee costs (employment remuneration, food and clothing), trainee costs (mandatory training program) and Remuneration Tribunal outcomes;⁴⁷⁴
- provision of funding to supplement the workers' compensation premium;⁴⁷⁵
- operational review being undertaken by CMTD of all directorates;⁴⁷⁶
- process for registering and assessing incident reports;⁴⁷⁷ (See QTON No. 260)
- transitional release centre.⁴⁷⁸

COMMITTEE COMMENT

5.46 The Committee also noted that it was difficult to cover all of the issues within the time allocated for the Minister for Corrections.⁴⁷⁹ The Committee suggests that future Estimates Committees allocate 1.5 hours to meet with the Minister for Corrections at a public hearing.

COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

5.47 The Committee dealt with the following key issues relating to Courts and Tribunals:

SUPREME COURT

5.48 The Committee observed that, in accordance strategic indicators for the Supreme Court relating to timely completion of civil cases in the courts, targets are not being met.⁴⁸⁰

⁴⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1038-1039.

⁴⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1039-1041.

⁴⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1042.

⁴⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1042-1044.

⁴⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1044-1045.

⁴⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1044-1046.

⁴⁷⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1047.

⁴⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1048.

⁴⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1054-1055.

⁴⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1055.

⁴⁸⁰ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 206; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 416.

5.49 In this context, the Committee sought information about the Government's position on the appointment of a fifth Supreme Court judge.⁴⁸¹ The Minister advised that:

Essentially, the Government does not agree, as you know, that a fifth resident judge is required at this time. The reason for that is that the workload of the court, when you compare it with the workload of other jurisdictions, is, at the very least, in the middle of the pack, and in a number of respects is actually the lowest workload per judicial officer of any superior court in the country.⁴⁸²

5.50 The Attorney General advised that in the ACT for the financial year 2011-12, the number of civil and criminal lodgements per full-time equivalent judicial officer (per judge) was 178.37 and also provided the number of lodgements per full-time judicial officer from other jurisdictions: New South Wales (227), Queensland (298), Tasmania (236), Victoria (169), Western Australia (169), Northern Territory (100).⁴⁸³

5.51 The Committee sought clarification about the complexity of cases being considered by the ACT Supreme Court as compared with other jurisdictions. The Minister advised that 'the comparisons that we have made between jurisdictions are based on their intermediate and superior courts...because that is the function that the Supreme Court fulfils here in the ACT'.⁴⁸⁴ (See QON No. 2)

COMMITTEE COMMENT

5.52 The Committee is concerned that Supreme Court targets in relation to the timely completion of civil cases in the courts are being missed.

Recommendation 45

5.53 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government immediately establish a fifth judge in the Supreme Court of the ACT.

Recommendation 46

5.54 The Committee recommends that the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety Committee inquire into the management and the effectiveness of the ACT Supreme Court.

⁴⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 416-421.

⁴⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 417.

⁴⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 417.

⁴⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 418.

OTHER ISSUES

5.55 The Committee also dealt with the following Courts and Tribunals issues:

- progress of the Supreme Court inquiry into the conviction of Mr David Eastman for the murder of Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester which will formally commence on 5 November 2013;⁴⁸⁵
- development of the ACT Sentencing Database;⁴⁸⁶
- upgrade to a new case management system which has been funded in the 2013-14 Budget and will take three years to implement;⁴⁸⁷
- percentage of ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal lodgements finalised by the Directorate;⁴⁸⁸
- progress of the new Supreme Court facility, including funding allocated, forward design work and development of a public private partnership model;⁴⁸⁹ and
- residual funding of \$750,000 from the initial appropriation transferred to the Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate (CMTD) to progress the development of a whole-of-government public-private partnership framework.⁴⁹⁰

EMERGENCY SERVICES

5.56 The Committee dealt with the following key issues relating to Emergency Services:

EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY RESOURCES AND REVIEWS

5.57 The Committee sought information about the specialist fire fighting equipment that is available in the ACT and discussed the resources implications if the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) was to purchase a second specialist 'Bronto' vehicle.⁴⁹¹

5.58 The Committee was also advised about the budget measure to review the cost pressures in the ESA budget. The Minister noted that there has been pressure on the ESA budget over a number of years which has necessitated the use of Treasurer's advances to respond to cost pressures.⁴⁹²

⁴⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 410.

⁴⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 411.

⁴⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 412-13.

⁴⁸⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 221; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 421.

⁴⁸⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 226, 228; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 413-416.

⁴⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 414.

⁴⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 428-429, 442.

⁴⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 449.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 5.59 The Committee expressed concern about the cost pressures experienced by the ESA and recommends that further consideration be given to ensure ESA has adequate resources to meet its operational requirements.

Recommendation 47

- 5.60 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate acquiring an additional “Bronto” high fire fighting platform and associated staffing.**

Recommendation 48

- 5.61 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release all internal reviews and documents relating to the capability and funding of each of the four emergency services of the Emergency Services Agency.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 5.62 The Committee also dealt with the following Emergency Services issues:
- plans to undertake a review of cost pressures in the Emergency Services Agency;⁴⁹³
 - provision in the budget for additional six personnel for ACT Fire and Rescue. It is intended that this will reduce reliance on overtime or other surge-type temporary arrangements for staff;⁴⁹⁴
 - activities that will be undertaken by the additional personnel, including staffing equipment such as ‘platforms on demand’;⁴⁹⁵ (See QTON No. 81 and No. 82)
 - the allocation of \$18 million over four years for the construction of a new Fire and Rescue station on the border of Calwell and Conder. It is expected to be completed and operation in the final quarter of the 2013 calendar year;⁴⁹⁶
 - ESA Vehicle Replacement Program;⁴⁹⁷ (See QTON No. 83 and No. 84)
 - age of the Bronto vehicle and whether a second Bronto vehicle is required and the associated resource implications;⁴⁹⁸
 - initiative announced in the Budget to identify and review the cost pressures in ESA’s budget;⁴⁹⁹

⁴⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 421.

⁴⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 423-424.

⁴⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 424-425.

⁴⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 426.

⁴⁹⁷ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 225; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 426-429.

⁴⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 428-429, p. 442.

⁴⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 429-431.

- efficiency measures for the ESA;⁵⁰⁰ (See QTON No. 85)
- internal reviews conducted by the ESA or their associated services;⁵⁰¹ (See QTON No. 86)
- the importance of maintaining or increasing the number of volunteers;⁵⁰²
- reduction in funding from the Commonwealth with respect to the Commonwealth Fire Payment;⁵⁰³
- public sector workers compensation arrangements and trends across compensation claims;⁵⁰⁴ (See QTON No. 87)
- processes for debriefing and supporting officers following critical incidents;⁵⁰⁵ (See QTON No. 88)
- number of white powder incidents annually and the impact on ESA resources;⁵⁰⁶ (See QTON No. 89)
- efficiencies to be achieved through ESA construction projects;⁵⁰⁷ (See QTON No. 90)
- maintaining and increasing the number of volunteers;⁵⁰⁸
- ongoing scoping studies, discussions, and associated planning processes related to the construction of new fire stations at locations across the ACT;⁵⁰⁹ and the
- progress of ESA ICT projects.⁵¹⁰ (See QTON No. 91)

ACT RURAL FIRE SERVICE FIRE MUSEUM

- 5.63 The Committee inquired about the progress of a proposal by the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Volunteer Association to establish a RFS Fire Museum. The Minister advised that he has given in-principle support and that, following his request, the ACT RFS has established a working group to explore the proposal with representatives from the Volunteer Brigades Association.⁵¹¹
- 5.64 The Minister further advised that the working group is currently developing recommendations which will 'allow for the development of a proper feasibility study for the project that will allow the government to consider the issue in future budgets. That work is well underway'.⁵¹²

⁵⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 429-431.

⁵⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 432.

⁵⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 421.

⁵⁰³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 224; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 430, 435-437.

⁵⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 432.

⁵⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 433-434.

⁵⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 437-438.

⁵⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 438-439.

⁵⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 434.

⁵⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 438.

⁵¹⁰ 2013-2014 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 225; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 440.

⁵¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 440.

⁵¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 440.

Recommendation 49

- 5.65 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expedite the establishment of an ACT Rural Fire Service Museum.**

ACT POLICING

- 5.66 The Committee dealt with the following key issues relating to ACT Policing:

SAVINGS MEASURES

- 5.67 In response to questions from the Committee about the \$15 million of savings identified in the Budget, Mr David Pryce, Acting Assistant Commissioner, advised:

The \$15 million is over the whole period of the forward estimates for the budget... We are in the final stages of negotiating our 2013-14 purchase agreement. The initial general savings measure that is applied is to the value of \$1.499 million. Through that purchase agreement, we will effect that saving. Then, in the outyears, that will be a matter of further discussion under the purchase agreement arrangement.⁵¹³

- 5.68 The Committee was advised that the savings will predominately come from 'back-end' roles such as corporate and administrative. Further to this, it was confirmed that 'we will not be seeing a decline or decrease in police numbers as a result of these savings over the next financial year'.⁵¹⁴ (See QON No. 1)

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 5.69 The Committee is concerned about the savings measures to be implemented by ACT Policing and the impact this may have on policing services in the ACT.

Recommendation 50

- 5.70 The Committee recommends that that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with full details of the impact of \$15 million cut to ACT Policing.**

⁵¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 444.

⁵¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 444-445.

PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING A WARRANT

- 5.71 In the context of a recent incident involving a possible homicide, the Committee sought information about procedures for obtaining a warrant to enter premises. The Committee was informed that when a situation involves a deceased person, it becomes the jurisdiction of the Coroner under the *Coroners Act 1997*. A number of actions are then required to be undertaken, including completing an affidavit, making an application to the courts and waiting for approval for the warrant.⁵¹⁵
- 5.72 The Committee was advised that the timeframe 'in properly preparing the warrant...all up took no more than two and a bit hours'. It was acknowledged that 'when you are dealing with a deceased, obviously, it would seem that that might be a longer period of time than the public would expect'.⁵¹⁶
- 5.73 The Committee was further advised that ACT Policing will engage in discussions with the Directorate and the courts about whether improvements can be made to the procedures and the legislation.⁵¹⁷

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 5.74 The Committee expressed concern about the delays that may be experienced when obtaining a warrant to enter premises when the issue is under the jurisdiction of the Coroner.

Recommendation 51

- 5.75 The Committee recommends that, following the delays identified in a recent incident regarding a warrant, the ACT Government should provide the Assembly with the outcomes of any internal reviews and/or discussions the ACT Coroner into the warrant process.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 5.76 The Committee also dealt with the following ACT Policing issues:
- savings measures of \$15 million over the whole period of the forward estimates for the budget;⁵¹⁸
 - savings measures of \$1.499 million to be implemented in the 2013-2014 purchase agreement. These savings will predominately be made in corporate and administrative roles; the current number of front-line officers will be preserved;⁵¹⁹

⁵¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 442-444.

⁵¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 443-444.

⁵¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 444.

⁵¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 444.

⁵¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 444-445.

- progress of the recruitment process to appoint a new Chief Police Officer;⁵²⁰
- measures undertaken by ACT Policing to enhance road safety, including the RAPID technology, whereby a camera is fitted to a police vehicle to read number plates to assist in the identification of unlicensed and unregistered drivers;⁵²¹
- number of random roadside drug and breath testing undertaken and the number of positive test results;⁵²² (See QTON No. 14, No. 15 and No. 16)
- progress report on capital infrastructure upgrade projects, including Gungahlin police station;⁵²³ and
- ACT crime statistics.⁵²⁴

LEGAL AID COMMISSION

- 5.77 The Committee was advised that the Commission will be making savings in administrative expenses and payments to the private profession on grants of legal assistance. The number of grants has been reduced to ensure the Commission operates within budget; the current financial year has seen a reduction of about seven per cent from the previous year.⁵²⁵
- 5.78 The Attorney General advised that the ACT has not received any additional funding from the Commonwealth Government and that challenges facing the ACT Legal Aid Commission are similar to those in other jurisdictions.⁵²⁶

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 5.79 The Committee expressed concern that the reduction in funding to the Commission and the subsequent reduction in the number of grants available will mean that some individuals may be disadvantaged and will be unable to participate fully in the legal system.

Recommendation 52

- 5.80 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail for the Assembly whether or not it is concerned that the shortfall in the Legal Aid Commission funding will affect the ability of individuals seeking legal assistance to fully participate in the ACT legal system.**

⁵²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 445-446.

⁵²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 446-449, pp. 454-455.

⁵²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 449.

⁵²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 451-453.

⁵²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 453-454.

⁵²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 401-402.

⁵²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 402.

OTHER ISSUES

5.81 The Committee also heard evidence on the following matters related to the Legal Aid Commission:

- costs associated with administering the legal aid service scheme;⁵²⁷ (See QTON No. 80)
- provision of funding to the Legal Aid Commission budget for the expensive case fund;⁵²⁸
- costs of the Eastman inquiry;⁵²⁹
- details about savings measures;⁵³⁰
- reduction in the number of grants provided by the Legal Aid Commission in order to operate within budget;⁵³¹
- increased access and utilisation of Legal Aid Commission services by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;⁵³² (See QON No. 3) and
- advocacy, advice and referral services provided by the Commission.⁵³³

PUBLIC TRUSTEE FOR THE ACT

5.82 The Committee heard evidence on the following matters:

- financial management orders made under the Guardian and Management of Property Act;⁵³⁴
- establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission to regulate *GreaterGood*, placing additional reporting requirements on trustees of charitable funds;⁵³⁵ (See QON No. 4)
- implementation of electronic initiatives to improve efficiency and effectiveness;⁵³⁶
- community awareness programs including educating the community about the importance of having a will;⁵³⁷ and the
- engagement of KPMG to review the agency's risk management plan and provide fraud and corruption awareness training to staff.⁵³⁸

⁵²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 399-400.

⁵²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 400.

⁵²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 400-401, 442.

⁵³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 401.

⁵³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 401-403.

⁵³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 403-404.

⁵³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 404-405.

⁵³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 407.

⁵³⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 536; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 407.

⁵³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 408.

⁵³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, pp. 406, 408.

⁵³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 19 June 2013, p. 409.

6 HEALTH DIRECTORATE AND ACT LOCAL HOSPITAL NETWORK

- 6.1 The Health Directorate (the Directorate) aims to achieve good health for all residents of the Territory by planning, purchasing and providing quality community based health services, hospital and extended care services, managing public health risks, and promoting health and early care interventions.⁵³⁹
- 6.2 The Directorate's objectives are grouped around the following seven key performance areas:
- consumer experience;
 - sustainability;
 - hospital and related care;
 - prevention;
 - social inclusion and indigenous health;
 - community based health; and
 - aged care.⁵⁴⁰
- 6.3 The Committee met with the Minister for Health, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA on 20 June 2013 to discuss the health-related output classes.

GENERAL

- 6.4 At the hearing of 20 June 2013 the Committee dealt with the following key issues:

BUDGET PRESENTATION - HEALTH OUTPUTS

- 6.5 The Committee notes that there are some common accountability indicators across the Health and Community Care output class and the ACT Local Hospital Network output class.⁵⁴¹

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 6.6 For the sake of legibility the Committee believes it would be appropriate to consider reporting these accountability indicators together in future budgets to provide a single source of information on performance across the whole health service.

⁵³⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 85.

⁵⁴⁰ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 85.

⁵⁴¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 96-99, 121.

Recommendation 53

- 6.7 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider reporting Health and Community Care and ACT Local Hospital Network accountability indicators together in future budgets.**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 17 (RISK OF FRACTURED FEMURS)

- 6.8 The Committee sought an explanation for why strategic objective 17 ‘reducing the risk of fractured femurs in ACT residents aged over 75 years of age’⁵⁴² was so similar to a strategic objective from previous years.⁵⁴³
- 6.9 The Committee was advised that 2011-12 data showed the rate of admission under this objective was 6.6 per 1,000 persons in the ACT population.⁵⁴⁴ The Budget paper indicates that the long term target is 5.3 per 1,000 persons with the 2010-11 outcome being 5.3 per 1,000 persons.⁵⁴⁵ This increase from 2010-11 to 2011-12 is not statistically significant.⁵⁴⁶
- 6.10 The Committee notes that 2011-12 data was not included in the budget. In response to a Question Taken on Notice, the Committee was supplied with data for the past seven years on the rate of admissions, number of residents over 75 and number of patients admitted for fractured neck of femur with subsequent operations.⁵⁴⁷ (See QTON No. 67)

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 6.11 The Committee questions why the most up to date data was not included in the Budget papers.

Recommendation 54

- 6.12 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government use the most up to date data when compiling the Budget papers.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 6.13 Other issues raised at the hearing on 20 June 2013 included:

⁵⁴² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 92.

⁵⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 563-565, 567.

⁵⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 563-565.

⁵⁴⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 92.

⁵⁴⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 92.

⁵⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 564.

GENERAL

- changes in Commonwealth funding under the National Health Reform;⁵⁴⁸
- current Deputy Director-General and Chief Nurse staffing arrangements;⁵⁴⁹
- savings;⁵⁵⁰ and the
- progress of various projects under the Health Infrastructure Program;⁵⁵¹ (See QTON No. 59).

INFRASTRUCTURE

- cancellation of the tender process to improve facilities at TCH;⁵⁵² (See QTON No. 57)
 - reconsideration of the approach to scope and staging of TCH facilities design.
- rollovers and delays for significant infrastructure projects;⁵⁵³
 - Women's and Children's Hospital;⁵⁵⁴
 - Tuggeranong Health Centre rollovers;⁵⁵⁵
 - central sterilising service;⁵⁵⁶
 - National Capital Private Hospital expansion and parking facilities;⁵⁵⁷ and the
 - Calvary car park, funded to design.⁵⁵⁸

ACUTE SERVICES

6.14 The Committee dealt with the following key Acute Services issues:

ELECTIVE SURGERY

WAITING TIMES

6.15 The Committee enquired about initiatives to reduce elective surgery waiting times and heard that the 2013-14 Budget includes an \$8 million a year allocation to maintain the current effort of 11,000 operations a year.⁵⁵⁹

⁵⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 590-591; 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 3, p. 124.

⁵⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 470-471.

⁵⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 471.

⁵⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 501, 513.

⁵⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 491-498, p. 499.

⁵⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 498-499.

⁵⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 499-501.

⁵⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 502.

⁵⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 502.

⁵⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 502-503.

⁵⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 504-505.

⁵⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 471-474.

6.16 The Minister advised that the ACT 'has met all nine of the targets set under the national reform agreement in elective surgery'.⁵⁶⁰ The targets look at the percentage of operations conducted within the allocated time or clinically appropriate time, average overdue wait times and performance for the top 10 per cent of long wait patients over Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3.⁵⁶¹

COMMITTEE COMMENT

6.17 The Committee notes that, whilst the ACT met its nine targets for elective surgery performance, the ACT has set less ambitious targets compared to other jurisdictions under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services.⁵⁶² The Committee is concerned that this reporting approach does not provide a true picture of where the ACT sits nationally with regards to elective surgery performance.

Recommendation 55

6.18 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly on why the ACT is the worst or near worst performing jurisdiction in elective surgery achievements.

Recommendation 56

6.19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly about when the ACT will achieve national average or better than the national average in elective surgery performance.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

WAITING TIME PERFORMANCE

6.20 The Committee was advised, in response to questions about Emergency Department wait time performance,⁵⁶³ that the ACT has improved timeliness in category 5 but is seeing increased pressure in categories 3 and 4 where timeliness needs to improve.⁵⁶⁴ The Committee heard that the ACT is experiencing increases in presentations to the emergency department, particularly with the growth of population, prevalence in chronic diseases and increased trauma cases.⁵⁶⁵

⁵⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 471.

⁵⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 472.

⁵⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 473.

⁵⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 480; 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 118.

⁵⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 481.

⁵⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 481-482.

6.21 The Minister advised that she would like to see quality of care also factored in when measuring the quality of emergency department services, rather than timeliness alone.⁵⁶⁶

6.22 Regarding emergency department waiting times and the four-hour length of stay in emergency targets, the Committee also heard from Dr Michael Hall, Acting Director for Clinical Care at The Canberra Hospital (TCH), that:

...nobody argues that less time in an emergency department is a valuable thing. And even when we talk about the difficulties of meeting triage targets, none of us argue that patients should not get seen or that patients should wait. All patients should be seen as quickly as humanly possible—all patients.

The important thing is that we get patients in and out in a timely fashion, not so much that we meet a target which is arbitrarily set to be the recommendation for this patient to be met.⁵⁶⁷

6.23 Dr Hall also stated that:

There is no doubt that protracted time spent in the emergency department is directly related to health outcomes. Longer time spent in total in the emergency department does increase mortality rate, international and national figures would appear to say, and longer time spent in total in the emergency department makes other aspects of care more complex.⁵⁶⁸

There is essentially zero evidence for the time to be seen from initial presentation. I can further elucidate if you would like me to, but there is much less evidence for the time from the time the patient arrives until they get seen as compared to the total time that they spend in the emergency department. Hence the difference between the triage-based national timeliness targets and the overall perception of the four-hour rule. That is why nationally far and away the greater emphasis is moving towards four-hour rule behaviour—because there is clear evidence that that benefits patient care as compared to the dramatically different concept based on that initial triage assessment, where there is much less evidence.⁵⁶⁹

Recommendation 57

6.24 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly why the ACT has the longest emergency department waiting times in the country and why ACT waiting times have deteriorated so significantly.

