



# Matters of public importance —your Assembly @ work

*Non-sitting and sitting weeks—21 to 25 August 2017*

Issue 8/2017

## Government business

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

### *Bills introduced*

#### **Casino (Electronic Gaming) Bill 2017—**

*Summary:* This bill will establish a regulatory framework for the introduction of electronic gaming products in the casino, subject to redevelopment occurring. Requirements for the casino include undertaking a Social Impact Assessment before being issued a gaming machine authorisation certificate, forfeiting one in every three gaming machines acquired and limits the number of gaming machines to 200 and Fully Automated Table Games (FATG) to 60.

#### **Crimes (Food or Drink Spiking) Amendment Bill 2017—**

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to introduce offences of food or drink spiking.

#### **Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2017—**

*Summary:* This bill will provide a legal structure for the Territory to meet its obligations for the United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture to conduct periodic visits to places of detention under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture when it is ratified.

#### **Statute Law Amendment Bill 2017—**

*Summary:* This bill will make minor and technical amendments to a number of laws to enhance the Territory's statute book.

#### **Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2017—**

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Planning and Development Act 2007* to provide a planning assessment framework for the storage of hazardous materials and changes the impact assessment track for development proposals on contaminated sites. It also implements a requirement that an Assembly committee decide with 15 working days whether it will inquire into any Draft Variation to the Territory Plan referred to it.

#### **Tree Protection Amendment Bill 2017—**

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Tree Protection Act 2005* to provide for the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to have discretion to deregister a registered tree that has died from natural causes. The bill will also clarify who has access to merits review of certain decisions made by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

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

### **Bills debated**

#### **Appropriation Bill 2017-2018—**

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

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 22 August and continued on 23 and 24 August.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

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

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

*Proceedings:* This bill was debated cognately with the Appropriation Bill 2017-2018.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

### **Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2017**

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* to improve the community's access to Social Impact Assessments and to provide support to small and medium clubs and club groups through a gaming machine taxation rebate and reduced administrative burden.

*Proceedings:* During debate on 22 August the Canberra Liberals indicated their support for the bill with the exception of one clause dealing with gaming tax rebate. The ACT Greens stated they would support the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

As noted during the in principle debate, the Canberra Liberals opposed one clause contained in the bill during the detail stage, however, the clause was passed by the Assembly following a vote.

The bill was agreed to by the Assembly.

### **Gaming Machine (Cash Facilities) Amendment Bill 2017**

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* and the *Gaming Machine Regulation 2004* to limit clubs in the Territory to one EFTPOS facility where a person can withdraw cash at the premises. The bill will also limit the amount of cash able to be withdrawn from an EFTPOS facility to \$200 and sets rules in relation to staff operating the EFTPOS facility.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 22 August with all parties indicating their support for the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

### **Land Acquisition Amendment Bill 2017**

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

*Proceedings:* During debate support for the proposed legislation was provided by both the Canberra Liberals and ACT Greens. The bill was agreed to in principle. During the detail stage the Government moved a number of amendments that were in response to issues raised by the Scrutiny Committee. The amendments were agreed to.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

A full record of the debates can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

### **Ministerial statements**

The following ministerial statements were made on 22 August 2017.

The Minister for Housing and Suburban Development made a statement providing the Assembly with summary of progress following the establishment of the **Suburban Land Agency**.

The ACT Greens also made comments on the matter.

**Bushfire Abatement Zone** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. The statement was in response to a resolution of the Assembly of 7 June 2017 which called on the Minister to provide a report to the Assembly on various issues surrounding a Bushfire Abatement Zone.

The Attorney-General made a ministerial statement concerning ending the **greyhound racing industry** in the Territory. During the statement the Attorney-General indicated that the closure of greyhound racing will happen through a process of transition that will be complete by 30 June 2018.

The Canberra Liberals also made a statement on the issue indicating they did not support the closure of the greyhound racing industry in the Territory.

During her ministerial statement, the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations provided an annual **work health and safety** update.

On 24 August 2017, the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development made a ministerial statement concerning **maintenance services to public housing properties**. During the statement the Minister informed the Assembly that the Government had implemented the 18 recommendations of the ACT Auditor-General report 2/2016 Maintenance of Public Housing.