⁵⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 481, 483.

⁵⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 484-485.

⁵⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 483.

⁵⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 483.

MEASURING SERVICE QUALITY

- 6.25 In response to the Committee's question on how emergency department quality is measured, the Committee heard that wait times and the length of stay in emergency are the two key indicators.⁵⁷⁰ The Committee was advised that in terms of length of stay 'Canberra Hospital is on the national average and Calvary hospital is above the national average on the four-hour rule overall'.⁵⁷¹
- 6.26 The Committee heard that there is less evidence of the benefits of shorter wait times compared to the data available nationally and internationally that support the belief that shorter overall time spent in emergency leads to better outcomes.⁵⁷² Focus is therefore moving to the four-hour rule. The ACT has undertaken to learn from the experiences of Western Australia (WA), noting that the WA process has been a protracted one. WA is also now exploring other initiatives to manage the increasing growth in presentations as seen Australia-wide.⁵⁷³ Dr Hall noted for the Committee that 'there is no magic behind four hours, it could be 3½-hour target or a 4½-hour target'; the rule is aimed at ensuring follow up to initial triage, assessments and tests occur.⁵⁷⁴ The Committee also heard that the ACT is performing well against this target when compared to its peers.⁵⁷⁵

Recommendation 58

- 6.27 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide details to the Assembly on the key lessons learnt from Western Australia's successful implementation of the emergency department four-hour length of stay rule.**

ACT AUDITOR-GENERAL AND PWC RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.28 The Committee heard about the progress of implementing the recommendations from the ACT Auditor-General's 2012 report into *Emergency Department Performance Information* and the PricewaterhouseCoopers report into the *integrity of Emergency Department records and processes at The Canberra Hospital* which was commissioned by the ACT Government.⁵⁷⁶ (See QTON No. 70) A number of the recommendations have been completed already including issues around the management of the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS).⁵⁷⁷

⁵⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 482.

⁵⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 482.

⁵⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 483.

⁵⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 483-484.

⁵⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 484.

⁵⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 486.

⁵⁷⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 486-487, 585-588.

⁵⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 486-487

Recommendation 59

- 6.29 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly of the outcomes from the action plan that was developed in response to the ACT Auditor-General's 2012 report into *Emergency Department Performance Information* and the PricewaterhouseCoopers report into the integrity of *Emergency Department records and processes at The Canberra Hospital*.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CRITICAL CARE

- 6.30 The Committee heard that the Executive Director for Critical Care position previously occupied by Kate Jackson has not been filled but is actively under recruitment with interview being held in June 2013. The Committee was further advised that Ms Jeanett Maccullagh has been acting in that position.⁵⁷⁸

Recommendation 60

- 6.31 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly why it has taken so long to backfill the Executive Director for Critical Care position.**

OTHER ISSUES

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

- progress with implementing recommendations from the ACT Auditor-General's 2012 report into *Emergency Department Performance Information* and the PricewaterhouseCoopers report into the integrity of *Emergency Department records and processes at The Canberra Hospital*;⁵⁷⁹
 - action plan; (See QTON No. 70)
 - Emergency Department Information System (EDIS);
 - persons involved; and the
 - possible police investigation.
- emergency department waiting time performance;⁵⁸⁰
- other measures of emergency department performance and quality of service including patient satisfaction, numbers of re-presentations;⁵⁸¹
- National Emergency Access Target data and the four-hour rule;⁵⁸²

⁵⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 485-486.

⁵⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 585-588.

⁵⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 480-482.

⁵⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 482.

⁵⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 482-485.

- paediatric emergency space within the existing emergency department;⁵⁸³
- increases in Emergency Department presentations;⁵⁸⁴
 - lack of correlation between GP bulk billing rates and ED presentations;⁵⁸⁵

OTHER ACUTE SERVICES

- progress on reducing elective surgery waiting times;⁵⁸⁶
- initiatives to manage elective surgery demand increases;⁵⁸⁷
 - use of private sector service providers to conduct some elective surgery;⁵⁸⁸
- Calvary Hospital rapid assessment unit;⁵⁸⁹
- growth in demand for Hospital in the Home services and resulting reduction in inpatient bed demand;⁵⁹⁰
- deskilling in the ACT/NSW region;⁵⁹¹
- relationship with the Little Company of Mary;⁵⁹²
- update on the walk-in centres for Tuggeranong and Belconnen and relocation of the TCH walk-in centre;⁵⁹³
- progress with the preparation and planning for the University of Canberra sub acute hospital;⁵⁹⁴
 - negotiation of terms of agreement with University of Canberra;
 - benefits;
- lack of suitability for proposal to co-locate the secure mental health facility with the University of Canberra hospital;⁵⁹⁵
- NSW cross-border use of ACT hospital services and NSW capital contributions;⁵⁹⁶
 - projected growth in demand from NSW;
 - national health reform;
- progress with enhanced community health centres in Tuggeranong and Belconnen;⁵⁹⁷
- workforce planning and staff numbers;⁵⁹⁸ (See QTON No. 58)

⁵⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 487-488.

⁵⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 488-489.

⁵⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 489-490.

⁵⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 470-474.

⁵⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 474-476.

⁵⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 474.

⁵⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 479-480.

⁵⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 480, 490-491.

⁵⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 490.

⁵⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 505.

⁵⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 505-506

⁵⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 506-508.

⁵⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 508.

⁵⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 506-510.

⁵⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 510-511.

⁵⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 511-513.

- intern numbers and positions available for 2014, including the processes for offering those positions and student preferences;⁵⁹⁹
 - foreign fee-paying student numbers and retention in Australia long term;⁶⁰⁰ (See QTON No. 64)
- employee expenses and negotiation with the Nurses Union on the next Certified Agreement;⁶⁰¹ (See QTON No. 60) and
- new bed numbers at TCH and Calvary Hospital, including stroke beds and support staff.⁶⁰² (See QTON No. 61)

MENTAL HEALTH, JUSTICE HEALTH AND ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES

6.32 The Committee dealt with the following key Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services issues:

AGED CARE - DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES

6.33 The Committee heard about falls injury prevention programs for the aged care sector.⁶⁰³

6.34 The Committee enquired whether there may be a crossover of older people affected by alcohol who suffer injury from falls. The Committee was advised that there are a number of factors that can lead to falls including disorientation, dementia, physical activity and strength of muscles.⁶⁰⁴ Alcohol as a contributing factor is not something the Health Directorate had conducted analysis of. Dr Hall also highlighted that in some cases, fractured femurs occur spontaneously and cause falls.⁶⁰⁵

Recommendation 61

6.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop strategies to educate older Canberrans on the dangers of alcohol use in relation to the risk of falls and subsequent injuries.

⁵⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 511, 541-544.

⁶⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 543-544.

⁶⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 513-514.

⁶⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 514-515.

⁶⁰³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 565-567.

⁶⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 566.

⁶⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 567.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG REHABILITATION CENTRE

- 6.36 The Committee heard about the progress of the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and other Drug Rehabilitation centre, also referred to as the bush healing farm.⁶⁰⁶ The Minister advised that a Development Application (DA) was currently with the ACT Planning Authority and that there have been some complaints to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal in relation to the lease variation decision for the site.⁶⁰⁷ (See QON No. 35)
- 6.37 The Committee noted that there have been significant delays with this project and heard that delays were due to time taken to find a culturally appropriate site, re-scoping of the proposal, consultation processes and the DA process.⁶⁰⁸

Recommendation 62

- 6.38 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a quarterly report to the Assembly outlining the progress, scope, budget and delivery date of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and other Drug Rehabilitation centre.**

OTHER ISSUES

MENTAL HEALTH

- update on the secure mental health facility;⁶⁰⁹
 - now being designed as a 25 bed medium security facility;
 - location and public consultation;
- community mental health;⁶¹⁰
- progress of the review of the Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act 1994;⁶¹¹
 - changes to powers for ambulance officers and paramedics under the Act;
 - apprehensions by police;⁶¹²
- percentage of mental health funding provided to the community sector;⁶¹³
 - future difficulties calculating the percentage with the introduction of DisabilityCare;

⁶⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 567-571.

⁶⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 567-568.

⁶⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 568.

⁶⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 515-518, 521.

⁶¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 518, 521.

⁶¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 518-521.

⁶¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 519-521, 526.

⁶¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 522-523, 532.

- role of community partners in delivering mental health, justice health and alcohol and drug services;⁶¹⁴ and
- adult mental health unit furniture purchase.⁶¹⁵ (See QTON No. 62)

ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES

- outpatient drug and alcohol services and funding of new staff positions;⁶¹⁶
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander smoking cessation initiative;⁶¹⁷
 - local organisations involved in delivering the program;
 - learnings from other jurisdictions; and
 - the contribution to Closing the Gap life expectancy and health outcomes.

JUSTICE HEALTH

- ongoing consultation on the planned needle and syringe program at the Alexander Maconochie Centre;⁶¹⁸
- spaces in the Hepatitis C treatment program at the Alexander Maconochie Centre;⁶¹⁹
- completed implementation of the recommendations from the 2011 Burnet Institute report External component of the evaluation of drug policies and services and their subsequent effects on prisoners and staff within the Alexander Maconochie Centre;⁶²⁰
- Bimberi resident health checks and permanent health staff on site;⁶²¹ and the
- changes to methadone dosing at the Alexander Maconochie Centre including use of nursing staff.⁶²²

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

6.39 The Committee dealt with the following Public Health Services issues:

- Australian Council on Healthcare Standards accreditation for the ACT at the highest level;⁶²³
 - criteria for assessment;
- health research;⁶²⁴
 - heart failure;

⁶¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 528-529.

⁶¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 530-531.

⁶¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 521-522.

⁶¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 5526-528.

⁶¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 523-524.

⁶¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 524-525, 532.

⁶²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 525-526.

⁶²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 529-530.

⁶²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 531.

⁶²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 532-533.

⁶²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 533-534.

- investigation in to the management of the May 2013 salmonella outbreak and initiation of the winter plan for hospital surge capacity;⁶²⁵
 - health emergency control centre;⁶²⁶
 - risks of raw egg products;
- impact of the declining rate of expenditure on public health activities as a result of reduced Commonwealth funding contributions;⁶²⁷
 - increase in the ACT Government contribution;
- future of initiatives under the GP development fund, particularly in infrastructure;⁶²⁸
 - scholarships;
- GP availability in the ACT and residents delaying visits to a GP because of the cost;⁶²⁹
- progress implementing the recommendations from the 2009 GP taskforce report *General Practice and Sustainable Primary Health Care: The Way Forward 2009* and the Seventh Assembly Standing Committee on Health, Community and Social Services report *Inquiry into access to primary health care services* tabled in 2010;⁶³⁰ (See QTON No. 63)
- Peter Sharp Scholarships;⁶³¹
- release of tobacco strategy, Future directions for tobacco reduction in the ACT;⁶³²
 - previous consideration of a smoking ban in ACT correctional facilities;⁶³³
 - legislation banning smoking in cars with children;⁶³⁴
- Calvary Hospital birth centre;⁶³⁵
- commencement of the review of maternity services and the merits of a standalone birth centre;⁶³⁶
- Women's and Children's Hospital staffing;⁶³⁷
- TCH obstetrics and staffing vacancies;⁶³⁸
- progress in planning for a mobile dental clinic;⁶³⁹
- feasibility work on a possible mobile health van;⁶⁴⁰ (See QTON No. 74)and
- MRI unscheduled maintenance.⁶⁴¹ (See QTON No. 66)

⁶²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 534-537.

⁶²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 536.

⁶²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 537-538.

⁶²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 538-539.

⁶²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 539.

⁶³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 539-540.

⁶³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 540-541.

⁶³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 544.-547.

⁶³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 545-547.

⁶³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 547.

⁶³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 554-555.

⁶³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 555-556.

⁶³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 556-557.

⁶³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 557-558.

⁶³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 558.

⁶⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 558-559.

⁶⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 560.

CANCER SERVICES

6.40 The Committee dealt with the following Cancer Services issues:

- enhanced cancer outpatient services and plans for an integrated capital region cancer centre;⁶⁴²
- targets for urgent and semi-urgent radiotherapy services;⁶⁴³
- availability of a linear accelerator;⁶⁴⁴
- availability of lead lined rooms at TCH and maintenance requirements;⁶⁴⁵ (See QTON No. 65)
- promotion of breast screening services;⁶⁴⁶ and the
- Centenary Cancer Chair in partnership with the Australian National University.⁶⁴⁷

REHABILITATION , AGED AND COMMUNITY CARE

6.41 The Committee dealt with the following Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Care issues:

- targets for Aged Care Assessment Team assessment for older persons in hospital;⁶⁴⁸
- uptake of GP aged day care services;⁶⁴⁹
- fractured femurs;⁶⁵⁰ (See QTON No. 67)
- ACT residents over age 75;⁶⁵¹
- falls prevention activities in the aged care sector;⁶⁵²
 - hip replacements;⁶⁵³
- drug and alcohol education for falls prevention;⁶⁵⁴
- bush healing farm project;⁶⁵⁵
 - interim support services; and
 - options for management by private service providers.

⁶⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 547, 551-554.

⁶⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 548-549

⁶⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 549, 559-560.

⁶⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 549-550.

⁶⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 550-551.

⁶⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 551-552.

⁶⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp 560-562.

⁶⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 562-563.

⁶⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 563-565, 567.

⁶⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 564-565, 567.

⁶⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 565-566.

⁶⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 566, 567.

⁶⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 566.

⁶⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 567-571.

EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

6.42 The Committee dealt with the following Early Intervention and Prevention issues:

- initiatives to address overweight and obesity in the ACT;⁶⁵⁶
 - water refill stations;
 - front of pack labelling system;
 - monitoring of the zero growth target;
- new drinking fountains across Canberra;⁶⁵⁷
- cash reserves;⁶⁵⁸ (See QTON No. 68)
- status of the review of health promotion grants and prioritising healthy weight as a key focus;⁶⁵⁹
- cessation of funding for the Smart Start for Kids program;⁶⁶⁰
- Indigenous early childhood program;⁶⁶¹
 - core of life training program;⁶⁶² (See QTON No. 69)
- immunisation program;⁶⁶³
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander immunisation rates;⁶⁶⁴
 - national schedule for immunisation;
 - vaccinations of infants in child care and parent education;⁶⁶⁵
- Child at Risk Health Unit (CARHU) providing health and wellbeing screening services to kids in out of home care;⁶⁶⁶
- services provided by the QEII Family Centre;⁶⁶⁷
- paediatric nurse consultant position at TCH;⁶⁶⁸
- update on the progress of the E-Health record project;⁶⁶⁹
 - health futures program;
 - electronic prescribing;
- implementation of a commercial solarium ban from 2015;⁶⁷⁰ and the

⁶⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 571-573, 575.

⁶⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 573.

⁶⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 572-574.

⁶⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 574.

⁶⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 574-575.

⁶⁶¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 100-101.

⁶⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 576.

⁶⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 576-580.

⁶⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 576-578.

⁶⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 578-580.

⁶⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 580.

⁶⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 580-581.

⁶⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 581-582.

⁶⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 582-584.

⁶⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 584-585.

- diabetes services director role and the implementation of the diabetes services action plan.⁶⁷¹

6.43 The Committee notes the 50th anniversary of the QEII Family Centre and the positive work this centre does in early intervention and newborn advice.

Recommendation 63

6.44 The Committee commends the staff of the QEII for providing a wonderful service over the last 50 years.⁶⁷²

CLARE HOLLAND HOUSE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

6.45 The Committee dealt with the following issues:

- Clare Holland House on track to meet cost-weighted separations;⁶⁷³
- bed usage rates;⁶⁷⁴ (See QTON No. 71)
- Palliative Care Plan and proposals for additional capacity in the sector, particularly home based care;⁶⁷⁵ (See QTON No. 72)
- Clare Holland House budget data and difficulty disaggregating what applies to Clare Holland House alone;⁶⁷⁶ and the (See QTON No. 73)
- palliative care budget.⁶⁷⁷

⁶⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 585.

⁶⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 580.

⁶⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 588.

⁶⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, p. 588.

⁶⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 588-589.

⁶⁷⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 589-590.

⁶⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 20 June 2013, pp. 591-592.

7 TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE AND RELATED AGENCIES

7.1 The Committee heard from the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, on Friday 21 June and Thursday 27 June 2013 to discuss the following outputs and agency functions:

- Municipal Services (Output Class 1):
 - Information Services (Output 1.1)⁶⁷⁸
 - includes public libraries and the main contact point for access to ACT Government information, services and payments, Canberra Connect.
 - Roads and sustainable transport (Output 1.2)⁶⁷⁹
 - includes the management of ACT roads, footpaths and cycle paths, maintenance of municipal infrastructure, such as street lights and public barbeques, and the operation of ACTION, the ACT's public transport system.
 - Waste and recycling (Output 1.3)⁶⁸⁰
 - waste collection and recycling, including the operation of resource management and recycling centres.
 - Land management (Output 1.4)⁶⁸¹
 - includes the management of the ACT's public open space, urban trees and nature parks and reserves, forestry plantations and the National Arboretum.
 - Regulatory services (Output 1.5)⁶⁸²
 - administration of regulations to protect and enhance the natural and built environment and also including the domestic animal services.
- Enterprise Services (Output Class 2):⁶⁸³
 - Government Services (Output 2.1)
 - includes the Capital Linen Service, Yarralumla Nursery, and ACT Property Group.

7.2 The Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS) also provides administrative oversight to the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority.⁶⁸⁴

⁶⁷⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 375, 377.

⁶⁷⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 375, 378.

⁶⁸⁰ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 375, 378.

⁶⁸¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 375, 379.

⁶⁸² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 375, 379.

⁶⁸³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 375, 380.

⁶⁸⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 441-447 and 2013-14 Budget, *ACT Public Cemeteries Authority Statement of Intent*.

GENERAL

CORRECTION TO BUDGET PAPER

- 7.3 At the hearing on 21 June 2013, the Committee was advised of errors in the figures for the user charges split between Non ACT Government and ACT Government included on pages 391, 401 and 402 of Budget Paper 4.⁶⁸⁵
- 7.4 The Directorate advised the Committee that the errors related to the misclassification of rental receipts received by TAMS from other ACT Government directorates or entities as ‘User Charges – non-ACT Government’ rather than ‘User Charges – ACT Government’, but that the combined revenue for the two categories was unchanged.⁶⁸⁶
- 7.5 The Committee was advised that the misclassification resulted from a ‘mapping error within the data production tool’ and that the tool would be reviewed. The Committee was further advised that the errors had no impact on the whole-of-governments statements.⁶⁸⁷

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 7.6 The Committee is concerned that the details of the errors were not communicated to the Committee as soon as the Directorate had become aware of them.

Recommendation 64

- 7.7 The Committee recommends that when the ACT Government becomes aware of errors in the Budget Papers those corrections be made available to the Estimates Committee as soon as practicable rather than waiting for the day that the Directorate or Agency appears before the Committee.**

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

INFORMATION SERVICES

- 7.8 The Committee discussed the value of making Civic Square a Wi-Fi zone, and was advised that although there had been no proposal to do so, there would be value to the Civic Library’s patrons, particularly students and backpackers, of being able to utilise the library services while sitting outside.⁶⁸⁸

⁶⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 593. See ‘User Charges Categorisation – Corrections to Budget paper 4, pages. 391, 401 and 402’, tabled 21 June 2013.

⁶⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 593-594.

⁶⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 594.

⁶⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 604.

Recommendation 65

7.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Library Service consider installing a Wi-Fi zone in Civic Square.

OTHER ISSUES

7.10 Other Information Services issues discussed at the hearing on 27 June 2013 included:

- calculation of targets and estimated outcomes for Libraries ACT services;⁶⁸⁹
- assessment of library needs for Weston Creek and other communities;⁶⁹⁰
- possible extension of the ACT digital hub at Gungahlin Library;⁶⁹¹
- management of the Gungahlin Library, which is co-located with Gungahlin College, and suitability for extending the model elsewhere;⁶⁹²
- facilities available at the Heritage Library in Woden;⁶⁹³
- the rationale for different library opening hours;⁶⁹⁴
- feedback on the new ACT Libraries website;⁶⁹⁵
- review of library services and timing of the new library strategy;⁶⁹⁶
- resources allocated to digitisation at ACT libraries, in particular the Heritage Library;⁶⁹⁷
- Libraries ACT's current and proposed future e-resources;⁶⁹⁸
- upgrading of electronic gaming facilities at Gungahlin Library;⁶⁹⁹
- implications for Canberra Connect shopfronts of the MyWay centre closures;⁷⁰⁰
- accessibility of the Canberra Connect shopfront in Belconnen following changes to Belconnen Interchange layout;⁷⁰¹
- level of demand for Canberra Connect services in Gungahlin;⁷⁰²
- the trend towards online transactions, and its impact on Canberra Connect service delivery systems;⁷⁰³

⁶⁸⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 377; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 594-596.

⁶⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 596-597.

⁶⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 597-598

⁶⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 598-599.

⁶⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 600.

⁶⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 600-601.

⁶⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 601.

⁶⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 601-603.

⁶⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 603-604.

⁶⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 604-606.

⁶⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 606.

⁷⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 606-607.

⁷⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 607.

⁷⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 607.

⁷⁰³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 377; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 608.

- methodology used for the Canberra Connect customer satisfaction surveys;⁷⁰⁴
- cost reductions despite increase in Canberra Connect customer numbers;⁷⁰⁵
- number of online government transactions available through Canberra Connect;⁷⁰⁶ and
- banking arrangements for Canberra Contract transactions.⁷⁰⁷

ROADS AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

ROAD NETWORK

7.11 The Committee discussed with the Minister his criteria for prioritising funding for road network expansion and future public and active transport requirements.⁷⁰⁸

Recommendation 66

7.12 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services detail his strategy for the delivery of road infrastructure in the ACT for the Assembly.

TRAFFIC CALMING

7.13 The Committee sought an update on traffic calming measures and the deployment of speed humps in Holt, including on Spofforth Street, and their impact on traffic flow in surrounding streets. The Committee was advised that the Directorate had collected a range of technical information, including traffic flow, speed and crash data, as well as undertaking consultations with residents earlier in the year as part of the development of an overall plan for the area, which would then be put to the Minister for consideration.⁷⁰⁹

COMMITTEE COMMENT

7.14 The Committee noted that, while there had been a significant speed reduction along Spofforth Street, there had been a transfer of traffic, including of heavy vehicles, to nearby streets.⁷¹⁰

Recommendation 67

7.15 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services remove the speed humps on Spofforth Street.

⁷⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 608-609, 621.

⁷⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 609.

⁷⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 609-611.

⁷⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 611.

⁷⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1066-1069.

⁷⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1058-1059.

⁷¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1059.

ROAD UPGRADES

- 7.16 The Committee sought an update on a range of planned road upgrades, including proposed duplications of Ashley Drive in Tuggeranong, and William Hovell, William Slim and Gunderoo drives in north Canberra.⁷¹¹

Recommendation 68

- 7.17 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services present the Assembly with the program of road duplications in the Territory.**

ROAD WORK COORDINATION

- 7.18 The Committee sought advice on the involvement of Roads ACT in the assessment of road projects undertaken by another agency, including those at Lhotsky Street, Charnwood, where concerns had been raised about the impact that several road works projects were having on business at that shopping centre.⁷¹² (See QTON No. 208)

Recommendation 69

- 7.19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government manage road works in a coordinated way to avoid multiple projects occurring at the same time in the same location (e.g. Charnwood shops).**

OTHER ISSUES

- 7.20 Other Roads and Sustainable Transport issues discussed at the hearing on 27 June 2013 included:

- timing of the completion of the upgrades to the Cotter Road associated with the development of the Molonglo Valley;⁷¹³
- measurement of road condition in the ACT;⁷¹⁴
- temporary traffic management plans for construction sites, including at St John's Church in Reid;⁷¹⁵ (See QTON No. 205)
- additional funding for walking and cycling infrastructure;⁷¹⁶

⁷¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1057-1058, 1062-1064.

⁷¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1073-1075.

⁷¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1056-1057.

⁷¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1057.

⁷¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1059-1061.

⁷¹⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 388; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1604-1065.

- repairs to the cycle path at Duntroon which had been damaged by heavy rain;⁷¹⁷
- signage aimed at preventing the sale of cars on the side of the road along the Monaro Highway;⁷¹⁸
- the need for greenfield developments;⁷¹⁹
- funding for construction of additional Park-and-Rides(PandR) and an update on the status of the Calwell PandR;⁷²⁰ (See QTON No. 271) and
- interaction between TAMS and ESDD on the parking code and parking planning.⁷²¹

WASTE AND RECYCLING

LANDFILL TONNAGE

- 7.21 The Committee discussed the projected target for annual tonnes of waste to landfill per head of population, and the implications of an economic slowdown in the commercial sector on the amount of commercial waste going to landfill.⁷²²
- 7.22 The Directorate undertook to provide the Committee with a breakdown of tonnage of household, commercial and industrial waste that has gone to landfill over the last four years.⁷²³

Recommendation 70

- 7.23 The Committee recommends that the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate present in the Budget information about the waste tonnage sent to landfill, broken down by residential kerbside collection and commercial waste.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 7.24 Other Waste and Recycling issues discussed at the hearing on 21 June 2013 included:
- projected target for annual tonnes of waste to landfill per head of population;
 - new domestic recyclables and waste collection service for single and multi unit developments;⁷²⁴

⁷¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1065.

⁷¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1066.

⁷¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1069-1071.

⁷²⁰ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 388; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1071-1073.

⁷²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1073.

⁷²² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 378; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 611-612.

⁷²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 612.

⁷²⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 3, p. 166; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 613.

- implications for Belconnen waste facility of the Riverview development;⁷²⁵
- comparison of recycling and landfill rates and costs;⁷²⁶
- contractual options for household, commercial and public realm waste collection services;⁷²⁷
- methane collection at the new Mugga Lane landfill cells;⁷²⁸ and
- the continuation of the bulky waste collection service for concession card holders.⁷²⁹

LAND MANAGEMENT

PIALLIGO QUARRY

7.25 The Committee received an update on the licence negotiations for the Pialligo Quarry, including ACT NOWaste's involvement, a matter that has been raised at several previous estimates hearings. The Committee was advised that a licence had been drawn up and was expected to be made available to the quarry proponent in July.⁷³⁰

Recommendation 71

7.26 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government finalise, as a matter of urgency, the on-going issues at the Pialligo Quarry.

OTHER ISSUES

- 7.27 Other Land Management issues discussed at the hearing on 21 June 2013 included:
- factors impacting on achievement of customer satisfaction targets for street tree maintenance, children's play equipment and appearance of local shopping centres;⁷³¹
 - funding for Emu Bank improvements;⁷³²
 - funding for new bubblers and the replacement of public barbeques;⁷³³
 - the roles of the additional park rangers provided for in the budget;⁷³⁴
 - strategy for the renewal of the urban treescape;⁷³⁵

⁷²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 613-614.

⁷²⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 378; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 615.

⁷²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 615-617.

⁷²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 617, 621-622.

⁷²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 641-642.

⁷³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 617-621.

⁷³¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 379; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 622-624.

⁷³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 624.

⁷³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 625.

⁷³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 626.

- components of additional biodiversity stewardship funding;⁷³⁶
- operation of the ACT's biodiversity offsets program;⁷³⁷
- staffing implications of the review of parks and city services, including in relation to contractors;⁷³⁸
- an update on the policy for charity bin management;⁷³⁹
- response to the Government's decision to carry out a kangaroo cull this year;⁷⁴⁰ and
- an update on various pest management programs.⁷⁴¹

REGULATORY SERVICES

7.28 Issues discussed at the hearing on 21 June 2013 in relation to Regulatory Services included:

- the relationship between the Domestic Animal Service (DAS), the RSPCA and TAMS;⁷⁴²
- estimated future target for the processing of dogs by DAS;⁷⁴³
- monitoring of usage of and improvements to the DAS website;⁷⁴⁴
- update on the status of the park on the corner of Deamer and Heagney crescents, Chisholm;⁷⁴⁵ and
- the tracking and removal of sharps on unleased land.⁷⁴⁶ (See QTON No. 48)

ENTERPRISE SERVICES

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

LEASING TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

7.29 The Committee sought advice about the ACT Property Group's policy for leasing of

⁷³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 626-627.

⁷³⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 3, p. 166; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 627-628.

⁷³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 628-630.

⁷³⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 372; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 631-633.

⁷³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 633-635.

⁷⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 635-637.

⁷⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 637-638.

⁷⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 639-640.

⁷⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 640.

⁷⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 640-641.

⁷⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 641.

⁷⁴⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 379; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 642-643.

government facilities to community groups, including the process for managing and updating the list of applicants for community tenancies.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 7.30 The Committee was concerned that the apparent failure to respond to a letter seeking confirmation that a property was still required could result in removal from the waiting list.⁷⁴⁷ (See QTON No. 49, No. 50 and No. 51)

Recommendation 72

- 7.31 The Committee recommends the ACT Property Group clearly articulate in an online published document the policy of providing facilities for community groups.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 7.32 Other Government Services issues discussed at the hearing on 21 June 2013 included:
- changes to the government's use of renewable energy;⁷⁴⁸
 - the new accommodation sector contract for the Capital Linen Service;⁷⁴⁹
 - hotel and healthcare facility outsourcing trends for linen services;⁷⁵⁰
 - employment of people with English as a second language by Capital Linen Service;⁷⁵¹
 - the replacement of the HVAC system in the ACT Property Group building tenanted by the Capital Linen Service;⁷⁵²
 - an update on negotiations regarding the lease for the Retired Transport Employees Club;⁷⁵³
 - reconciliation between directorate staffing levels and employee expenses, and an explanation for the figures provided in the directorate's balance sheet and cash flow statement;⁷⁵⁴ and
 - the nature of the support that TAMS will be providing to the Capital Metro Agency, and whether the directorate has had access to a cost-benefit analysis for the light rail project.⁷⁵⁵ (See QTON No. 56)

⁷⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 648-653.

⁷⁴⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 380; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 643-644.

⁷⁴⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 380; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 644-645.

⁷⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 645-647.

⁷⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 647.

⁷⁵² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 3, p. 192; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 647.

⁷⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 653.

⁷⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 653-654.

⁷⁵⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 372; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 654-657.

ACTION

- 7.33 ACTION is responsible for delivering the Territory's suburban and school bus services as well as operating a special needs transport service and charter services within the ACT.⁷⁵⁶

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- 7.34 The Committee discussed ACTION's failure to meet a range of performance targets, including in relation to customer satisfaction, fare box recovery, boarding costs and total cost per vehicle.⁷⁵⁷

Recommendation 73

- 7.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail the strategy for improving the financial and patronage performance of ACTION.**

BUS NETWORK REVIEW

- 7.36 The Committee discussed the features included in the review of the bus network, currently underway. The Committee noted the iterative nature of the changes and that the current upgrade, known as Network 13, was expected to be released in early 2014. The Committee also queried whether the review was examining a return to the coordination of suburban feeder buses with the inter-town services.⁷⁵⁸

Recommendation 74

- 7.37 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake a complete review of the ACTION network.**

Recommendation 75

- 7.38 The Committee recommends that ACTION feeder buses synchronise with the inter-town buses.**

⁷⁵⁶ *Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Annual Report 2011-12, Volume 1, p. 29.*

⁷⁵⁷ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 408; *Proof Transcript of Evidence 27 June 2013*, pp. 1075-1076, 1078-1079.

⁷⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence 27 June 2013*, pp. 1079-1081.

IMPACT OF LIGHT RAIL

- 7.39 The Committee queried whether ACTION had undertaken an analysis of the impact of light rail on bus patronage, including the potential for job losses.⁷⁵⁹

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 7.40 The Committee expressed concern at the potential impact of the proposed light rail network on ACTION, including on one of ACTION's most profitable trunk routes along Northbourne Avenue.

Recommendation 76

- 7.41 The Committee recommends the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services demonstrate how many existing bus users will cease using buses and use Capital Metro instead.**

MYWAY TICKETING

- 7.42 The new MyWay ticketing system was expected to deliver a range of statistical data to help optimise the bus network. The Committee noted that while this data was being employed as part of the current review, some information was still not easily obtained, including the average length of journeys.⁷⁶⁰

Recommendation 77

- 7.43 The Committee recommends that ACTION publish detailed information from the MyWay ticketing system including: boardings by route; average distance; fare types; timeliness of buses; and other network information.**

FLEET

- 7.44 The Committee was advised that there were no plans to expand the fleet of, or the number of fuelling depots for, compressed natural gas (CNG) buses, and that the most recently released diesel buses were cleaner and more efficient than CNG buses.⁷⁶¹

Recommendation 78

- 7.45 The Committee recommends that ACTION publish the total operating cost of the Compressed Natural Gas fleet versus diesel buses.**

⁷⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1084-1086.

⁷⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1088-1089.

⁷⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1091.

OTHER ISSUES

7.46 Other issues relating to ACTION covered at the hearing on 27 June 2013 included:

- the sale of retired buses;⁷⁶²
- an update on the roll-out of the Real Time Passenger System;⁷⁶³
- progress on upgrading bus stops to ensure compliance with disability standards;⁷⁶⁴
- the status of the Adshel contract for the installation of bus shelters;⁷⁶⁵
- free travel for 70 plus year olds, including calculating the number of free boardings using the MyWay system;⁷⁶⁶
- the annual number of boardings and the average length of journeys,⁷⁶⁷ (See QTON No. 210 and No. 211) and
- an update on the reopening of the Woden bus depot.⁷⁶⁸

ACT PUBLIC CEMETERIES AUTHORITY

7.47 The ACT Public Cemeteries Authority (the Authority) is an independent statutory authority established under the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003*, to effectively and efficiently manage public cemeteries and crematoria in the ACT. The Authority currently manages and operates three public cemeteries at Gungahlin, Woden and Hall.⁷⁶⁹

7.48 The Committee heard evidence from the Authority on the following matters:

- ongoing development and refinement of the services and options available for interment in the ACT;⁷⁷⁰
- commissioning of a new memorial garden at Woden Cemetery for the interment of ashes;⁷⁷¹
- completion of a master plan for the new southern cemetery;⁷⁷² and
- possible extension of the mausoleum at Woden Cemetery; a model to proceed with the project is being finalised.⁷⁷³

⁷⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1076-1077.

⁷⁶³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 388; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1082.

⁷⁶⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 388; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1082.

⁷⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1083-1084.

⁷⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1086-1087.

⁷⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1087-1090.

⁷⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1090-1091.

⁷⁶⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 441.

⁷⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 657-658.

⁷⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 658.

⁷⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 658.

⁷⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 659.

8 COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE AND RELATED AGENCIES

8.1 The Community Services Directorate provides a range of policy and programs that deliver essential services to individuals, their families and the ACT community more broadly. Services are targeted to people with a disability, children and young people, families, carers, women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people who are ageing. Programs relate to multicultural affairs, volunteering, community services and facilities, concessions, social housing, therapy services, and arts and culture.⁷⁷⁴

8.2 The Directorate provides services through the following Output Classes:

- Disability and Therapy Services (Output Class 1):
 - Disability Services and Policy (Output Class 1.1);
 - Therapy Services (Output Class 1.2).
- Early Intervention (Output Class 2):
 - Early Intervention (Output Class 2.1).
- Community Participation (Output Class 3):
 - Community Relations (Output Class 3.1);
 - Arts Engagement (Output Class 3.2).⁷⁷⁵
- Children Youth and Family Services (Output Class 4):
 - Youth Services (Output Class 4.1);
 - Care and Protection (Output Class 4.2).
- Social Housing Services (Output Class 1).

8.3 It should be noted that Output Class 2.2 Children's Services and associated accountability indicators were transferred to the Education and Training Directorate following the introduction of new Administrative Arrangements (No 2) of 10 November 2012.⁷⁷⁶

8.4 Output Class 3.2 Community Affairs has been discontinued. Functions including provision of support and policy development activities, multicultural affairs, the ageing, the status of women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs as well as associated costs have now been included in Output 3.1 Community Relations.⁷⁷⁷

⁷⁷⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 319.

⁷⁷⁵ This Output was previously reported as "Output 3.3 Arts Policy, Advice and Programs".

⁷⁷⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 327.

⁷⁷⁷ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 328.

GENERAL

8.5 Key issues raised at public hearings on 21 June 2013 that relate to the whole Directorate included:

- savings initiatives across the Directorate;⁷⁷⁸
 - re-profiling and re-aligning services;⁷⁷⁹
 - changes in full time equivalent staffing (FTE);⁷⁸⁰ (See QTON No. 94).
 - business planning process to identify the budget impact on the Directorate and savings;⁷⁸¹ (See QTON No. 94).
 - the quantum of the savings target;⁷⁸²
- reviews leading to the Refreshing the Service Culture initiative including the Public Advocate and Auditor General's reports;⁷⁸³
- changes and initiatives including the integrated management system, structural realignment, new staffing, kinship care packages and the strategic five year plan for out of home care;⁷⁸⁴
- receipt of free of charge resources relating to legal advice from the Government Solicitor's Office;⁷⁸⁵
- budgeting for increases in employee expenses;⁷⁸⁶ (See QTON No. 95 and 96)
 - superannuation expenses;⁷⁸⁷ (See QTON No. 97)
- borrowing costs on finance leases with fleet;⁷⁸⁸
- loan for green infrastructure at community hubs;⁷⁸⁹
- uniformity of current asset projections over five years;⁷⁹⁰
- changes in equity – negative net capital distribution;⁷⁹¹ (See QTON No. 98) and
- transfer of early childhood service, regulation and facilities to the Education and Training Directorate from May 2013;⁷⁹²
 - capital projects awaiting financial completion before transfer to ETD.

⁷⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 661-666.

⁷⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 662.

⁷⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 661-664, 665-666.

⁷⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 661, 664.

⁷⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 664-665.

⁷⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 666-667.

⁷⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 666-667.

⁷⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 667-668.

⁷⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 668-670.

⁷⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 667.

⁷⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 670, 684-685.

⁷⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 670, 684-685.

⁷⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 670-671.

⁷⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 671.

⁷⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 685-687.

DISABILITY AND THERAPY SERVICES

8.6 The Committee dealt with the following Key Disability and Therapy issues on 25 June 2013:

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (DISABILITYCARE)

8.7 The Committee enquired about initiatives to improve the ACT community sector's capacity and readiness for the expected increase in service demand from the introduction of the Enhanced Service Offer (ESO) and DisabilityCare.⁷⁹³

8.8 The Committee was advised that there is funding designed to stimulate sector development and for sector readiness.⁷⁹⁴ The Commonwealth Government is providing \$12 million for sector development in the ACT over the next three years with an additional \$500,000 this financial year for ACT sector development.⁷⁹⁵ All States and Territories are working with the Commonwealth on a national plan for sector development to achieve consistency across Australia.⁷⁹⁶

8.9 The Committee also heard that, as people with a disability explore alternative services, activities and programs, CSD expected a number of services for ESO and DisabilityCare clients would begin to be provided by mainstream community services and the business sector rather than relying completely on specialist disability service providers.⁷⁹⁷ For existing specialist providers, the Committee heard that CSD is providing business support services to assist those providers to transition to the DisabilityCare 'control and choice' environment.⁷⁹⁸

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

8.10 The Committee is concerned at the lack of clarity around supports in place to assist the timely transition of existing service providers to DisabilityCare and to achieve the necessary sector growth to cater to the likely increase in service demand.

Recommendation 79

8.11 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide details to the Assembly of how the transition of disability service providers to DisabilityCare will be implemented at least six months prior to commencement of the launch in the ACT, to ensure sufficient preparation time.

⁷⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 838-842.

⁷⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 838, 840.

⁷⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 839.

⁷⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 839.

⁷⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 838, 840-842.

⁷⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 839.

TELEVISION ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

- 8.12 The Committee raised concerns about information gaps in the Commonwealth's television advertising campaign for DisabilityCare.⁷⁹⁹
- 8.13 The Minister for Disability, Children and Young People, Ms Joy Burch MLA advised that the campaign was a good investment, reminding the community 'that it is fair and reasonable that as a society we step up to ensure that people and their families with a disability are supported through DisabilityCare.'⁸⁰⁰ The Minister also advised that additional information about and promotion of DisabilityCare is being provided by jurisdictions commencing as launch sites.⁸⁰¹

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 8.14 The Committee is concerned that there does not appear to have been collaboration between Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to coordinate the information included in the Commonwealth Government's \$22 million television advertising campaign. The Committee notes in particular that the Commonwealth's campaign does not provide information for potential applicants on eligibility criteria for the scheme or how to apply for DisabilityCare.

Recommendation 80

- 8.15 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Disability, Children and Young People detail for the Assembly what coordination and consultation took place between the ACT and the Commonwealth regarding the Commonwealth's \$22 million television advertising campaign in order to ensure that ACT residents receive the essential information on DisabilityCare.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 8.16 The Committee also dealt with the following Disability and Therapy issues on 25 June 2013:

DISABILITY SERVICES AND POLICY

- Enhanced Service Offer grants (ESO)⁸⁰² to help people with a disability 'meet their reasonable needs for daily living, care and support'⁸⁰³ with grants for equipment and services;

⁷⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 832, 847-848.

⁸⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 847.

⁸⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 847, 829-831.

⁸⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 826-836.

⁸⁰³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 826.

- eligibility criteria for ESO assessed by CSD with a panel including representatives from across government, community sector and health professionals;⁸⁰⁴
- potential level of demand for ESO, with more people expected to apply than current CSD disability client base;⁸⁰⁵
- ACT Government public awareness and information campaign promoting ESO, including support for potential applicants;⁸⁰⁶
- managing public expectations and prioritising grants;⁸⁰⁷
- cessation of the weekly CSD website updates about the NDIS in favour of an e-newsletter to reach a broader audience;⁸⁰⁸
- current client numbers across disability and therapy services in the ACT;⁸⁰⁹
- the impact of DisabilityCare on people with a disability and their families;⁸¹⁰
- value to society of more interaction with, and participation and contribution from people with a disability;⁸¹¹
- respite care, including increasing preference for in-home care rather than residential respite centres for adults;⁸¹²
- community support and access indicators;⁸¹³
- aims and outcomes of the 'My Choice, My Control, My Future' conference, funded by the Commonwealth Government and attended by 20 directly invited ACT participants;⁸¹⁴ (See QTON No. 102)
- community and political support for DisabilityCare;⁸¹⁵
- management of cross-border demand for services through ACT eligibility criteria and learnings from interstate launch sites;⁸¹⁶
- community awareness and preparedness for DisabilityCare, including required cultural change;⁸¹⁷
 - Everyone, Everyday program in primary schools;⁸¹⁸
- design work and options for Disability ACT children's respite facilities;⁸¹⁹

⁸⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 828.