The Canberra Liberals also made comments on the matter.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

### Private Members' business

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

#### ***Motions debated***

A proposal for a **participatory budgeting process** to be piloted for the 2018-19 ACT Budget was moved by Ms Le Couteur MLA on 23 August. The motion outlined a number of jurisdictions both nationally and internationally that have successfully established participatory budgeting exercises. During debate the Government moved an amendment noting they would conduct a participatory budgeting pilot and committed to considering and responding to the pilot panel's recommendations as well as conducting an independent analysis of the pilot program. The amendment was agreed to.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

**Population growth** in the Territory was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Pettersson MLA on 23 August. The motion included calling on the Government to continue to invest in vital infrastructure to ensure that Canberra can continue to accommodate the population growth. It also called on the Government to support investment in health and education. During debate the ACT Greens moved two amendments to the motion however they were not passed after a vote in the Assembly.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

Mr Hanson moved a motion on 23 August concerning funding provided to the **Office of the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)**. The motion called on the Government to implement

the Select Committee on Estimates 2017-2018 recommendations that the DPP not be subject to efficiency dividends, funding of the DPP be reviewed and they be authorised to present their own budget submissions independent of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. During debate the Government moved an amendment noting the recommendations and committed to working closely with the DPP to consider future funding and updating the Assembly on this by the last sitting day in 2017. The amendment was agreed to.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 23 August related to:

Relationship between ACT Labor and UnionsACT—Mr Wall MLA

Ministerial travel—Ms Wall MLA

Environment and Ecotourism—Ms Orr MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

### Executive Members' business

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

#### ***Motion debated***

A motion concerning **refugees and asylum seekers—human rights** was moved by Mr Rattenbury MLA on 24 August. The motion called on the Assembly to write to the Federal Government requesting that it remove all refugees and asylum seekers from Manus Island and Nauru and bring them to Australia to be resettled and indicate the ACT's willingness to settle these people in Canberra as part of the national resettlement program.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

### Papers presented

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

Auditor-General's Report—3/2017—2015-16 Financial Audits—Computer Information Systems—Government response (*presented by the Treasurer on 24 August*)

Capital Works Report—June 2017 quarter (*presented by the Treasurer on 24 August*)

Law Courts of the Australian Capital Territory—  
Update on Progress (*presented by the Attorney-  
General on 24 August*)

Schedule of Leases Granted for the period  
1 April to 30 June 2017 (*presented by the  
Minister for Planning and Land Management on  
24 August*)

Schools For All—Expert Panel on Students with  
Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour—  
Report on implementation of the  
recommendations of the report (*presented by  
the Minister for Education and Early Childhood  
Development on 24 August*)

## Petition

On 24 August 2017 the following petition was  
lodged—

Safe Schools Coalition program—lodged by  
Mr Wall MLA and referred to the Minister for  
Education and Early Childhood Development.

Petition was referred to the Standing  
Committee on Education, Employment and  
Youth Affairs for inquiry and report.

A copy of the terms of the petition can be  
accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

## Committee activities

### Committee report presented

#### Health, Ageing and Community Services— Standing Committee

On 24 August 2017, the chair presented the  
committee's report entitled *Inquiry into the  
employment of people with disabilities*.

### Committee statements

#### Education, Employment and Youth Affairs— Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement  
relating to the committee's consideration of  
statutory appointments for the period 1 January  
to 30 June 2017.

## Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

### Electorate of Brindabella

Ms Joy Burch (Australian Labor Party)  
Mr Mick Gentleman (Australian Labor Party)  
Ms Nicole Lawder (Canberra Liberals)  
Mr Mark Parton (Canberra Liberals)  
Mr Andrew Wall (Canberra Liberals)

### Electorate of Ginninderra

Ms Yvette Berry (Australian Labor Party)  
Ms Tara Cheyne (Australian Labor Party)  
Mrs Vicki Dunne (Canberra Liberals)  
Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert (Canberra Liberals)  
Mr Gordon Ramsay (Australian Labor Party)

### Electorate of Kurrajong

Mr Andrew Barr (Australian Labor Party)  
Mr Steve Doszpot (Canberra Liberals)  
Ms Elizabeth Lee (Canberra Liberals)  
Mr Shane Rattenbury (ACT Greens)  
Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (Australian Labor  
Party)

### Electorate of Murrumbidgee

Ms Bec Cody (Australian Labor Party)  
Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC (Canberra Liberals)  
Mrs Giulia Jones (Canberra Liberals)  
Ms Caroline Le Couteur (ACT Greens)  
Mr Chris Steel (Australian Labor Party)

### Electorate of Yerrabi

Mr Alistair Coe (Canberra Liberals)  
Ms Meegan Fitzharris (Australian Labor Party)  
Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)  
Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)  
Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

## Next sitting

**Tuesday, 12 September 2017.**

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