⁸⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 829.

⁸⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 829-831.

⁸⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 842-844.

⁸⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 832-833.

⁸⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 833, 843.

⁸¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 833-835.

⁸¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 835.

⁸¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 836-838, 841.

⁸¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 837.

⁸¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 844-846.

⁸¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 846.

⁸¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 848-849.

⁸¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 849-850.

⁸¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 850-851.

⁸¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 851.

- innovative accommodation options including the intentional community and home share;⁸²⁰
- post school options as interim support prior to ESO and DisabilityCare;⁸²¹
- Mobile Attendant Care and Evening Services (MACES);⁸²²
- proposed evaluation of the ESO and DisabilityCare;⁸²³
 - qualitative analysis of current clients with psychosocial disabilities as part of an innovation grant;⁸²⁴ (See QTON No. 103)
- My Choice ACT - Individual Support Packages (ISP) for the self-directed funding of services;⁸²⁵
 - ISP administration payment arrangements;⁸²⁶
- administrative costs for ESO;⁸²⁷
- progress implementing the ACT Public Service Employment Strategy for people with a disability in CSD and across the ACT Public Service;⁸²⁸ (See QTON No. 104 and 106)
 - supports provided to employees with a disability;⁸²⁹ and
 - recruitment and retention.⁸³⁰ (See QTON No. 107)

THERAPY SERVICES

- increase in hours of therapy service with the Therapy in Schools program and increasing numbers of therapy clients;⁸³¹
- use of therapy assistants and allied health assistants;⁸³² and
- lower cost per hour for therapy services from revised services and lower overhead allocation.⁸³³ (See QTON No. 105)

⁸²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 851-852.

⁸²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 852.

⁸²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 852.

⁸²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 853.

⁸²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 853-854.

⁸²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 854-856.

⁸²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 855-856.

⁸²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 856-857.

⁸²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 857-858, 862-864.

⁸²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 863.

⁸³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 864.

⁸³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, p. 858.

⁸³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 858-859, 861-862.

⁸³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 859-861.

EARLY INTERVENTION

8.17 On 21 June 2013 the Committee dealt with the following early intervention issues:

- parents as Teachers Program;⁸³⁴
 - outcomes for participants including increasing confidence in parenting skills;
 - evaluation of the program by the University of Canberra using a survey of participants;
 - home visits;
 - qualifications of the Parents as Teachers staff;
 - self-referral to the program;
- partnerships with community service organisations to help deliver early intervention and prevention services;⁸³⁵
 - more giggles program;⁸³⁶
- ongoing services provided by Parentline following the termination of the Parentline contract for Information, Engagement and Coordination Services;⁸³⁷ and
 - referral and information services now provided through a consortium of providers.⁸³⁸

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

8.18 On 28 June 2013 the Committee dealt with the following key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs issues:

WELCOME TO COUNTRY CEREMONIES

8.19 The Committee notes that CSD provides information on their website about Welcome to Country ceremonies and the processes for arranging these ceremonies at public events. The Committee sought additional information about the number of ceremonies commissioned by the ACT Government and the associated cost. This information is currently held by each directorate and CSD agreed to collate across government and provide to the Committee.⁸³⁹ (See QTON No. 203)

⁸³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 671-673, 667.

⁸³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 673-676.

⁸³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 674-676.

⁸³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 677-678.

⁸³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 678.

⁸³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1192-1194.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 8.20 The Committee believes the collated ACT Government information should be provided by CSD in the annual report.

Recommendation 81

- 8.21 The Committee recommends that the Community Services Directorate provide details in its annual report about the number of Welcome to Country ceremonies commissioned by the ACT Government and the associated budget allocation.**

UNITED NGUNNAWAL ELDERS COUNCIL

- 8.22 The Committee sought information about any action that had been taken following concerns raised by Mr Jon Stanhope, former Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, about the way that meetings were being conducted by the Council.⁸⁴⁰
- 8.23 The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA advised the Committee that some matters remain unresolved and will be subject to further attention.⁸⁴¹

Recommendation 82

- 8.24 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs outlines action he is taking with regards to concerns raised by Mr Stanhope, former Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, about the conduct of meetings of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council.**

INDIGENOUS TARGETS AND STATISTICS

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 8.25 The Committee notes the importance of conducting regular reviews of program funding to ensure that targets against key indicators are being met. The Committee also believes it is important that when information is reported, it is provided in a variety of formats.

Recommendation 83

- 8.26 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct a review of all Indigenous program funding in the ACT and ensures that the investment is meeting the *Closing the Gap* targets.**

⁸⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1201.

⁸⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1202.

Recommendation 84

- 8.27 The Committee recommends that when reporting Indigenous statistics and where possible and appropriate, actual numbers should be given as well as a percentage given the small sample size.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 8.28 The Committee also discussed the following matters at the hearing on 28 June 2013:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- the eligibility and examples of the successful implementation of the microcredit program in the ACT;⁸⁴²
- availability of funding to individuals and groups through grant programs and community development programs;⁸⁴³
- the Social and Community Services (SACS) Pay Equity Award and the impact on attraction and retention of employees within the community sector;⁸⁴⁴
- revised index parameters for community sector indexation;⁸⁴⁵
- discontinued performance indicator of partnership forums with the community;⁸⁴⁶
- allocation of funding for the community infrastructure and support grants;⁸⁴⁷
- recurrent and capital funding provided to Diversity ACT to improve services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community;⁸⁴⁸ and
- funded organisations' satisfaction of the administering of funding contracts.⁸⁴⁹

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

- the benefits of the work experience and support program for migrants;⁸⁵⁰
- a number of multicultural programs including the \$120,000 multicultural radio program and the \$160,000 multicultural grant programs;⁸⁵¹
- funding changes within Output Class 3.1;⁸⁵² (See QTON No. 241) and

⁸⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1204-1206.

⁸⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1206.

⁸⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1207-1208.

⁸⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1208-1209.

⁸⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1209-1210.

⁸⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1210-1212.

⁸⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1212-1214.

⁸⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1213.

⁸⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1231.

⁸⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1233.

⁸⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1233-1234.

- the reorganisation of a number of grants offered under the Multicultural Affairs and Status of Women Portfolio in consultation with the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women.⁸⁵³ (See QTON No. 242)

WOMEN

- the success of the return to work grants program, including better access for older women;⁸⁵⁴
- the self-funding of the microcredit program through the reinvestment of grants by those women who have paid back their \$3,000 grants;⁸⁵⁵
- activities and education programs offered by the Women's Information and Referral Centre;⁸⁵⁶ (See QTON No. 243)
- the allocation of funding for, and the success of, the multicultural sporting programs with the Global Cricket Challenge and soccer match;⁸⁵⁷
- food health and safety concerns at the multicultural festival;⁸⁵⁸ (See QTON No. 244)
- formal networking opportunities for the emerging multicultural communities and established multicultural communities;⁸⁵⁹
- the costs and demand for the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre;⁸⁶⁰ (See QTON No. 245) and
- additional allocation of funding provided for the Community Language Schools Association.⁸⁶¹

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS

- expenditure on Indigenous programs and the breakdown of the total funding amount from Commonwealth and ACT sources, formulas used to gather this data;⁸⁶² (See QTON No. 202)
- information contained in the *Indigenous Expenditure Report* and how it is used to inform service provision and advice to the Minister; additional work has been commissioned to analyse the report in greater detail;⁸⁶³
- access to and utilisation of mainstream services by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;⁸⁶⁴

⁸⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1235-1236.

⁸⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1236-1237.

⁸⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1237-1238.

⁸⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1238.

⁸⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1238.

⁸⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1240.

⁸⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1241.

⁸⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1242.

⁸⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1243.

⁸⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1184-1187.

⁸⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1184-1187; The report is available at: www.pc.gov.au/gsp/ier

⁸⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1187-1189.

- CHANCES program run by Northside Community Service and Capital Careers to provide assistance for long-term unemployed people, consideration being given to undertaking a longitudinal study on program outcomes;⁸⁶⁵
- new scholarship program to support members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community participate in study or training. The program is targeted at identifying barriers to completing further study and will be promoted with assistance from the Indigenous elected body and Koori preschools;⁸⁶⁶
- protocols for the performance of Welcome to Country ceremonies and level of expenditure for ceremonies commissioned by the ACT Government;⁸⁶⁷ (See QTON No. 203)
- outcomes from the genealogical study which was commissioned in two parts: one confidential and one non-confidential;⁸⁶⁸
- establishment and composition of the new Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs within CSD;⁸⁶⁹ (See QTON No. 204)
- definitions of cultural competence and cultural safety;⁸⁷⁰
- changes to strategic indicators—from reporting data as a point-in-time measure to reporting data across a full year;⁸⁷¹
- activities being undertaken at the former National Museum of Australia buildings;⁸⁷²
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support and capacity building program;⁸⁷³ and the
- United Ngunnawal Elders Council, including frequency of meetings, remuneration and communication of meeting outcomes.⁸⁷⁴

AGEING

- plans for an age-friendly city conference in 2013 and a second older persons assembly in 2014 including funding, sponsorship, open invitation process, delegate fees, speakers and expected outcomes;⁸⁷⁵
- the Seniors Grants program to encourage and support the participation of older Canberrans in the community, including services provided by community groups and clubs;⁸⁷⁶

⁸⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1189-1191.

⁸⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1191-1192, 1196.

⁸⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1192-1194.

⁸⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1194-1196.

⁸⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1196-1197, 1198-1199.

⁸⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1197-1198.

⁸⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1199.

⁸⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1199.

⁸⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1200, 1202-1203.

⁸⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1200-1202.

⁸⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1176-1181.

⁸⁷⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1179.

- outline of the non-government organisations that work with the ACT Government on ageing issues and programs;⁸⁷⁷
- measures to ensure that older Canberrans are not left behind in the ability to access ACT Government information as online information and interactions become more common;⁸⁷⁸ (See QTON NO. 201) and
- ageing sector related grants in the community capacity building grants program.⁸⁷⁹

ARTS ENGAGEMENT

8.29 The Committee heard about the following issues related to Arts Engagement:

- development of an arts policy framework to support and promote arts initiatives in Canberra;⁸⁸⁰
- provision of funding in the Budget for the development of the Kingston arts precinct including;
 - commission of a feasibility study to establish Kingston as a visual arts hub;⁸⁸¹
 - relocation of Megalo into an interim facility in Kingston;⁸⁸²
 - ongoing discussion in relation to the Fitters Workshop due to major concerns around accommodation and insurance risk;⁸⁸³ (See QON No. 218)
 - investigating ways to engage with a range of sectors within the broader creative industry;⁸⁸⁴
 - ongoing engagement with other organisations in the precinct such as Old Bus Depot Markets and Glassworks;⁸⁸⁵
 - consultation with LDA as the arts precinct is adjacent to an area identified by the LDA as commercial space;⁸⁸⁶
- establishment of the Ainslie Arts Centre as a music hub which will result in the co-location of a number of organisations involved in music;⁸⁸⁷
- proposed capital upgrades of the Gorman House Arts Centre and the investigation of options about the use of this area;⁸⁸⁸

⁸⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1182.

⁸⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1182-1183.

⁸⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1183-1184.

⁸⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1216, 1223-1224.

⁸⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1219.

⁸⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1217.

⁸⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1217-1218.

⁸⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1219-1220.

⁸⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1220.

⁸⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1221.

⁸⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1216; p. 1218.

⁸⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1216, 1218-1219.

- entering into phase 2 of the upgrade to the Belconnen Arts Centre (See QON No. 218) and redevelopment of the Tuggeranong Arts Centre;⁸⁸⁹
- Street Theatre extension;⁸⁹⁰ (See QON No. 218)
- inclusion of a new accountability indicator relating to the number of arts organisations supporting community participation;⁸⁹¹
- challenges faced by arts organisations due to budgetary pressures, including the issue of being able to offer comparable and competitive salaries;⁸⁹²
- decommissioning of the Cultural Council;⁸⁹³ and the
- importance of maintaining a commitment to arts programs following the centenary year.⁸⁹⁴

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

8.30 On 21 June 2013 the Committee dealt with the following key Children, Youth and Family Services issues:

BIMBERI YOUTH JUSTICE CENTRE STAFFING

- 8.31 In regards to staffing arrangements at Bimberi, the Committee was advised that no specific ratio between staff and residents exists. The Minister advised that there is a core staff level required to operate Bimberi and other staffing requirements are based on the particular needs of the residents in Bimberi and associated risk management requirements at any point in time.⁸⁹⁵ (See QON No. 36)
- 8.32 The Committee heard that on three occasions over the past 12 months core staff numbers were not met and measures were taken, such as securing the residents in their rooms for around an hour, to facilitate necessary rest and lunch breaks for on-duty staff.⁸⁹⁶ In the 12 months to May 2013, Bimberi has been in lockdown for a total of five hours which is a significant reduction on previous years.⁸⁹⁷

⁸⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1223-1224.

⁸⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1216.

⁸⁹¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4. p. 333.

⁸⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1222-1223, 1225-1226.

⁸⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1233.

⁸⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1222-1224.

⁸⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 693.

⁸⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 694-695.

⁸⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 695.

8.33 Further, the Committee was advised that CSD is deliberately over-recruiting to ensure an adequate casual workforce is available as needed, particularly to manage variables arising from planned and unplanned staff leave.⁸⁹⁸

Recommendation 85

8.34 The Committee recommends that the Community Services Directorate ensure the staffing levels at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre meet operational needs at all times.

Recommendation 86

8.35 The Committee recommends that the Community Services Directorate include an accountability indicator in the 2013-14 Budget that measures the number of days where operational capability at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is not met due to insufficient staffing levels.

OTHER ISSUES

8.36 The Committee also dealt with the following issues:

YOUTH SERVICES

8.37 The Committee dealt with the following issues:

- blueprint for youth justice and early intervention including the gateway service, single cast management, after hours bail service, family engagement officer position and partnerships with the community sector;⁸⁹⁹
 - blueprint implementation process;⁹⁰⁰
 - re-profiling of \$304,000 for an information system due to design delays;⁹⁰¹
 - performance indicators and actions;⁹⁰²
- Bimberi staff currently on stress and workers compensation leave;⁹⁰³ (See QTON No. 99)
- early results from the Bendora unit at Bimberi, supporting the transition of youth in custody back into the community;⁹⁰⁴
 - future evaluation of the program;⁹⁰⁵

⁸⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 694.

⁸⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 678-680, 687-689.

⁹⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 688.

⁹⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 688.

⁹⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 688-689.

⁹⁰³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 695-696.

⁹⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 680-684.

⁹⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 682.

- impact on youth services accountability indicators;⁹⁰⁶
- initiatives to manage the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth in the youth justice system including:⁹⁰⁷
 - restorative conferencing;
 - Narrabundah House;
 - partnerships with community service providers;
 - design of the position of a family engagement officer;
- overview of the Turnaround program, a case coordination service for young people with complex case management needs requiring intensive or multi-service support;⁹⁰⁸
- youth justice case plans, single case management and the ROGS indicator;⁹⁰⁹
- upgrade plans for the Bimberi access road and the new suburb of Kenny;⁹¹⁰ and
- trauma recovery centre development including professional support to assist traumatised children.⁹¹¹

CARE AND PROTECTION SERVICES

8.38 The Committee dealt with the following issues:

- number of children receiving care and protection services;⁹¹² (See QON No. 181)
- funding for the Children and Young People System (CHYPS) upgrade and a feasibility study for a replacement system in response to recommendations from the Auditor General's 2013 report on the *Care and Protection System*;⁹¹³
- increases in child protection reporting increases as per the national trend;⁹¹⁴
- progress implementing the Public Advocate's recommendation in the *Review of the Emergency Response Strategy for Children in Crisis*;⁹¹⁵
- kinship carer support services including therapeutic support, counselling, training, a revised handbook and the role of the kinship care team;⁹¹⁶
- average cost per care day for out of home care and adequacy of the available budget;⁹¹⁷ (See QTON No. 100)

⁹⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 683-684.

⁹⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 690-692.

⁹⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 692-693.

⁹⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 706-707.

⁹¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 707-708.

⁹¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 708-709.

⁹¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 696-697.

⁹¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 697, 706.

⁹¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 697-698.

⁹¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 698-699.

⁹¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 699-700.

⁹¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 700-701.

- savings measures to address small total budget increase for care and protection services;⁹¹⁸
- foster care placements;⁹¹⁹
- adoption:⁹²⁰
 - application numbers for adoption;⁹²¹ (See QTON No. 101)
 - decrease in inter-country adoption;⁹²²
 - increase in foster care adoption where biological families have consented;⁹²³
 - adoption support services through the adoption and permanent care unit;⁹²⁴
- increases in the number of out of home care days for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, indicative of children remaining in out of home care for longer periods;⁹²⁵
 - growth of kinship care arrangements;⁹²⁶ and
 - cultural care plans.⁹²⁷

Recommendation 87

8.39 The Committee recommends the ACT Government increase its efforts to shorten time lines for adoption in the ACT.

HOUSING ACT

8.40 Housing ACT's principal objective is to provide safe, affordable and appropriate housing that responds to the individual circumstances and needs of low income and disadvantaged people in the community.⁹²⁸

8.41 The Committee dealt with the following key housing issues on 28 June 2013:

⁹¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 702.

⁹¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 702.

⁹²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 702-704; 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 335.

⁹²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 704.

⁹²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 702, 704.

⁹²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 703.

⁹²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 703-704.

⁹²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 704-706.

⁹²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, p. 705.

⁹²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 21 June 2013, pp. 705-706.

⁹²⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 355.

SECURITY OF TENURE AND EVICTION POLICIES

- 8.42 The Committee sought details of the public housing eviction process and whether the current policy to begin eviction for tenants that have a change in eligibility status due to a change in income level will continue.⁹²⁹
- 8.43 The Minister for Housing, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, advised that the eviction policy would continue to be implemented in its current form.⁹³⁰ He advised that 'Housing ACT have been working through those, taking an approach to start with the tenants most above the threshold, looking at the highest income tenants'.⁹³¹ The Committee also heard that Housing ACT considers income levels over a number of years and tenants continued 'ability to service a loan or their ability to sustain a rental in the private market' before initiating eviction processes.⁹³² Tenants can also choose to make use of the sale-to-tenant program and shared equity scheme.⁹³³ The Committee heard that some tenants recently identified for eviction have voluntarily left including purchasing homes or moved into the private rental market.⁹³⁴
- 8.44 The Minister noted that the current eviction policy should continue to be examined to ensure it is appropriate and advised that there may be a need to consider indexation of the income threshold.⁹³⁵
- 8.45 The Minister advised that:
- ...we need to provide housing for those most in need. Those people who reach an income point where they can afford to move into the private rental market or purchase their properties, I think we should be encouraging that.⁹³⁶
- 8.46 The Minister also advised that the next round of tenant income analysis is under consideration.⁹³⁷ (See QTON No. 198)

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 8.47 The Committee notes that the current ACT Government policy on tenure in public housing does not accord with the ACT Greens policy platform on housing tenure which states that 'security of tenure enhances quality of life and economic wellbeing, and is integral to the effective provision of social housing and the regulation of the private rental market'.⁹³⁸

⁹²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1153-1157.

⁹³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1153-1157.

⁹³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1154.

⁹³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1155-1156.

⁹³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1155-1156.

⁹³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1153.

⁹³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1154.

⁹³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1155.

⁹³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1156.

⁹³⁸ ACT Greens Policy Platform, April 2012, p. 28, www.act.greens.org.au, accessed 4 July 2013.

Recommendation 88

- 8.48 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Housing clarify for the Assembly the policy on tenure in public housing and evicting public housing tenants who earn more than \$80,000 per year.**

Recommendation 89

- 8.49 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Housing clarify for the Assembly whether or not he still supports the housing tenure policy the ACT Greens took to the 2012 ACT Election.**

OTHER ISSUES

- 8.50 The Committee also discussed the following housing issues:

- tenant employment program in partnership with Spotless, Housing ACT's maintenance contract manager;⁹³⁹
- development of the Common Ground supporting housing facility and associated support services;⁹⁴⁰
- fluctuations in the number of social housing properties;⁹⁴¹
- progress of the redevelopment of the Allawah, Bega and Currong (ABC) flats in Braddon;⁹⁴²
 - Territory Plan Variation process;
 - preferred height of the redevelopment;
- increase in tenancies managed by not-for-profit housing providers;⁹⁴³
 - constructions under the National Rental Affordability Scheme;
 - Transfer of properties to Argyle Community Housing, feedback from tenants;
- maintenance of public housing properties including response times, prioritising work, abatements and the satisfaction of tenants;⁹⁴⁴ (See QTON No. 199 and 200)
- allocation of public housing to those in greatest need and the process for allocating priority housing;⁹⁴⁵
- investigation of options to establish a sustainable Aboriginal housing program by a community provider;⁹⁴⁶

⁹³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1144-1146.

⁹⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1146.

⁹⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1147.

⁹⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1147-1150.

⁹⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1150-1153.

⁹⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1157-1160.

⁹⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1160.

⁹⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1161-1162.

- transfer of housing stock to the community housing sector;⁹⁴⁷
- recent legislative changes for community housing providers and national approach;⁹⁴⁸
- initiatives under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness;⁹⁴⁹
 - matched funding from the Commonwealth and ACT;
- community organisation involvement in the sustainable tenancies initiative;⁹⁵⁰
- general community awareness around homelessness;⁹⁵¹
- rough sleepers in the ACT and outreach programs;⁹⁵²
- process for new property acquisition by Housing ACT;⁹⁵³
- strategy for the sale, upgrade, refit or re-letting of standalone public housing properties in the inner north and south;⁹⁵⁴
- sale of properties to align portfolio with tenant needs and the use of a panel of valuers and a panel of agents in the process;⁹⁵⁵
- turnaround times for public housing and the age of properties, including significant maintenance requirements;⁹⁵⁶
- average length of tenancy;⁹⁵⁷
- design work for the public housing community for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;⁹⁵⁸ and
- design of housing for elderly public housing tenants based on the nation building downsizing project.⁹⁵⁹

⁹⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1162-1164.

⁹⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1164-1165.

⁹⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1165-1166,

⁹⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1166-1167.

⁹⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1167-1168.

⁹⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1168-1169.

⁹⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1169-1170.

⁹⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1170-1171.

⁹⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1171-1171.

⁹⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1172-1173.

⁹⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1173.

⁹⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1173-1175.

⁹⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1175.

CULTURAL FACILITIES CORPORATION

8.51 The Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) is a Territory Authority established under the *Cultural Facilities Corporation Act 1997*. The minister responsible is Minister for the Arts, Ms Joy Burch MLA.⁹⁶⁰

8.52 The Committee heard about the following issues related to the CFC at the hearing of Friday 28 June 2013:

- CFC's involvement in the centenary celebrations and the importance of preserving and continuing the positive contribution of the arts;⁹⁶¹
- preliminary work undertaken by the CFC relating to incorporating cultural facilities into the City to Lake project and the City Plan with particular reference to a new theatre in the precinct;⁹⁶²
- entering the second year of a three year program of upgrades to the Canberra Theatre, including upgrades to support the continued use of the venue, replacement of plant and equipment, and safety and security upgrades;⁹⁶³
- provision of funding for a two-year project for the upgrade of roads in the Lanyon heritage precinct;⁹⁶⁴
- budget allocation to the CFC and the breakdown of funding received from Government and own source revenue;⁹⁶⁵
- implementing strategies to contend with the volatility of the theatre business, particularly in the context of uncertainty around a federal election;⁹⁶⁶
- staffing numbers;⁹⁶⁷ and the
- promotion of Canberra Museum and Gallery and the increase in visitor numbers.⁹⁶⁸
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⁹⁶⁰ 2013-14 Budget: *Cultural Facilities Corporation Statement of Intent*.

⁹⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1224-1225.

⁹⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1226-1227.

⁹⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1227-1228.

⁹⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1228-1229.

⁹⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1229-1230.

⁹⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1229.

⁹⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1230.

⁹⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1230-1231.

9 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

- 9.1 The Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) is responsible for the planning, development and delivery of the majority of the ACT's sustainable development and environmental policies.⁹⁶⁹
- 9.2 The Committee heard from the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA, on Monday 24 June and Thursday 27 June 2013 to discuss the following outputs and agency functions:
- Environment and Sustainable Development
 - Regulation and services (Output class 1.1)⁹⁷⁰
 - Planning delivery (Output class 1.2)⁹⁷¹
 - Planning policy (Output class 1.3)⁹⁷²
 - Heritage (Output class 1.4)⁹⁷³
 - Environment policy (Output class 1.5)⁹⁷⁴
 - Environment protection and water regulation (Output class 1.6)⁹⁷⁵
- 9.3 The Committee also heard from the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment on Tuesday 25 June 2013.⁹⁷⁶

REGULATION AND SERVICES

BUILDING ACT REVIEW

- 9.4 The Committee was updated on progress on the review of the *Building Act 2004* that commenced in 2012, including in relation to measures aimed at addressing poor building practices.⁹⁷⁷ (See QTON No. 133)

⁹⁶⁹ *Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report 2011-12*, pp. 2, 6.

⁹⁷⁰ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 254, 257.

⁹⁷¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 254, 257.

⁹⁷² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 254, 258.

⁹⁷³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 255, 258.

⁹⁷⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 255, 259.

⁹⁷⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 256, 260.

⁹⁷⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 256, 260.

⁹⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence 24 June 2013*, pp. 712, 716-717.

Recommendation 90

9.5 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in the budget the number of stop-work notices issued.

OTHER ISSUES

9.6 Other Regulation and Services issues discussed at the hearing on 24 June 2013 included:

- the purpose of the review of the *Utilities Act 2000*;⁹⁷⁸
- the recent regulatory changes relating to the self certification of work undertaken by gas-fitters;⁹⁷⁹
- measures to address poor building practice, including in relation to waterproofing of buildings, and the ability of purchasers of units to ascertain who built the unit and the builder's building practice record;⁹⁸⁰
- the processes of auditing of individual building sites and the identification of industry-wide building quality issues;⁹⁸¹
- regulations for controlling overland flow paths;⁹⁸²
- commence and complete requirements for the development of vacant blocks;⁹⁸³
- estimated employment levels, including the impact of voluntary redundancies on meeting the targeted level;⁹⁸⁴ (See QTON No. 29 and 30)
- the process for managing voluntary redundancies;⁹⁸⁵
- the breakdown of savings achieved in non-staffing areas of the directorate;⁹⁸⁶ (See QTON No. 31)
- the reason for the greater than expected operating loss;⁹⁸⁷
- the Directorate's data storage costs⁹⁸⁸
- anticipated savings from the new electricity contract;⁹⁸⁹ (See QTON No. 117)
- outcomes of the energy efficiency improvement scheme;⁹⁹⁰ and
- the process for considering an application for a controlled activity order under the *Planning and Development Act*.⁹⁹¹

⁹⁷⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 247. *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 710-711.

⁹⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 711-712.

⁹⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 712-716.

⁹⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 716-717.

⁹⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 717-718.

⁹⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 718.

⁹⁸⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 249. *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 718-720.

⁹⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 721-723.

⁹⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 723.

⁹⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 723.

⁹⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 723-724.

⁹⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 724-725.

⁹⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 725-726.

⁹⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 735-736.

PLANNING DELIVERY

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

- 9.7 The Committee discussed the number of development applications (DA) assessed in the 2012-13 financial year and the reasons for exceeding statutory timeframes for processing DAs.⁹⁹² The Committee was advised that the Directorate had processed some 1130 DAs during the last financial year, but that it was difficult to anticipate what future numbers were likely to be as they were dependent on the level of building activity at any given time and the complexity of the applications lodged.⁹⁹³

Recommendation 91

- 9.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report the number of Development Applications assessed.**

IMPACTS OF VARIATION 306

- 9.9 The Committee discussed the impact of the proposed changes to residential development codes included in variation to the Territory Plan no 306.⁹⁹⁴ In response to the Committee's questions about whether an assessment of the costs to developers and home buyers of the provisions of variation to the Territory Plan No. 306 was undertaken, the Directorate advised that it 'did not believe so'. However, the Minister advised that no cost-impact analysis had been undertaken as this was 'not normal practice'.⁹⁹⁵
- 9.10 The Committee referred to concerns raised by the MBA, the HIA, the Institute of Architects, the Institute of Landscape Architects, the Property Council and the Planning Institute as well as individual builders, that a number of technical variations or a more substantial revision to the variation may be needed to address the degree of discretion, the number of rules and the level of confusion arising from the variation. In response, the Minister stated that he had 'heard exactly the same claims and exactly the same arguments from industry about variation 200' and that '[i]t did not happen.'⁹⁹⁶

Recommendation 92

- 9.11 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the impact Variation 306 is having on the workload of Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate.**

⁹⁹² *Proof, Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 730.

⁹⁹³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 257. *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 729-731.

⁹⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 731-732.

⁹⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 732.

⁹⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 733.

OTHER ISSUES

9.12 Other Planning Delivery issues discussed at the hearing on 24 June 2013 included:

- the objectives of undertaking the Gungahlin strategic environmental assessment, including the identification of appropriate offsets;⁹⁹⁷
- the appropriateness of having a class of development that are exempt from development approval;⁹⁹⁸
- the implications of variation 306 on planning outcomes in the suburb of Wright;⁹⁹⁹
- an update on the status of draft variation to the Territory Plan no. 304 relating to a review of commercial zone development provisions;¹⁰⁰⁰
- areas to be focussed on as part of the master planning process;¹⁰⁰¹
- factors taken into consideration in determining permissible building heights;¹⁰⁰² and
- the reason for the failure to meet the completion target for development services assurance program.¹⁰⁰³ (See QTON No. 118)

9.13 The Committee notes the importance of considering the height of buildings in planning decisions.

PLANNING POLICY

9.14 Planning Policy issues discussed at the hearing on 24 June 2013 included:

- measures to be taken to meet modal shift targets under the Transport for Canberra policy.¹⁰⁰⁴

HERITAGE

NORTHBOURNE AVENUE PROPERTIES

9.15 The Committee was advised that the government was taking into consideration the potential impact on heritage-listed properties along Northbourne Avenue in its plans for the light rail network, including the implications of any re- development proposals.¹⁰⁰⁵

⁹⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 726-728.

⁹⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 728-729.

⁹⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 732-733.

¹⁰⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 733-735.

¹⁰⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 736-737.

¹⁰⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 737-738.

¹⁰⁰³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 739.

¹⁰⁰⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 258. *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 738-739.

¹⁰⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1095-1096.

9.16 The Minister advised that it was important to 'ensure that that any redevelopment of those sites is first and foremost consistent with both the heritage arrangements in relation to those sites and also the intellectual rights associated with the design of those sites, which are held by the architects'¹⁰⁰⁶, but that no final decision had been made as to the potential reuse of the buildings.¹⁰⁰⁷

Recommendation 93

9.17 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a strategy for the redevelopment of public housing units on Northbourne Avenue.

OTHER ISSUES

9.18 Other heritage-related issues discussed at the hearing on 27 June 2013 included:

- an update on the review of the Heritage Act and the status of the Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill;¹⁰⁰⁸
- the number of heritage listed duplexes and the involvement of the Heritage Council in the recent demolition of half of a duplex;¹⁰⁰⁹ (See QTON No. 246)
- the assessment and protection of architectural heritage;¹⁰¹⁰ (See QTON No. 247)
- the relationship between, and respective roles of, the Heritage Council and the Heritage Unit;¹⁰¹¹
- circumstances under which the new Heritage Act call-in powers would be exercised;¹⁰¹²
- the allocation of funding for the Canberra Tracks program and the establishment of an emergency fund to repair heritage items;¹⁰¹³
- improvements to the accessibility of the Heritage Register;¹⁰¹⁴
- savings to be achieved in the heritage output class;¹⁰¹⁵ (See QTON No. 248)
- the breakdown between staff and other costs within the Heritage Unit;¹⁰¹⁶ (See QTON No. 249) and
- proactive activities undertaken by the Heritage Unit in relation to its range of functions.¹⁰¹⁷

¹⁰⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1096.

¹⁰⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p.1097.

¹⁰⁰⁸ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 258. *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1093.

¹⁰⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1093-1094.

¹⁰¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1094-1095.

¹⁰¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1095.

¹⁰¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1097-1098.

¹⁰¹³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 265. *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1098-1099.

¹⁰¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1099.

¹⁰¹⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 255. *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1099.

¹⁰¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1099-1100.

¹⁰¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1100-1101.

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

CARBON EMISSIONS

- 9.19 The Committee was advised of a number of measures being undertaken by the Government to reduce the carbon emissions of the territory.¹⁰¹⁸ (See QTON No. 250)
- 9.20 The Committee sought information about the operation of the Carbon Neutral Fund in the Territory. The Minister informed the Committee that the Carbon Neutral Fund was not producing any additional costs on taxpayers, and that the Fund was 'saving taxpayers money in terms of further calls on the budget' as the Minister advised the Committee that 'money that [the Government] previously used to pay for green power [was being directed] into a fund that helps reduce power consumption in government agencies.'¹⁰¹⁹
- 9.21 The Committee was advised of the various accountability measurements and processes that are used to report emissions to the Commonwealth Government.¹⁰²⁰

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 9.22 The Committee expressed concerns that the operations of the Carbon Neutral Fund were not documented in a format that comprehensively outlined its operation.¹⁰²¹

Recommendation 94

- 9.23 The Committee recommends that the Government clearly publish the operations of the Carbon Neutral Fund.**

Recommendation 95

- 9.24 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in the budget information about the targets and performance of the Territory regarding greenhouse gas emissions.**

NATURE CONSERVATION

- 9.25 The parliamentary agreement for the 8th Legislative Assembly for the ACT between the Australian Labor Party and the ACT Greens included a commitment to better integrate biodiversity policy, planning, research and management through a merger of all existing conservation services into a single conservation agency.¹⁰²²

¹⁰¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 724-728; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1101-1111.

¹⁰¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1105.

¹⁰²⁰ *Proof, Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1113-1117.

¹⁰²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1106.

¹⁰²² *Parliamentary Agreement for the 8th Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory*, 2012, p. 6.

9.26 The Committee was advised that matters relating to the establishment of the single nature conservation agency were currently the subject of Cabinet deliberations but that it was the Government's intention to establish such an agency at a time which is yet to be determined.¹⁰²³

Recommendation 96

9.27 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government as a matter of priority establishes a single Nature Conservation Agency.

OTHER ISSUES

9.28 Other Environment Policy issues discussed at the hearing on 27 June 2013 included:

- the whole-of-government measures aimed at reducing carbon emissions;¹⁰²⁴
- accountability indicators for measuring the achievement of the carbon emission reduction targets;¹⁰²⁵
- the potential costs and savings of *AP2: A new climate change strategy and action plan for the Australian Capital Territory and the carbon neutral government fund*;¹⁰²⁶
- projects for which funding was allocated under the carbon neutral government fund;¹⁰²⁷
- an update on the status of the second stage of the large-scale solar auction and the mechanism to assess the bids for feed-in tariffs;¹⁰²⁸
- the proposed solar farm at Royalla;¹⁰²⁹
- comparisons with cities with similar carbon emission reduction targets;¹⁰³⁰ (See QTON No. 251)
- the process for calculating, reporting on and auditing the Territory's greenhouse gas emissions;¹⁰³¹
- measures to reduce the amount of organic waster being buried in landfill, including the proposed development of a 'dirty' materials recovery facility (MRF);¹⁰³²
- the review of the Nature Conservation Act and the timetable for the introduction of new legislation;¹⁰³³

¹⁰²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 111-1112.

¹⁰²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1101-1102.

¹⁰²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1102; 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 259.

¹⁰²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1103-1106.

¹⁰²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1107-1108.

¹⁰²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1108-1109.

¹⁰²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1109-1110.

¹⁰³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1110-1111.

¹⁰³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 1112-1117.

¹⁰³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1117-1118.

¹⁰³³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 259; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1118-1119.

- an update on the review of the Environment Protection Act 1997;¹⁰³⁴
- the review of, and timetable for the development of, environmental flow guidelines;¹⁰³⁵ and
- participation numbers, costs and savings of a range of rebate programs including the wood heater replacement program, the energy audit and the home energy advice team.¹⁰³⁶

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY

9.29 Issues discussed at the hearing on 27 June 2013 included:

- the management of blue-green algae in Lake Burley Griffin;¹⁰³⁷
- the governance arrangements and timeframe for the establishment of the proposed Water Catchment Management Authority;¹⁰³⁸
- the administration of water resources trading entitlements, including the use of the 'stop the clock' methodology;¹⁰³⁹
- the outcomes of, and community involvement, in constructed wetlands projects;¹⁰⁴⁰
- air quality in the Territory and the timing of the release of the air quality report;¹⁰⁴¹
- air quality monitoring station in Belconnen¹⁰⁴²
- restrictions on wood heaters;¹⁰⁴³
- engagement with the automotive industry to address air pollution;¹⁰⁴⁴
- the management of Ginninderra Creek;¹⁰⁴⁵

OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FLORA AND FAUNA

- the assessment and preparation of conservation action plans, including for the Little Eagle;¹⁰⁴⁶
- the application process for an environment significance opinion;¹⁰⁴⁷
- the conservation of the striped legless lizard;¹⁰⁴⁸

¹⁰³⁴ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 251; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, p. 1119.

¹⁰³⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 250; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1119-1121.

¹⁰³⁶ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 255; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1122-1124.

¹⁰³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1125.

¹⁰³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1125-1126.

¹⁰³⁹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 260; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1126-1128.

¹⁰⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1128-1129.

¹⁰⁴¹ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 260; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1129-1132.

¹⁰⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 1131-1132.

¹⁰⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1132-1133.

¹⁰⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1133-1134.

¹⁰⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1134-1137.

¹⁰⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1137-1138.

¹⁰⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1138-1139.

¹⁰⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1139-1140.

- accessibility of conservation action plans;¹⁰⁴⁹
- timeframe for reviewing conservation action plans;¹⁰⁵⁰ (See QTON No's. 253 and 254)
- the role of the Flora and Fauna Committee in ensuring the implementation of conservation action plans.¹⁰⁵¹

CAPITAL METRO AGENCY

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS AND TIMELINE

- 9.30 The 2013-14 Budget allocates \$12.3 million for the establishment and operation of the Capital Metro Agency, which will be responsible for the design, procurement and delivery of the first stage (Gungahlin to the City) of the city's light rail network.¹⁰⁵² An additional \$5 million has also been allocated to complete preliminary design work for the first stage of the light rail route.¹⁰⁵³
- 9.31 The Committee was advised that, as part of an initial feasibility study, a cost-benefit analysis of bus and light rail options had been undertaken for the Gungahlin to City corridor. The outcome of this study led to a more detailed cost-benefit analysis, which formed part of a submission seeking funding from Infrastructure Australia. The Committee was advised that the government's submission was available on application to Infrastructure Australia, but that the earlier cost-benefits analysis was not in the public domain.¹⁰⁵⁴ (See QTON No. 119 and 120)
- 9.32 Subsequent to the hearing, the Minister wrote to the Committee to advise that the ACT Government submission to Infrastructure Australia is not publicly available.¹⁰⁵⁵

Recommendation 97

- 9.33 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make publicly available the current Cost Benefit Analysis and that all further analysis be publicly available as it is completed.**

Recommendation 98

- 9.34 The Committee recommends that the Capital Metro Agency publish a detailed timeline of the light rail project on an ACT Government website.**

¹⁰⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1140-1141.

¹⁰⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1141-1142.

¹⁰⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 27 June 2013, pp. 1142-1143.

¹⁰⁵² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 2, p. 43 and Budget Paper No. 4, p. 279.

¹⁰⁵³ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 2, p. 43; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 742-743.

¹⁰⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 740-741.

¹⁰⁵⁵ Correspondence from the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development to the Committee, 8 July 2013, available at: http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/select_committees/Estimates-2013-2014

Recommendation 99

- 9.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release the submission to Infrastructure Australia and all other documents relating to light rail.**

COSTS

- 9.36 The Minister advised that the total cost for the construction of the first stage of the light rail network is estimated to be \$614 million,¹⁰⁵⁶ comprising approximately \$101 million for the track work and \$54 million for the rolling stock.¹⁰⁵⁷ (See QTON No. 124)
- 9.37 The Committee heard that consideration had been given to the costs of engineering work required for the construction of the light rail network, including those associated with any realignment, removal or strengthening of utilities along Northbourne Avenue,¹⁰⁵⁸ and was advised that a contingency amount of \$200 million had been factored into the overall cost.¹⁰⁵⁹

Recommendation 100

- 9.38 The Committee recommends that the Capital Metro Agency publish a detailed budget of the light rail project on an ACT Government website.**

FINANCING

- 9.39 The financing options for the proposed light rail network were also raised at the hearing, with the Minister advising the Committee that the government had received 'a significant level of interest' from the private sector in relation to project.¹⁰⁶⁰ The Minister also advised that the Government had considered the governance and financing models adopted by Queensland's GoldLinQ light rail project when examining the financing options for the ACT's light rail proposal. The Committee noted commentary claiming that the viability of the PPP model for the GoldLinQ project was 'marginal'.¹⁰⁶¹

Recommendation 101

- 9.40 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail how the Capital Metro project will be funded.**

¹⁰⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 751.

¹⁰⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 752-753.

¹⁰⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 753-754.

¹⁰⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 754.

¹⁰⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 759-760.

¹⁰⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 759.

Recommendation 102

- 9.41 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release all details concerning the cost of running the Capital Metro, the amount expected to be collected through the fare box, the degree of supplementation to be paid and the exposure of the Territory in a Public Private Partnership due to an under achievement of projected boarding.**

LAND VALUES

- 9.42 The Committee was advised that land values surrounding the Capital Metro route would likely increase once the project became operational.¹⁰⁶² The Minister attributed this increase in value to the 'significant convenience' that would be experienced for residents living close to the Metro route, and was 'consistent with the experience' of comparable projects found nationally and internationally.¹⁰⁶³ The Minister suggested that this increase in value of the land surrounding the Metro route provided 'capacity to help offset the cost of infrastructure based on the increase value of properties that accrue as a result of that infrastructure being developed' through an increase in rates levied from these properties.¹⁰⁶⁴

Recommendation 103

- 9.43 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail how much rates and land tax will increase on the Capital Metro route.**

RESIDENTIAL DENSITY

- 9.44 The Committee was informed of 'psychological factors' amounting to an attraction that communities have for using LRT as opposed to busses,¹⁰⁶⁵ and that studies have shown that the distance individuals are prepared to walk to catch a 'reliable, frequent service' is up to a kilometre.¹⁰⁶⁶
- 9.45 The Committee was informed of the experience of Portland, Oregon, in the increase of population density around LRT routes after their construction.¹⁰⁶⁷ (See QTON No. 126)

¹⁰⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 754-755.

¹⁰⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 755.

¹⁰⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 755-756.

¹⁰⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 757.

¹⁰⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 769.

¹⁰⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 760.

Recommendation 104

- 9.46 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make publically available maps detailing the areas of expected greater density along the route of the Capital Metro.**

PATRONAGE

- 9.47 Under the Transport for Canberra plan the proportion of commuters using public transport is projected to be 10.5 per cent by 2016. The Committee heard that the proposed Capital Metro project was expected to contribute to the modal split, with the figure including an assumption about a shift of current bus patrons to light rail.¹⁰⁶⁸ (See QTON No. 121 and 122)

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 9.48 The Committee is concerned that the implications of the proposed light rail network on the existing public transport system have not been fully considered and appear to be based on assumptions rather than detailed analysis.

Recommendation 105

- 9.49 The Committee recommends that the Government detail what impact Capital Metro will have on ACTION.**

Recommendation 106

- 9.50 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail the projected patronage of Capital Metro.**

GOVERNANCE

- 9.51 In relation to governance arrangements for the proposed light rail project, the Committee was advised that a governing board for the Capital Metro Agency (CMA) had been established. The board is currently chaired by the Director-General of the Economic Development Directorate and includes other directors-general. The board oversees the functions of the project director who will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. Recruitment processes for both an independent chair of the board and a permanent project director are currently underway.¹⁰⁶⁹

¹⁰⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 746-747.

¹⁰⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 744.

9.52 Work has also commenced on the preparation of the project description, board charter and the development of a preliminary communications and engagement strategy.¹⁰⁷⁰

Recommendation 107

9.53 The Committee recommends that the governance arrangements for Capital Metro, including names of planning and steering committee Members, be published on an ACT Government website.

HUMAN CITY

9.54 The Committee also discussed the contribution of the proposed Capital Metro light rail project to the liveability of the city and questioned the Minister's use of the term 'human city'.¹⁰⁷¹

9.55 The Minister advised the Committee that a liveable and a human city is one 'that is designed for people and which is of a human scale.'¹⁰⁷² The Minister added that the use of the term 'human' meant 'giving priority to people rather than cars.'¹⁰⁷³

OTHER ISSUES

9.56 Other Capital Metro issues discussed at the hearing on 24 June 2013 included:

- The cost-benefit analysis that was undertaken for the light rail project;¹⁰⁷⁴
- The design work to be undertaken for the first stage of the light rail project;¹⁰⁷⁵
- The rationale for establishing Capital Metro Agency;¹⁰⁷⁶
- The expected staffing levels for the CMA;¹⁰⁷⁷
- The current and expected future numbers, including breakdown by transport mode, of commuters travelling between Gungahlin and the City;¹⁰⁷⁸
- The expected level of subsidy for the light rail service,¹⁰⁷⁹ (See QTON No. 123)
- The anticipated land uplift values along the light rail corridor, including international and Australian comparisons;¹⁰⁸⁰

¹⁰⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 744-745.

¹⁰⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 761-762.

¹⁰⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 761.

¹⁰⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 762.

¹⁰⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 740-742, 749-752.

¹⁰⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 742-743.

¹⁰⁷⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 744-745.

¹⁰⁷⁷ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 282; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 745.

¹⁰⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 746-747.

¹⁰⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 748.

¹⁰⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 754-756.

- The non-economic factors associated with the preference of light rail over bus rapid transit;¹⁰⁸¹
- The impact of light rail on the population density of the Portland, Oregon;¹⁰⁸²
- the increase in densification needed to achieve the expected uplift in land value along the light rail corridor;¹⁰⁸³ (See QTON No. 127)
- the selection of light rail in the relative prioritisation of transportation modes;¹⁰⁸⁴
- the benefits to the city of active travel;¹⁰⁸⁵
- the impact on the city of a greater modal shift to public transport;¹⁰⁸⁶
- the impact on cost of living for residents along the light rail corridor;¹⁰⁸⁷
- comparison of expected patronage numbers with the Gold Coast's GoldLinQ;¹⁰⁸⁸ and
- the need for and costs associated with the upgrading of road infrastructure in Gungahlin to facilitate access to the light rail service.¹⁰⁸⁹

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

9.57 The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (CSE) is a statutory office holder under the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* (the Act). Part 3 of the Act sets out the Commissioner's functions and powers which include:

- producing 'State of the Environment' reports for the ACT;
- investigating complaints about the management of the environment by the Territory or a territory authority;
- conducting investigations as directed by the Minister; and
- initiating investigations into actions of an agency where those actions would have a substantial impact on the environment of the ACT.¹⁰⁹⁰

9.58 The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Mr Robert Neil, advised that his office would be increasing its focus on ecologically sustainable development.¹⁰⁹¹

¹⁰⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 757, 769.

¹⁰⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 757-758, 760.

¹⁰⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 758-759.

¹⁰⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 760-763.

¹⁰⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 763-764.

¹⁰⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 764.

¹⁰⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 764-765.

¹⁰⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 765-767.

¹⁰⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 18 June 2013, pp. 767-769.

¹⁰⁹⁰ *Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report 2011-12*, p. 12.

¹⁰⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 869-870.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 9.59 The Committee is concerned that the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment had not been consulted in relation to the proposed light rail project and had not undertaken any research on the environmental impact of the existing public transport system or light rail.¹⁰⁹²

Recommendation 108

- 9.60 The Committee recommends that the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment consider the effects of the ACT Governments tax policy, land release program and the Capital Metro on the environment of the ACT as well as the sustainability of the ACT**

OTHER ISSUES

- 9.61 Other issues covered at the hearing on 25 June 2013 with the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment included:

- involvement by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OSCE) in this year's kangaroo cull;¹⁰⁹³
- the need to have ongoing monitoring and assessment of the impact of the kangaroo cull;¹⁰⁹⁴
- the proposed change from annual to triennial reporting on the state of the environment¹⁰⁹⁵
- an increased focus by the OCSE on ecologically sustainable development;
- the types of complaints received by the OCSE;¹⁰⁹⁶
- the process undertaken to investigate the state of rivers and Lake Burley Griffin, and the outcomes of the investigation;¹⁰⁹⁷ (See QTON No. 135)
- the relationship between the use of private motor vehicles, public transport and the level of greenhouse gas emissions;¹⁰⁹⁸ and
- the impact of the lease variation charge on densification and ecological sustainability.¹⁰⁹⁹

¹⁰⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 870-871.

¹⁰⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 866-867.

¹⁰⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 867-868.

¹⁰⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 868-869.

¹⁰⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 871-872.

¹⁰⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 873-875.

¹⁰⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 875-876.

¹⁰⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 25 June 2013, pp. 876-877.

10 EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTORATE

10.1 The Committee heard from the Minister for Education and Training, Ms Joy Burch MLA on 24 June and 26 June 2013 to discuss the following Output Classes within the Education and Training Directorate (ETD) and matters relevant to other bodies for which the Minister is responsible:

- Public School Education (Output 1);
- Non-government Education (Output 2);
- Vocational Education and Training (Output 3);
- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and CIT Solutions; and
- ACT Building and Construction Industry Authority.

GENERAL

10.2 Key issues dealt with at the hearings include:

NATIONAL EDUCATION REFORMS

10.3 Officials described the national education reform agreement to the Committee as a funding formula on a per-student basis aimed to provide students in all schools with an excellent education to enable them to reach their full potential.¹¹⁰⁰ The Committee was taken through adjustments in the budget paper that relate to the national education reform agreement to get a sense of the overall impact from the forward estimates.¹¹⁰¹ (See QON No. 187, No. 188, No. 191, No. 192, No. 193 and No. 194)

10.4 The Committee heard that a number of national partnerships between the Territory and the Commonwealth were coming to an end. Subsequently, ETD officials explained that the \$7 million reduction in the budget is a reduction to the commonwealth funding estimate from the budget papers the year before and is not directly related to the national education reforms.¹¹⁰²

Recommendation 109

10.5 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with more detail as to how the National Education Reforms will be implemented at an individual school level in the ACT.

¹¹⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 943.

¹¹⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 944-958.

¹¹⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 948-950.

Recommendation 110

- 10.6 The Committee recommends that ACT Government should lobby to ensure a consistent approach is taken to the National Education Reform Agreement across all education sectors in the ACT.**

TEACHER QUALITY INSTITUTE

- 10.7 ETD officials explained that a key priority of the Teacher Quality Institute is working with employers and universities on teacher education and accreditation.¹¹⁰³ ETD officials also told the Committee that they have a key role in supporting and encouraging professional practice-led learning of teachers.¹¹⁰⁴
- 10.8 The Minister told the Committee that the \$26 million allocated to the University of Canberra is a great opportunity to improve quality teaching and learning standards.¹¹⁰⁵ The Committee heard that ETD's work in teacher education accreditation includes formal approval process of teacher education courses as well as new work around school improvement plans and ongoing quality assurance.¹¹⁰⁶

Recommendation 111

- 10.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with more detail on how improvements to teacher quality and teacher training entry qualifications will be determined and the commencement of these initiatives.**

SAVINGS

- 10.10 ETD officials told the Committee that there is \$6.2 million of savings incorporated in the 2013-2014 Budget.¹¹⁰⁷ The Minister explained to the Committee that the \$6.2 million saving were represented as full time employee (FTE) reductions, however this may not necessarily be the case.¹¹⁰⁸ The Minister also told the Committee that any savings in FTEs have not been determined as teacher position numbers and may be directorate employees.¹¹⁰⁹ (See QTON No. 232, QON No. 186)

¹¹⁰³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 977-978.

¹¹⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 978.

¹¹⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 978-979.

¹¹⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 979.

¹¹⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 934-935; Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 290-293.

¹¹⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 936-938.

¹¹⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 939.

Recommendation 112

10.11 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with a breakdown of full-time employee (FTE) numbers in each year's budget papers so as to better define the number of teaching positions compared with current numbers of Directorate staff.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

10.12 Issues covered at the hearing on 26 June 2013 included:

- how the ACT Government will achieve the \$6.2 million of saving incorporated in the 2013-2014 Budget;¹¹¹⁰
- the representation of the \$6.2 million saving as full time employee reductions;¹¹¹¹
- the trend of a substantial increase in enrolment numbers into ACT government schools;¹¹¹²
- benefits for students following ACT Government's sign up to the national education reforms agreement;¹¹¹³
- impact and adjustments in the budget paper which relate to the national education reform agreement;¹¹¹⁴
- the operation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education scholarship program;¹¹¹⁵
- the development and achievement of the introductory English centre;¹¹¹⁶
- commonwealth government funding of early childhood education;¹¹¹⁷
- funding in the budget for new Canberra College Cares (CCCares) facility;¹¹¹⁸
- progress of the upgrades to Taylor Primary School, including expansion of the early education centre;¹¹¹⁹

¹¹¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 934-935; Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 290-293.

¹¹¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 936-938.

¹¹¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 939-940.

¹¹¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 941-942.

¹¹¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 943-958.

¹¹¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 959-960; Budget Paper No. 3, p. 159.

¹¹¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 960; Budget Paper No. 3, p. 211.

¹¹¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 961-962; Budget Paper No. 3, p. 126.

¹¹¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 966-969; Budget Paper No. 3, p. 211.

¹¹¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 970-972; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 303.

- election commitment for \$1million over four years for primary school libraries;¹¹²⁰ (See QTON No. 237.)
- additional \$10.1 million provided through the capital initiative to provide information and communication technology for sustaining smart schools;¹¹²¹ and
- shift away from program specific funding as part of the national education reform agreement to needs identified school based funding.¹¹²²

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

10.13 The Committee discussed the following issues at the 26 June hearing:

- mechanisms to measure bullying and behaviour management in schools, including the student satisfaction surveys;¹¹²³
- access to one school counsellors in each ACT school;¹¹²⁴
- recording of critical incidents and suspensions at government schools, which is managed by the Office for Schools;¹¹²⁵ (See QTON No. 233)
- work with students and incidents of cyber bullying at schools;¹¹²⁶
- additional funding for capital works and expansion of Macgregor Primary School and Belconnen High School;¹¹²⁷
- centralise the management of networks and services using high-speed fibre;¹¹²⁸ and
- expansion of SchoolsNet to all schools by the end of the year.¹¹²⁹

PUBLIC SECONDARY COLLEGE EDUCATION

10.14 The Committee discussed the following issues at the 26 June 2013 hearing:

- current work program of the Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) and the registration of teachers through a registration fee;¹¹³⁰
- interaction between TQI and the \$26 million allocated for quality teaching and learning at the University of Canberra;¹¹³¹

¹¹²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 973-975.

¹¹²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 974-975; Budget Paper No. 3, p. 210.

¹¹²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 976-977.

¹¹²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1001-1002.

¹¹²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1002-1003.

¹¹²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1003-1004.

¹¹²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1006-1007.

¹¹²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1006-1007.

¹¹²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1008-1009.

¹¹²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 1009.

¹¹³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 977-978.

¹¹³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 978-979.

- looking into formal approval process for teacher education courses to ensure ongoing quality assurance;¹¹³²
- the change to the accountability indicators for public school education and a discussion of the success in achieving over the 2012-2013 targets;¹¹³³
- an update on the progress of the new Coombs Primary School which is expected to be running by 2016;¹¹³⁴
- funding for the Investing in Teachers initiative;¹¹³⁵
- shortfall against the performance target of the NAPLAN results for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;¹¹³⁶
- public education award for Indigenous education and the successful outcomes of the Stronger Smarter Institute work;¹¹³⁷
- strong performance across ACT schools in NAPLAN testing and the exemption of particular students from the testing;¹¹³⁸
- Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) assessment results;¹¹³⁹
- specific targeted programs for improving literacy and numeracy results of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;¹¹⁴⁰
- the results and number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders students in government and non-government schools;¹¹⁴¹
- the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students receiving a vocational education qualification;¹¹⁴²
- implications of the national education reform on NAPLAN testing;¹¹⁴³
- annual testing of the national science assessment program under the national education reform;¹¹⁴⁴
- language training, especially Asian languages, and language teacher recruitment in the ACT;¹¹⁴⁵

¹¹³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 979.

¹¹³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 979-978; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 294.

¹¹³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 980.

¹¹³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 980-981; Budget Paper No. 3, p. 158.

¹¹³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 989; Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 287-288.

¹¹³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 990.

¹¹³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 990-991, 993-994; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 287.

¹¹³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 992.

¹¹⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 994-995.

¹¹⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 996-997.

¹¹⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 997; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 296.

¹¹⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 997-998.

¹¹⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 998.

¹¹⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 998-1001.

DISABILITY EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

10.15 The Committee discussed the following issues at the 26 June hearing:

- additional funding for students with a disability in both government and non-government schools;¹¹⁴⁶
- the impact of the national education reform on the education of students with a disability;¹¹⁴⁷
- funding arrangements for special needs transport in government schools and the exclusion of non-government schools;¹¹⁴⁸ (See QTON No. 234)
- number of nursing services in ACT special schools;¹¹⁴⁹
- the number of and process for individual learning plans for students with a disability;¹¹⁵⁰

NON GOVERNMENT EDUCATION

10.16 The Directorate activities in relation to non-government education are directed to the maintenance of standards in non-government schools and home education through compliance, registration and accreditation and certification of senior secondary courses through the Board of Secondary Schools Studies (BSSS). The Directorate also undertakes the administration and payment of Commonwealth and ACT Government grants.

10.17 Issues discussed at the hearing on 26 June 2013 included:

- use of the allocated \$1.3million per year funding to support non-government preschool;¹¹⁵¹
- 6 year transition to new funding model under the federal education reforms;¹¹⁵²
- non-government schools' funding under Commonwealth government grants and ACT Government funding;¹¹⁵³ (See QTON No. 238)
- the process for the determination of the socio-economic status (SES) scores and funding for non government schools;¹¹⁵⁴ (See QTON No. 239.)
- percentage of NSW residents who attend ACT schools ;¹¹⁵⁵

¹¹⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 981-987; Budget Paper No. 3, p. 158.

¹¹⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 982.

¹¹⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 983-984.

¹¹⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 986-987.

¹¹⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 987-988.

¹¹⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1010-1011.

¹¹⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 1011.

¹¹⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1010-1015; Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 292-293, 315.

¹¹⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1015-1018.

¹¹⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1018-1019.

- performance indicator measuring the satisfaction with the processes of the non-government school sector;¹¹⁵⁶ and
- memorandum of understanding with the NSW Government for greater collaboration around cross-border service.¹¹⁵⁷ (See QTON No. 240.)

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

10.18 The ETD provides a range of early intervention programs for children with additional needs and is administered through the Early Childhood Education Section of ETD, within the learning and teaching Branch of ETD.

CHILDREN SERVICES

10.19 Issues discussed at the hearing on 26 June 2013 included:

- movement and transfer of responsibilities and outputs between different directorates;¹¹⁵⁸
- transfer of resources from Community Services Directorate to Education and Training Directorate;¹¹⁵⁹
- Canberra Preschool Society's budget submission and concerns in regards to the school network leader for preschool;¹¹⁶⁰
- update of the allocation of funding for the upgrade and expansion works at nine early childhood care centres;¹¹⁶¹
- the allocation of funding and revised funding profile for Franklin Early Childhood School;¹¹⁶²
- integration of Anglicare as the childcare provider in the Franklin Early Childhood School;¹¹⁶³
- parent facilities at schools once parents have dropped school children off;
- implications on security for multiple school entry points;¹¹⁶⁴
- annual general satisfaction assessment of parents and carers of school staff as well as school staff;¹¹⁶⁵
- enrolments at Neville Bonner Primary School and Franklin Early Childhood School;¹¹⁶⁶

¹¹⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 1018; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 297.

¹¹⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 1019.

¹¹⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1019-1020.

¹¹⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1019-1020; Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 295, 299 and 331.

¹¹⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1021-1022.

¹¹⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 1022.

¹¹⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1023-1024; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 302.

¹¹⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 1025.

¹¹⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1025-1026.

¹¹⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 1026.

¹¹⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1026-1027.

- selection process for filling a number of positions within Neville Bonner Primary School and Franklin Early Childhood School;¹¹⁶⁷
- the benefits of the Isabella Plains Early Childhood School (IPECS), including the successful support for transitioning students;¹¹⁶⁸
- looking at better accountability indicators to measure the performance of the Children's Policy and Regulation Unit;¹¹⁶⁹
- monitoring of the family day care scheme;¹¹⁷⁰
- the cost per visit to monitor licensed education and care services;¹¹⁷¹(See QTON No. 231)
- satisfaction with the assessment and monitoring functions of the Children's Policy and Regulation Unit.¹¹⁷²

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

10.20 ETD is responsible and accountable for the provision of strategic advice and management of post-school vocational education and training and higher education in the ACT. This includes the monitoring and auditing of the provision of publicly funded vocational education.

PLANNING AND COORDINATION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES

10.21 Issues discussed at the hearing on 24 June 2013 included:

- cessation on the productivity places program;¹¹⁷³
- registered training organisations (RTOs) audit reports;¹¹⁷⁴
- national partnership on skills reform;¹¹⁷⁵
- programs offered through school-based apprenticeships;¹¹⁷⁶
- additional funding for trade training centres;¹¹⁷⁷
- changes to accountability indicators and data collection for the accountability indicators;¹¹⁷⁸

¹¹⁶⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 1027.

¹¹⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1027-1028.

¹¹⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1028-1031.

¹¹⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1030.

¹¹⁷¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, p. 1030.

¹¹⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 26 June 2013, pp. 1030-1031.

¹¹⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 810; Budget Paper No. 4, pp.293, 298-299.

¹¹⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 811.

¹¹⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 811.

¹¹⁷⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 812-813.

¹¹⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 814-815; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 303.

¹¹⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 817.

- VET courses in high schools delivered by private providers;¹¹⁷⁹ (See QTON No. 131, No. 132, No. 133, QON No. 136) and,
- priority on consultation with industry and community groups.¹¹⁸⁰

ACT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING FUND

10.22 The ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority (TFA) is the statutory body responsible for providing funding for the training of eligible workers in the ACT Building and Construction Industry. The TFA includes employer and employee representatives and an independent chairman.

10.23 Issues discussed at the hearing on 24 June 2013 included:

- the fluctuations and decrease in the number of people undertaking apprenticeship programs influenced by the slowing demand in the property sector;¹¹⁸¹
- identifying skill shortage trades and training incentives to employers of first-year apprentices in skills shortages area;¹¹⁸²
- initiatives to promote access and equity of apprenticeship programs including funding arrangements;¹¹⁸³
- case-by-case funding determination for employers undertaking apprentices with disabilities; and¹¹⁸⁴
- the closure of CITEA as a registered training organisation.¹¹⁸⁵

CANBERRA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

10.24 The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) is the largest registered training organisation and public provider of vocational education and training in the ACT and region. CIT offers over 400 courses ranging from certificates, traineeships and apprenticeships through to degrees and diplomas. In 2012, over 21,000 students were enrolled in CIT courses through the delivery of 6.5 million training hours.¹¹⁸⁶

¹¹⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 818-819.

¹¹⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 819.

¹¹⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 820-821.

¹¹⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 822.

¹¹⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 822-823.

¹¹⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 823.

¹¹⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 823-824.

¹¹⁸⁶ *Canberra Institute of Technology Annual Report 2012*, pp. 10-11.

GRAPHIC DESIGN PROGRAM

10.25 CIT officials explained that CIT removed the graphic design program from the government-subsidised funding to VET FEE-HELP in 2013. CIT officials told the Committee that access to the graphic design training had increased as the FEE-HELP model allowed students to defer fee payment.¹¹⁸⁷ The Committee heard that moving to the fee deferral model is part of CIT's broader strategy. CIT officials explained that they expected student enrolments number to fall after switching to FEE-HELP, however the number of student enrolments have not dropped.¹¹⁸⁸

10.26 There was discussion at the hearing on how the costs of the graphic design course were determined and the increased price of the graphic course within the CIT compared to other education providers such as the University of Canberra and Illawarra TAFE.¹¹⁸⁹(See QTON No. 116)

Recommendation 113

10.27 The Committee recommends that The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) provide the Assembly with an outline of the modelling that was done to determine the costs of CIT's graphic design course.

FEE DEFERRAL

10.28 As part of the national direction, CIT officials told the Committee that they are looking to extend the fee deferral model to other courses. The Committee discussed the possibility of extending the model to courses relating to aged care, disabilities, and building and construction. CIT explained they will look at each course on a case by case basis.¹¹⁹⁰

Recommendation 114

10.29 The Committee recommends that The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) provide the Assembly with an outline of the modelling and consultation undertaken to determine which current CIT courses will move to full fee recovery.

¹¹⁸⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 790-791.

¹¹⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 792.

¹¹⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 794-795.

¹¹⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 792-793.

OTHER ISSUES

10.30 The Committee also discussed the following CIT issues:

- the increase in business activity by undertaking significant commercial contracts which are driven by national skills changes such as the national workforce development funding;¹¹⁹¹
- the increase in business activity by securing local contracts with a range of significant organisations including ADFA;¹¹⁹²
- the structural realignment of CIT from nine teaching centres into four teaching clusters to increase its competitiveness;¹¹⁹³
- the development of the teaching and learning framework;¹¹⁹⁴
- bringing together apprenticeship learning and integrating with apprenticeship learning foundation skills;¹¹⁹⁵
- utilising the e-learning system to enable and support students to complete their courses;¹¹⁹⁶
- electrical vehicle training and looking to the international and local markets to determine new skills in demand;¹¹⁹⁷
- accessing the national workforce development fund in automotive businesses¹¹⁹⁸
- an additional three full time employees (FTE) in the Budget Paper to support an extra causal teachers to deliver increased commercial training activities;¹¹⁹⁹
- the impact on the operating statement due to the return of the remainder of Weston campus back to TAMS;¹²⁰⁰ and
- a small decline in the number of international students due to visa requirements, market competition and the high Australian dollar.¹²⁰¹

CIT SOLUTIONS

10.31 CIT Solutions is a private company with shareholding owned entirely by CIT. CIT Solutions operates to extend the capabilities of CIT by offering a range of full fee paying commercial programs, particularly in the public sector, as well as a very large adult community education

¹¹⁹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 789

¹¹⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 789.

¹¹⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 795.

¹¹⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 796.

¹¹⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 796.

¹¹⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 797.

¹¹⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 798.

¹¹⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 798-799.

¹¹⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 799; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 468.

¹²⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 800-801; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 473.

¹²⁰¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 801-802.

training centre. CIT Solutions has been incorporated for over 20 years with revenues of approximately \$17 million and approximately 320 employees.¹²⁰²

10.32 The following issues were discussed:

- relationship between CIT and CIT Solutions;¹²⁰³
- language training offered to a number of key government departments including Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Austrade and the Australian Federal Police;¹²⁰⁴
- recreational group-based language training;¹²⁰⁵
- allocated funding for the feasibility of locating CIT Solutions in Tuggeranong;¹²⁰⁶
- the dividend donated by the CIT Solutions Board to CIT;¹²⁰⁷
- formal evaluation of each adult and community education course;¹²⁰⁸
- development of social media presence; and¹²⁰⁹
- introducing a Registered Training Organisation compliance officer position within CIT Solutions.¹²¹⁰

HIGHER EDUCATION

10.33 ACT Higher Education, through all levels of tertiary education, is administered within a framework of programs established within a high-performing tertiary sector in the ACT. The focus of ACT higher education programs is integration and coherence within national and Territory institutions and programs.

STRATEGIC AND ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS

10.34 The Committee heard that currently there are no strategic and accountability indicators for Higher Education Portfolio published in the Budget Papers. The Minister for Higher Education, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, told the Committee that the ACT Government intends to measure the performance of the Higher Education Portfolio through the Study Canberra initiative. Although the Minister for Higher Education has met with the vice-chancellors across ACT universities, there is no agreement yet on any targets for the initiative.¹²¹¹ (See QTON No's 128, 129 and QTON No's 225, 226 and 227.)

¹²⁰² 2013-2014 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 476.

¹²⁰³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 803.

¹²⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 803-804.

¹²⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 803-804.

¹²⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 805.

¹²⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 806-807.

¹²⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 807.

¹²⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 808.

¹²¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 809; Budget Paper No. 4, p. 480.

¹²¹¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 775.

Recommendation 115

10.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government set and publish strategic and accountability indicators for the Higher Education Portfolio.

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

10.36 The Minister explained that responsibility for the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and vocational education and training remained with the Minister for Education and Training.¹²¹² The Minister also told the Committee that the following also remain the responsibility of the Minister for Education and Training:¹²¹³

- tertiary entry scores, including indigenous students' tertiary entry scores;
- quality of public school education; and
- CIT's initiative to establish partnerships with higher education providers.

10.37 The Minister also discussed that a number of elements within the Higher Education Portfolio cross into the Economic Development Portfolio, such as the Board of Secondary Studies and Global Connect's international student ambassador program.¹²¹⁴

Recommendation 116

10.38 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide and detail proposed arrangements to the Assembly on ensuring the impact of any overlap between portfolios and programs in the ACT higher education sector between the Higher Education Portfolio, the Education Portfolio and the Economic Development Portfolio is minimised.

COMMITMENTS

10.39 The Minister for Higher Education described a number of the Higher Education Portfolio commitments including:

- the Study Canberra initiative;
- potential merger between the University of Canberra and the CIT;¹²¹⁵
- the provision of additional ACT government grant funding to ACT universities;¹²¹⁶

¹²¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 776.

¹²¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 777.

¹²¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 778.

¹²¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 780.

¹²¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 781-782.

- measures to be undertaken to increase the capacity of ACT tertiary education for research and innovation and promote the contribution of education to the ACT economy;¹²¹⁷ and
- promoting the contribution of education to the ACT economy.¹²¹⁸ (See QTON No. 130)

Recommendation 117

10.40 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Higher Education report to the Assembly every six months on the progress of and outcomes achieved by the Higher Education Portfolio.

OTHER ISSUES

10.41 Other Higher Education issues covered at the hearing on 24 June 2013 included:

- The impact of 'Gonski' on the ACT's higher education sector;¹²¹⁹ (See QTON No. 236)
- the objectives of the Study Canberra initiative;¹²²⁰
- the provision of accommodation for international students;¹²²¹
- attendance at ACT higher education ministerial council and ACT council of education exports meetings;¹²²² (See QTON 128)
- the proposal for a centenary chair in cancer research at the ANU and its relationship with the Study Canberra initiative;¹²²³
- the additional Commonwealth funding for the University of Canberra the delivery of professional development to teachers;¹²²⁴
- the reason for the variation in future funding for the Study Canberra initiative;¹²²⁵ and
- multiculturalism and living costs as factors in marketing Canberra as an education destination for international students.¹²²⁶

¹²¹⁷ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 3, p. 144; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013; pp. 783-785.

¹²¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 784.

¹²¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 771-773.

¹²²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 773-774, 776-777.

¹²²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 774-775, 781, 786-787.

¹²²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 779-780.

¹²²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 780.

¹²²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, p. 781.

¹²²⁵ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 3, p. 144; *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 782-783.

¹²²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 24 June 2013, pp. 785-786.

11 ACT AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

11.1 The ACT Auditor-General's Office Annual Report 2011-12 states that:

The Auditor-General is a statutory position under the Auditor-General Act 1996 and is responsible for auditing all ACT Public Service agencies. The Audit Office supports the Auditor-General in carrying out these duties.

The Audit Office provides assurance and independent advice to the community, through the ACT Legislative Assembly, that the ACT Public Service is accountable and managed in an effective and efficient manner.

The *Auditor-General Act 1996* sets out the functions and powers of the Auditor-General. These are to:

- promote accountability in the public administration of the Territory;
- audit annual financial statements of the Territory and its agencies under the *Financial Management Act 1996*; and
- conduct performance audits.¹²²⁷

11.2 The ACT Auditor-General also has responsibilities under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994*, the *Government Procurement Act 2001* and the *Territory-Owned Corporations Act 1990*.

11.3 On Friday 14 June 2013 the Auditor-General, Dr Maxine Cooper, and her officers appeared before the Committee.

BUDGET MATTERS

11.4 The Committee considered the following regarding budget matters:

- Reductions in the use of contractors to perform financial and performance audits and consequent budgetary savings;¹²²⁸ and
- the absence of additional funding for performance audits for the coming financial year.¹²²⁹

STAFFING

11.5 The Committee considered the following matters regarding staffing:

- the appointment of a new Director of Performance Audits;¹²³⁰
- the recruitment of more staff to undertake audit works;¹²³¹

¹²²⁷ ACT Auditor-General Annual Report 2011-12, p. 5.

¹²²⁸ Proof Transcript of Evidence 14 June 2013 p. 80.

¹²²⁹ Proof Transcript of Evidence 14 June 2013 p. 83.

¹²³⁰ Proof Transcript of Evidence 14 June 2013, p. 79.

- a reduction in staff turnover due to the changes in the labour market;¹²³² and
- measures to support flexibility though selective outsourcing of components of performance audits.¹²³³

PERFORMANCE AUDIT

11.6 The Committee considered the following matters regarding performance audits:

- the proportion of the Office's appropriation used in performance audits;¹²³⁴
- factors affecting the cost of performance audits and their average cost;¹²³⁵
- whether it is possible to expand the performance audit program;¹²³⁶
- the degree to which it is currently possible, currently, for the Auditor-General to prioritize performance audits in response to the concerns of the Legislative Assembly, and related matters.¹²³⁷

OTHER ISSUES

11.7 Other issues considered at the public hearing of 14 June 2013 included:

- strategy to ensure the development and implementation of action plan;¹²³⁸
- impact of amendments to legislation on the work of the Office;¹²³⁹
- constraints with regard to resources for the Office;¹²⁴⁰ and
- an audit on governance and administrative arrangements in connection with for the Regulatory Review of Water and Sewerage Prices in the ACT by the ICRC in its 2012-13 Performance Audit Program.¹²⁴¹ (See QTON No. 212)

COMMITTEE COMMENT

11.8 In light of information presented in public hearings, the Committee takes the view that funding arrangements for the Auditor-General's Office should change. In particular, it appears that at present the Auditor-General is constrained, by inadequate resources, from conducting an

¹²³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 80.

¹²³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 89.

¹²³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 89.

¹²³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 79.

¹²³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 80-82.

¹²³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 81-82.

¹²³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 82-83, 87, 89.

¹²³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 84-85.

¹²³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 84, 87, 89.

¹²⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 85, 88.

¹²⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 85-86.

ongoing program of performance audits sufficient to ensure true accountability for ACT public agencies. The Auditor-General also does not have sufficient capacity to be truly responsive to the concerns of the Legislative Assembly as they arise from time to time.

- 11.9 The Committee believes that these constraints reduce confidence in the adequacy of mechanisms for transparency and accountability in the ACT as they now stand. In response, the Committee proposes that appropriations for the Auditor-General's Office be initiated by, and have the imprimatur of, the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation 118

- 11.10 The Committee recommends that the budget for the ACT Auditor General office be set by the ACT Legislative Assembly on a motion moved by the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.**

12 OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

12.1 The Office of the Legislative Assembly is an independent agency established under the *Legislative Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Act 2012*. It is discussed in Budget Paper Number 4.¹²⁴²

12.2 On 28 June 2013 the Committee considered the following matters regarding the Office of the Legislative Assembly:

- the membership of committees in the present Assembly;¹²⁴³
- the degree to which Madame Speaker is involved in party-political activities;¹²⁴⁴
- Speaker-initiated functions;¹²⁴⁵
- advice given by the Clerk of the Assembly to the Speaker;¹²⁴⁶
- work toward a second edition of the Companion to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly;¹²⁴⁷
- scope for accommodating Members if the size of the Assembly were increased;¹²⁴⁸
- a reorganisation of the Legislative Assembly secretariat following passage of the *Legislative Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Act 2012*;¹²⁴⁹
- efforts toward ‘improving services to the Assembly’ and ‘building more effective mechanisms for public engagement’;¹²⁵⁰
- appropriations for the Office of the Legislative Assembly;¹²⁵¹
- prospects for upgrades to video streaming capabilities for the Legislative Assembly and regarding the introduction of Wi-Fi services for Members within the Legislative Assembly building;¹²⁵²
- the operation of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;¹²⁵³ and
- twinning arrangements with other parliaments.¹²⁵⁴

¹²⁴² 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, pp. 1-14.

¹²⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1245-1250.

¹²⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1250-1253.

¹²⁴⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1253-1254.

¹²⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1254-1256.

¹²⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1256-1257.

¹²⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, p. 1257.

¹²⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1257-1258.

¹²⁵⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1258-1260.

¹²⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1260-1261.

¹²⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1261-1262.

¹²⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1263-1264.

¹²⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 28 June 2013, pp. 1263-1265.

13 COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS

INTRODUCTION

- 13.1 The Committee sought feedback on the 2013-2014 Budget from a number of ACT community and industry representative groups. On 30 May 2013, over 190 groups and individuals were invited to respond to a Committee survey on the 2013-14 ACT Budget. A copy of the Committee Survey is at Appendix D, Volume Two of this Report.
- 13.2 The Committee received 16 responses to the survey. Appendix C of Volume Two of this Report provides a list of names of all these community and industry representative groups. Of the responses received, 10 groups expressed an interest in appearing at a public hearing before the Committee. All 10 were invited to appear at the public hearing held on Friday 14 June 2013, with nine able to appear.
- 13.3 The Committee thanks the community and industry groups for participating in the inquiry process and notes that the analysis provided in the community and industry groups' survey responses and witness testimony was a valuable basis for questions put to Ministers and Directorates during hearings.

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION

- 13.4 The Australian Education Union ACT Branch (AEU) represents over 3,500 members by advocating their views to the ACT Education and Training Directorate, Canberra Institute of Technology and the ACT Government.¹²⁵⁵

ICT NETWORK AND SUPPORT

- 13.5 The AEU advised the Committee that the funding allocation for the education ICT network was confined to software and hardware with no allocation for additional technical support.¹²⁵⁶ The AEU explained that once ICT equipment was funded and provided, there was often a lack of technical support, resulting in teachers providing emergency technical work.¹²⁵⁷ The AEU also explained that a lot of ICT equipment is currently not being used due to requiring maintenance, repair or installation.¹²⁵⁸

¹²⁵⁵ Australian Education Union ACT Branch, <http://www.aeuact.asn.au/about-us/> accessed 12 July 2013.

¹²⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 2.

¹²⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 6.

¹²⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 2.

Recommendation 119

13.6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate funding ICT adequately to ensure:

- resources are available for ICT technical support in ACT public schools, and
- all systems are up to a consistent standard as outlined in the Australian Education Union 2013-2014 Budget Submission.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT PROGRAM

13.7 The AEU welcomes the \$1.8 million investment over two years to establish an introductory English centre at Wanniasa Hills Primary School however is concerned about the allocation of resources in the English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) area.¹²⁵⁹ AEU emphasised the number of EALD students has increased from 9.4 per cent in 2007 to nearly 13 per cent in 2013,¹²⁶⁰ and explained that considering the number of full-time EALD teachers and number of students with less than 2.0 English proficiency, there is a ratio of 28.5 students per full-time EALD teacher.¹²⁶¹ The AEU highlighted that the bulk of students with EALD issues are enrolled in mainstream schools as a consequence of the current funding regime, and the 2013-2014 Budget does not consider the widespread and growing population of EALD students and the need for additional teachers in this area.

Recommendation 120

13.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government examine the need for additional English as an Additional Language or Dialect programs in ACT schools.

Recommendation 121

13.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate funding English as an Additional Language or Dialect education to bring all students up to the level of 4.0 English proficiency.

CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING

13.10 The AEU identified the lack of funding in the Budget with the allocation of \$3.3 million for upgrades, repairs and maintenance of public schools, rather than \$70 million promised by the government at election time.¹²⁶² The AEU explained that public school stock is old, and beyond

¹²⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 2.

¹²⁶⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 7.

¹²⁶¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 2.

¹²⁶² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 3.

upgrades, repair or maintenance. The AEU welcomes the Canberra College \$14 million capital spending project with \$5 million in the budget for next year. The AEU also noted the 'slow start' to capital spending election promises including only \$2 million allocated in the 2013-14 Budget for the \$28 million Belconnen High School modernisation project, and \$550,000 for the finalisations of design for the Coombs primary school.¹²⁶³

Recommendation 122

13.11 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review ACT public schools facilities and provide a statement to the Assembly on the conditions of schools and the status of capital investment.

Recommendation 123

13.12 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government honour their election commitment to fund the promised \$70 million for upgrades and maintenance of ACT Government education facilities.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS

13.13 The AEU discussed a number of election commitments with the Committee including:

- the commitment of \$26 million for a centre for quality teaching and learning;¹²⁶⁴ and
- the lack of allocation for the ALP's election commitment in 2012 for \$12 million to maintain and expand the school literacy and numeracy field officer program.¹²⁶⁵

Recommendation 124

13.14 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an explanation to the Assembly of ALP's 2012 election commitments, and provide an update on the status of commitments considering a lack of funding in the 2013-14 ACT budget papers.

FUNDING IN THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTORATE

13.15 The Committee sought information from the AEU about the reduction of 99 FTE positions outlined in the Budget.¹²⁶⁶ The Budget states that the estimated outcome for 2012-2013 is 4,765 FTE, reducing to 4,666 in 2013-14.¹²⁶⁷

¹²⁶³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 6.

¹²⁶⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 1.

¹²⁶⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 4.

¹²⁶⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 4-6.

¹²⁶⁷ 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 4, p. 286.

13.16 The AEU explained that it was their understanding 'that the dollar figure is \$6.2 million and that whilst that has been reported in terms of position numbers, it does not necessarily have to play out that way'. Further to this, The AEU explained that 'when we asked what the 99 meant, we were told that the 99 equates to \$6.2 million if none of it were saved'.¹²⁶⁸

Recommendation 125

13.17 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide details to the Assembly about whether the \$6.2 million in savings from the Education and Training Directorate will be job losses or efficiency dividends, and provide the status of that in the 2013-14 ACT budget.

13.18 The AEU explained to the Committee that the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) currently caters for approximately 80 per cent of VET students, and has recently become the solitary provider for electrical apprentices. The AEU told the Committee that currently it is difficult to attract and retain quality teachers considering their industries offer superior remuneration and benefits than CIT. It was noted that in 2013, CIT has \$8 million less in recurrent funding than it had in 2009.¹²⁶⁹

Recommendation 126

13.19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct a review of funding for the Canberra Institute of Technology with attention to whether funding is appropriate to ensure quality of education and to attract and retain the required number of quality teachers from the various industries.

OTHER ISSUES

13.20 The Australian Education Union also raised the following issues:¹²⁷⁰

- funding to increase teacher's professional qualifications; and
- capital investment for the modification and improvement of public schools.

PROPERTY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

13.21 The Property Council of Australia is the leading advocate for ACT's property industry. Members include building owners, development companies and building operators and managers. The organisation is governed by a board comprising key industry representatives.¹²⁷¹

¹²⁶⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 5.

¹²⁶⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 4.

¹²⁷⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 4-5; QON No. 185.

¹²⁷¹ Property Council of Australia, <http://www.propertyoz.com.au/act/Content.aspx?p=40> accessed 12 July 2013.

TAX REFORM

13.22 At the public hearing on 14 June 2013, the Property Council of Australia noted the 10 per cent increase in the general rates for residential property owners and a 20 per cent increase in the general rates for commercial property owners. Although the Property Council of Australia welcomes the tax reform program, they question the extent of those increases considering the modest reductions in stamp duty rates.

13.23 The Committee was advised that 'the Budget papers show that revenue from the general rates on Canberra property owners will rise by some \$46.5 million in 2013-14; however, the corresponding reduction in stamp duty revenue expected on property purchases is only \$9.2 million'.¹²⁷²

13.24 The Property Council reaffirmed its support of the 20-year tax reform plan but also noted its concern about the slow implementation of the reforms.¹²⁷³

Recommendation 127

13.25 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with the complete timetable for implementing the reduction of stamp duty and the reform in rates for the next 20 years or until the reform is complete.

COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION PENALTIES

13.26 The Property Council noted that property owners and investors are incurring significant penalties for not meeting completion dates, when often the delays were beyond their control.¹²⁷⁴ It was explained that the ability to proceed with a commercial development is largely dependent on market and economic forces and pre-commitments by tenants, which is particularly difficult in the current market. In addition, this restrictive regulation may impact the broader Australian and international investment market.¹²⁷⁵

13.27 The Property Council of Australia recommends that the ACT develop a mechanism to ensure that development does occur by balancing the punitive aspect of the current regime for those who cannot proceed for reasons beyond their control. The PCA suggested a systemic outcome rather than individual negotiations would provide confidence to the broader industry.

¹²⁷² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 11.

¹²⁷³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 13-14.

¹²⁷⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 16.

¹²⁷⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 16.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

13.28 The Committee notes that the Treasurer, in a speech made to the Property Council in June 2012, announced that the Government would 'waive commence and completion fees for commercial, mixed-use and multi-unit residential developments. Commence and complete provisions will now only apply to the construction of single dwellings on standard residential blocks'.¹²⁷⁶

Recommendation 128

13.29 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reduce penalties around property development commencement and completion in line with statements made by the Treasurer to the Property Council in June 2012, and explore other options to prevent land banking.

LEASE VARIATION CHARGE

13.30 The Property Council of Australia suggested that in its calculation, the lease variation charge should recognise the existing investments in an existing property. Currently the calculation of the charge assumes that the property is a vacant development site when in most cases there is a commercial building with tenants and an income stream. Furthermore, there are improvement and investments made by the existing owner or acquired through previous owners.¹²⁷⁷

13.31 The Property Council of Australia expressed concern that increases in commercial rates and the lease variation charge will diminish Canberra's competitive commercial property advantage. They advised that Canberra will be marketing itself to attract investment in order to offset whatever public sector cutbacks that may occur.¹²⁷⁸

13.32 The Committee also discussed this issue with the Treasurer at the public hearing on Monday 17 June 2013.¹²⁷⁹

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Recommendation 129

13.33 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to investigate the development of Public Private Partnerships for infrastructure programs.

¹²⁷⁶ Speech to Property Council (ACT Division), <http://www.andrewbarr.com.au/story/speech-property-council-act-division> accessed 15 July 2013, p. 8.

¹²⁷⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 15.

¹²⁷⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 15.

¹²⁷⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 122-125.

OTHER ISSUES

13.34 The Property Council of Australia also discussed the following issues:

- reallocation of funding for the first homeowners grant for construction and newly built or substantially renovated properties;¹²⁸⁰
- flat rate of 5.5 per cent at the top level for stamp duty;¹²⁸¹
- decrease in the insurance duty;¹²⁸²
- greater consideration of public-private partnerships in the delivery of key infrastructure;¹²⁸³ and
- reduced infrastructure or capital work expenditure.¹²⁸⁴

ACT GIFTED AND TALENTED LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

13.35 The ACT Gifted and Talented Local Support Group (GTLSG) is an organisation of parents of gifted and talented children as well as psychologists, teachers and other professionals who have an interest in gifted education.¹²⁸⁵

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR GIFTED AND TALENT STUDENTS

13.36 The GTLSG advised the Committee that they would appreciate specific funding in the ACT Budget for teachers of gifted and talented students. Dedicated funding for the position of a gifted and talented curriculum officer in the Education and Training Directorate would ensure the needs and education requirements of gifted and talented students are met.¹²⁸⁶ The GTLSG emphasised that school boards can contribute to establishing programs for the identification and education of gifted and talented students, and training for board members will also raise awareness and understanding of the needs of gifted and talented students.

13.37 In their survey response, the GTLSG also stated that there is no funding in the ACT Budget for a gifted coordinator in every school to provide knowledge, advice, mentoring and professional development for ACT school teachers that have little training in the learning needs of gifted children.¹²⁸⁷ The GTLSG advised the Committee that many gifted and talented students from low socio-economic backgrounds are not appropriately identified due to the private expenses of identification programs and a lack of these programs available in schools.¹²⁸⁸

¹²⁸⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 10.

¹²⁸¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 13.

¹²⁸² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 13.

¹²⁸³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 11.

¹²⁸⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 11-12.

¹²⁸⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 18.

¹²⁸⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 19.

¹²⁸⁷ Gifted and Talented Local Support Group, *Survey of Community and Industry Groups on the ACT Budget 2013-2014*, No. 13.

¹²⁸⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 19-20.

Recommendation 130

13.38 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail the programs and resources that are currently being provided to gifted and talented education.

13.39 The Committee was advised that gifted and talented students account for 10 per cent of school enrolments in the ACT.¹²⁸⁹ GTLSG explained that only certain schools have specific programs for gifted and talented students, and due to the priority system in the ACT, a student's ability to access these programs is dependent on their postcode. For example, Garran and Kaleen Primary Schools, which run a whole of class gifted and talented education program. Kaleen Primary School was able to attract and retain teachers with appropriate training due to the presence of the program within the school. GTLSG suggested that these 'hubs' are an efficient and effective use of resources to ensure that gifted and talented student receive the education and support they require.¹²⁹⁰

13.40 The GTLSG advised the Committee about the merits of developing a website to provide families of gifted and talented children a list of appropriate programs in ACT public schools.¹²⁹¹ It was suggested that an accessible web-based database would enable families and parents of gifted and talented children to access information about which ACT schools provided gifted and talented education programs.¹²⁹²

Recommendation 131

13.41 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate options to establish gifted and talented education program hubs throughout the ACT community.

Recommendation 132

13.42 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a publicly accessible database of schools that provide gifted and talented children education programs and resources.

Recommendation 133

13.43 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government look at "tools on the market" that identify students that might benefit from a gifted and talented program.

¹²⁸⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 18.

¹²⁹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 20.

¹²⁹¹ Gifted and Talented Local Support Group, *Survey of Community and Industry Groups on the ACT Budget 2013-2014*, No. 13.

¹²⁹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 21.

Recommendation 134

13.44 The Committee recommends the ACT Government looks at options for acceleration of gifted and talented students.

UNDERGRADUATE SUBJECT ON GIFTED EDUCATION

13.45 The Committee was advised that currently there is no undergraduate subject on gifted education offered at local universities, and subsequently graduate teachers are unable to meet gifted students' needs. Further to this, GTLSG advised the Committee that gifted and talented students were a distinct group of students who needed to be identified and taught by a quality teacher who has knowledge, training and experience with gifted students.¹²⁹³

13.46 GTLSG discussed the possibility of a thirteen-week semester-based subject on gifted education in Canberra universities and provided examples of universities in other states such as the University of Wollongong and several universities in Victoria which have a specific subject for gifted education. Similar subjects are not offered by ACT universities. GTLSG told the Committee that a recommendation from the Federal Government's 2001 Senate inquiry on gifted education was that all state and territory education departments should require teaching degree courses to include at least one semester unit on gifted children.¹²⁹⁴

13.47 The GTLSG recognises that lack of formal university training shifts the need and the costs of providing training in gifted education to the Education and Training Directorate (ETD). The Committee also discussed the possibility of ETD working with universities to implement an undergraduate subject on gifted and talented student education.¹²⁹⁵

Recommendation 135

13.48 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government engage with the University of Canberra and the Australian Catholic University to develop an undergraduate subject on gifted and talented student education.

OTHER ISSUES

13.49 The Gifted and Talented Local Support Group also discussed the following issues:

- the allocation of funding for a gifted and talented curriculum officer at the Education and Training Directorate;¹²⁹⁶

¹²⁹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 18.

¹²⁹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 20-21.

¹²⁹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 21.

¹²⁹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 19.

- the availability of individual testing in each primary school;¹²⁹⁷
- the application of the priority system to gifted and talented students;¹²⁹⁸
- class sizes for gifted and talented students;¹²⁹⁹ and
- myths and misconceptions in the community and teaching profession about the needs of gifted children.¹³⁰⁰

CANBERRA PRESCHOOL SOCIETY

13.50 The Canberra Preschool Society (CPS) provides a voice of parents pre-school children in the ACT to ensure that all preschools remain high quality, accessible and equitable.¹³⁰¹

NETWORK LEADER FOR PRESCHOOLS

13.51 The Committee was advised that the CPS provided a budget submission which 'called for the appointment of a Network Leader for Preschool in each of the four school network areas'.¹³⁰² The CPS recommended that the Network Leader would work alongside each School Network Leader and in liaison between the Early Childhood Education Unit and principals to provide direct support on curriculum implementation, quality standards, and enrolment management.¹³⁰³

13.52 Further to this, the CPS noted that a uniform approach and guidance is needed to ensure curriculum and regulatory compliance. One small centralised early childhood unit ETD is insufficient to assess all 77 government preschools against the national quality framework.¹³⁰⁴

PRESCHOOL MATTERS PROGRAM

13.53 The CPS advised the Committee that, during the election campaign, the ACT Government made a commitment of \$400,000 over four years towards the Preschool Matters program, which would aid and assist parent engagement in preschool across the ACT.¹³⁰⁵ In light of this commitment, the CPS told the Committee that they submitted a bid for increased funding 'partly fed by that \$400,000 so that we could deliver the program'.¹³⁰⁶

¹²⁹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 21.

¹²⁹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 21.

¹²⁹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 22.

¹³⁰⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 22.

¹³⁰¹ Canberra Preschool Society, <http://canberrapreschools.org.au/default7987.html?contentID=1> accessed 15 July 2013.

¹³⁰² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 25.

¹³⁰³ Canberra Preschool Society Inc., *Survey of Community and Industry Groups on the ACT Budget 2013-2014, No. 16*, p. 14.

¹³⁰⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 25.

¹³⁰⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 25.

¹³⁰⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 26; QON No. 139.

13.54 The CPS expressed disappointment that the allocation in 2013-2014 Budget for Preschool Matters is \$318,000 over four years and only \$45,000 in the 2013-2014 financial year. The CPS is concerned that:

... the preschool funding allocation is less than what was promised and the complete uncertainty that remains about how it is going to be implemented and indeed, whether the Canberra Preschool Society can be the ones to deliver it.¹³⁰⁷

Recommendation 136

13.55 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an explanation on the allocation of \$318,000 in the Budget for the Preschool Matters program rather than the \$400,000 initially promised.

OTHER ISSUES

13.56 The Canberra Preschool Society also raised the following issues:

- integration of preschool education into primary schools;¹³⁰⁸
- closure of 50 dedicated preschool parents association and the reliance on representation of the Parent and Citizens association in each school;¹³⁰⁹ and
- priority placement area system and preschool programs.¹³¹⁰

DIVERSITY ACT COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.57 Diversity ACT Community Services (Diversity ACT) is a community-based, non-profit organisation that advances and supports gay, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) members in the Canberra community. Diversity ACT provides services and support which includes free and confidential counselling, a safe place for queer youth, specialist support for queer Canberrans in need and a recreational hub for all LGBTIQ members.¹³¹¹

IDENTIFICATION OF FUNDING FOR DIVERSITY ACT IN THE BUDGET

13.58 In their submission to the Committee, Diversity ACT noted that Diversity ACT's funding is listed under the Youth Engagement and Family Support for Youth initiative.¹³¹² Diversity ACT was concerned that this may result in confusion amongst community providers who may interpret

¹³⁰⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 26.

¹³⁰⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 23.

¹³⁰⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 24.

¹³¹⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 24.

¹³¹¹ Diversity ACT Community Services, <http://www.diversityact.org.au/hub1/about> accessed 15 July 2013.

¹³¹² Diversity ACT Community Services, *Survey of Community and Industry Groups on the ACT Budget 2013-2014 No. 12*, p. 2.

Diversity ACT as providing services to GLBTIQ youth only rather than the whole GLBTIQ community.¹³¹³

Recommendation 137

13.59 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify the process of how Diversity ACT is funded and how it was determined that the funding would come from the Youth Portfolio.

Recommendation 138

13.60 The Committee recommends the ACT Government investigate support for accommodation programs for at-risk, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people.

Recommendation 139

13.61 The Committee recommends that listing of Diversity ACT's funding be listed under a new budget line, the current listing in Youth Engagement and Family Support for Youth does not recognise its wide and varying function.

OTHER ISSUES

13.62 Other issues discussed by Diversity ACT include:

- \$120,000 per annum funding as well as a \$70,000 capital grant for the additional building for Kambah;¹³¹⁴
- the development of an immediate, short-term crisis accommodation for LGBTIQ youth at risk;¹³¹⁵
- the telephone support and counselling service;¹³¹⁶
- community survey conducted to assess the needs of the GLBTI community;¹³¹⁷
- increased requests from schools, social groups and community organisations for education, training and support;¹³¹⁸
- lack of a full-time counsellor;¹³¹⁹
- grants and partnering with other NGOs;¹³²⁰ and
- offering additional programs for the LGBTIQ community.¹³²¹

¹³¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 31.

¹³¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 32-33.

¹³¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 35-36.

¹³¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 31-32.

¹³¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 33-34, 39.

¹³¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 34-35.

¹³¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 34.

¹³²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 33, 35-36.

RSPCA ACT

13.63 RSPCA ACT provides a number of animal welfare services including an animal cruelty inspectorate, an animal shelter, a rescue rehabilitate and release program, a veterinary clinic, and telephone support.¹³²²

RELOCATION OF RSPCA ACT FACILITY

13.64 The Committee enquired about the progress of the RSPCA ACT relocating to an alternate site. The RSPCA advised that 'the process has been going on for eight years now' and there has been a greater level of movement in the last six months following ongoing discussions with EDD and TAMS.¹³²³

13.65 RSPCA ACT noted that they would prefer to stay in their current location but recognised that it may not be feasible 'given the master plan for the Molonglo development. We are pragmatic about that. We know that development'.¹³²⁴ It was also acknowledged that 'there will be some negative risks to Government if the facility stays there'.¹³²⁵

13.66 Further to this, RSPCA ACT noted that it is becoming a more urgent problem given the planning processes and building approvals that will be required to build a new facility.¹³²⁶

Recommendation 140

13.67 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reach a decision on the location for the new RSPCA facility and detail funding arrangements to construct and operate the facility.

FUNDING ALLOCATION

13.68 RSPCA ACT told the Committee that an additional investment of \$200,000 or \$300,000 will ensure future sustainability of their services into the long term. RSPCA ACT explained that only increasing funding by CPI will, at some point, put pressure on the organisation and diminish the organisation's capital reserves, preventing the delivery of services.¹³²⁷

¹³²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 33-34.

¹³²² RSPCA ACT, <http://rspca-act.org.au/about-us/> accessed 15 July 2013.

¹³²³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 42.

¹³²⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 42-43.

¹³²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 43.

¹³²⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 43.

¹³²⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 47.

13.69 RSPCA ACT explained that they delivered \$1.3 million worth of services to the ACT Government and funded \$590,000 in the year going forward. RSPCA ACT told the Committee that increasing this funding to up to \$900,000 will enable the development of particular facilities such as cat boarding, which will provide further funding through normal operations and enable sustainable funding into the future.¹³²⁸

Recommendation 141

13.70 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an additional \$250,000 to the RSPCA to ensure its activities are sustainable into the future.

Recommendation 142

13.71 The Committee recommends the ACT Government ensure the new RSPCA facility contributes to animal welfare.

Recommendation 143

13.72 The Committee recommends the ACT Government investigate supporting the co-habitation of the RSPCA and the Domestic Animal Services in the new facility.

OTHER ISSUES

13.73 RSPCA ACT also raised the following issues:

- ACT Government's cat containment policy;¹³²⁹
- working alongside Domestic Animal Service;¹³³⁰
- kangaroo culling in the ACT;¹³³¹ and
- rabbit eradication.¹³³²

SUPERANNUATED COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (ACT)

13.74 The Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association (ACT) (SCOA) represents retired Commonwealth and ACT public servants, most of who belong to either the CSS or PSS superannuated schemes.¹³³³

¹³²⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 48.

¹³²⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 45.

¹³³⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 44-45.

¹³³¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 45.

¹³³² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 48-49.

RATE INCREASES

13.75 The SCOA advised the Committee that their members are not happy about rate increases because it is unfair that individuals who 'bought houses long ago and paid the stamp duty and now they are having to fork out for extra rates so that other people can be spared the stamp duty'.¹³³⁴ SCOA also discussed that members see no point in downsizing their existing homes due to the costs involved and reduction in pension payments.¹³³⁵

Recommendation 144

13.76 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a statement on why it considers its fair that older people who have previously paid stamp duty are now required to pay substantially higher rates.

INDEXATION ON PENSION PAYMENTS

13.77 The Committee was advised by SCOA that one of the main concerns for their members is cost of living pressures. SCOA noted that pensions are indexed to CPI, an average increase of about 2.5 per cent annually, 'whereas wages and the age pension usually increase by somewhere in the vicinity of four per cent a year'.¹³³⁶

13.78 The Committee was also advised that SCOA, in its budget submission, suggested that representation be made to the Commonwealth Government asking them to index Commonwealth superannuation pensions. SCOA also suggested that the ACT Government consider providing an indexation supplement for affected ACT Government retirees.¹³³⁷

OTHER ISSUES

13.79 The Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association (ACT) also raised the following issues:

- greater funding for home and community care programs;¹³³⁸
- mobile dental clinic and waiting times for dental and elective surgery for public patients;¹³³⁹

¹³³³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 50.

¹³³⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 52.

¹³³⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 53.

¹³³⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 50.

¹³³⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 51.

¹³³⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 53-54.

¹³³⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 51.

- lack of footpaths in particular suburbs;¹³⁴⁰
- 10 per cent increase in the energy concession;¹³⁴¹
- 12-month extension of the bulky waste collection;¹³⁴²
- free access to public transport for people aged over 70 years¹³⁴³ and the
- gold concession card with a photo ID to be replaced by a seniors MyWay card without photo ID.

THE CHILDERS GROUP

13.80 Formed in 2011, the Childers Group is an advocacy group for the arts sector. A key role of the Childers Group is to engage with the private sector, educators, the media and the broader community about the value of the arts and their role in the cultural sector.¹³⁴⁴

ACT CULTURAL COUNCIL

13.81 In their submission, the Childers Group noted that ‘the Cultural Council model had served its purpose but no longer is it the model to best be a conduit between the ACT-region arts community and the ACT Government’. On this matter, the Childers Group noted that clarification was required on whether a replacement body will be established, particularly in the context of a recommendation from the Loxton Review of the Arts to establish a Ministerial Arts Advisory Council.¹³⁴⁵

Recommendation 145

13.82 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail to the Assembly before the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2013-2014 the arrangements for the successor for the Cultural Council.

Recommendation 146

13.83 The Committee recommends that post-Loxton Review and the Centenary year that the ACT Government develop a vision, a strategy to deliver the vision and an action plan for the Arts in the ACT for the next 25 years, to be tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in February 2014.

¹³⁴⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 51.

¹³⁴¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 51.

¹³⁴² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 52.

¹³⁴³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 51.

¹³⁴⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 55.

¹³⁴⁵ The Childers Group, *Survey of Community and Industry Groups on the ACT Budget 2013-2014*, No. 4, p. 3.

Recommendation 147

13.84 The Committee recommends the ACT Government look to further support its commitment to the arts.

Recommendation 148

13.85 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government benchmark Arts ACT against the arts sectors across Australia.

Recommendation 149

13.86 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate linking wage levels in the arts sector with those of the community sector.

Recommendation 150

13.87 The Committee recommends the investigation of peer assessment on arts projects and funding which is linked to these projects.

Recommendation 151

13.88 The Committee recommends the investigation of an initiative to link the private sector with the ACT arts sector.

13.89 The Childers Group also discussed the following issues with the Committee:

- opportunity for ACT-based artists and organisations to be commissioned to be part of the Enlighten festival;¹³⁴⁶
- difficulties in maintaining arts facilities on CPI increase alone due to increased costs in running arts facilities and utilities;¹³⁴⁷
- peer assessment across all areas of funding;¹³⁴⁸ and
- gap in initiatives to connect the private sector and the business sector with the arts sector.¹³⁴⁹

¹³⁴⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 57-58.

¹³⁴⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 57-58; The Childers Group, *Survey of Community and Industry Groups on the ACT Budget 2013-2014, No. 4*, p. 2.

¹³⁴⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 56.

¹³⁴⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 56.

WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

13.90 Women with Disabilities ACT (WWDACT) represents, promotes and supports the collective interests of people with disabilities by advocating for the removal of physical and social barriers and working to improve policies, programs and practices in the ACT.¹³⁵⁰

13.91 WWDACT discussed the following issues with the Committee:¹³⁵¹

- the low percentage of disability service users who are women;¹³⁵²
- DisabilityCare allocations within the budget;¹³⁵³
- \$2.2 million upgrades to bus stops and shelters;¹³⁵⁴
- lack of consultation with people with disability and practical accessibility considerations;¹³⁵⁵
- the adoption of the Liveable Housing Australia guidelines;¹³⁵⁶
- the allocation of the \$11.2 million for increased supports for children in non-government schools;¹³⁵⁷
- allocation of funding for leadership and capability building;¹³⁵⁸ and
- the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.¹³⁵⁹

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA

Chair

30 July 2013

¹³⁵⁰ Women with Disabilities ACT, <http://www.wchm.org.au/WWDACT/wwdact> accessed 15 July 2013.

¹³⁵¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 62-69.

¹³⁵² *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 62.

¹³⁵³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 62-63.

¹³⁵⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 63.

¹³⁵⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, pp. 63-64.

¹³⁵⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 64.

¹³⁵⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 64.

¹³⁵⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 66.

¹³⁵⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence* 14 June 2013, p. 66.