



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Non-sitting and sitting weeks—6 August to 17 August 2018

Issue 8/2018

Remonstrance

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

Motion debated

A motion was moved by the Government, on 16 August, proposing a remonstrance be sent to the Australian Senate in relation to proposed amendments to the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*. The proposed amendments were introduced into the Senate to restore rights to enable the Legislative Assembly to legislate on all matters that affect citizens of the Territory. The bill to restore these rights was negatived by the Senate on 15 August 2018. Following debate, the motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

The full text of the Remonstrance can be found in the [Minutes of Proceedings](#).

Government Business

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

Bills introduced

[Civil Law \(Wrongs\) \(Child Abuse Claims Against Unincorporated Bodies\) Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 16 August)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Civil Law (Wrongs) Act 2002* to implement recommendation 94 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in its *Report on Redress and Civil Litigation*. The bill will enable an unincorporated body to nominate an entity to act as the defendant in a proceeding for a child abuse claim, allow a court to make an order to appoint a related trust as a defendant to a child abuse claim and allow trustees to apply trust property to meet liability for child abuse.

[Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction \(Principal Target\) Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 16 August)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* to bring forward the principal target date for achieving net zero emissions from 30 June 2050 to 30 June 2045.

Bills debated

[Appropriation Bill 2018-2019](#)

Summary: This bill will appropriate money for the purposes of the Territory for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2018.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 14 August and continued on 16 August 2018 with debate programmed to continue on 21 August.

[Appropriation \(Office of the Legislative Assembly\) Bill 2018-2019](#)

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 2018.

Proceedings: The bill was debated together with the Appropriation Bill 2018-2019 when debate resumed on 14 August and 16 August with debate programmed to continue on 21 August.

A full record of the debates can be accessed at [Hansard](#).

Ministerial statements

The Minister for Economic Development made a statement on 14 August concerning a **Ministerial Trade Delegation to Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea in July 2018**. During the statement the Minister stated that the delegation was aimed at growing Canberra's international markets and promoting the city as a trade and investment destination to drive continued economic growth and diversification.

An annual statement was made by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 14 August relating to **asbestos related works across Canberra**. The Minister, during his statement, detailed the work that has been undertaken in the Territory to ensure the safety of residents, workers and those within schools.

The **future of education** was the subject of a ministerial statement by the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development on 16 August. During the statement the Minister tabled a paper entitled *The future of education: An ACT education strategy for the next ten years* and stated that the strategy was aimed at the whole system and all schools within the Territory. Ms Lee MLA also made a statement in relation to the matter.

The Minister for Health and Wellbeing made a statement on 16 August responding to an Assembly resolution of 9 May 2018 relating to the **Centenary Hospital for Women and Children's future planning for ACT public maternity services**. During the statement the Minister outlined what the Government was doing to meet the growing needs of the local community and demand for maternity services. Mrs Dunne MLA also made a statement on the issue.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](#) site.

Private Members' Business

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

Motions debated

On 15 August, Ms Cody MLA moved a motion relating to **access to reproductive health services**. The motion included noting that the Government has been an historical leader in abortion law reform and calling on the Government to remind health practitioners of their obligations in dispensing reproductive health medicines.

During debate and amendment was moved by the Government that included calling on the Government to explore options for the introduction of certain requirements for pharmacies, that choose not to supply relevant reproductive health products, to display clearly visible signage that includes particular information to consumers. A further amendment was moved by the Opposition to the Government's amendment that called on the Government, in consultation with pharmacies and peak bodies, to explore options for development of an on-line resource to assist Canberrans to access reproductive health medicines and products. Both the Opposition and Government amendments were passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was agreed to.

A proposed **new bus network** to be introduced in 2019 was the subject of a motion moved by Miss C Burch MLA on 15 August. The motion included noting the possible impacts on ACT residents as a result of the new bus network and called on the Minister for Transport and City Services to, among other things, hold a further round of consultation for the proposed bus network and detail how community feedback has been incorporated into the proposal.

During debate an amendment moved by the Government included noting that the Government is working to deliver a city-wide integrated public transport network that can move people around the city effectively, providing a real alternative to car travel. The amendment also included calling on the Government to consider the extensive community feedback received and make necessary changes before finalising the timetable for the new bus network and release the timetable before the new network commences. The amendment was agreed to following a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 15 August related to:

- Administration of community contributions by ACT clubs—Mr Parton MLA
- Maintaining funding levels for the ABC—Mr Steel MLA
- Medical Imaging Department at The Canberra Hospital—Mrs Dunne MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

Papers Presented

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

- Approval of Variation to the Territory Plan No 329—Weston group centre and surrounding community and leisure and accommodation lands: Zone changes and amendments to the Weston precinct map and code (*presented 14 August by Minister for Planning and Land Management*)
- Approval of Variation to the Territory Plan No 344—Woden Town Centre: Zone changes and amendments to the Phillip precinct map and code (*presented 14 August by Minister for Planning and Land Management*)
- Auditor-General's Report 10/2018—*Annual Report 2017-18* (*presented 14 August by Speaker*)
- Changing the Narrative for Vulnerable Children: Strengthening ACT systems (*presented 16 August by Minister for Disability, Children and Youth*)
- Commissioner for Standards Annual Report 2017-2018 (*presented 14 August by Speaker*)
- Domestic Animal Services Management and Staff Resources—Response to resolution of the Assembly of 9 May 2018 (*presented 16 August by Minister for Transport and City Services*)
- Implementation of the loose fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme—Half yearly report for the period 1 January to 30 June 2018 (*presented 14 August by Minister for Planning and Land Management*)
- Pegasus Economics Report—*Review of the ACT Budget 2018-19*—Government Response (*presented 14 August by Treasurer*)
- Visit to Westminster Parliament / Attendance at the CPA/WFD Benchmarks Workshop / Visit to Scottish Parliament by the Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT (*presented 16 August by Speaker*)

Petitions and petition response

The following e-petition and petitions were lodged on 14 August—

- Tuggeranong Town Centre Masterplan between Anketell Street and the lake—lodged by Ms J Burch MLA and referred to the Minister for Planning and Land Management.
- Charnwood Group Centre—Recycling options—lodged by Mrs Kikkert MLA and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

A copy of the terms of these petitions can be accessed from the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

The following ministerial responses to petitions were lodged on 15 and 16 August—

- Dedicated bike path between Commonwealth and Kings Avenue Bridges.
- Proposed light rail stop in Mitchell.

A copy of the responses can be found from the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

The following out-of-order petition was presented on 14 August—

- ACTION bus route 54 from Gungahlin to Belconnen—Proposed changes—presented by Mr Coe MLA and referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services.

Committee Activities

Committee report presented

Scrutiny Committee

[Scrutiny Report 20](#) (presented 14 August)

This report contained the committee's comments on 121 pieces of subordinate legislation, three regulatory impact statements and three government responses.

Committee statements

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

The chair made a statement on 14 August relating to the committee's consideration of statutory appointments for the period 1 January to 30 June 2018. At the conclusion of the statement the chair presented the schedule of statutory appointments considered by the committee.

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 14 August informing the Assembly that the committee had not considered any statutory appointments for the period 1 January to 30 June 2018.

Government responses

Estimates 2018-2019—Select Committee—Report—Appropriation Bill 2018-2019 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2018-2019 (presented 14 August)

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee—Report 3—Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No 344 Woden Town Centre: Zone Changes and Amendments to the Phillip Precinct Map and Code (presented 14 August)

Speaker's response

Estimates 2018-2019—Select Committee—Report—Appropriation Bill 2018-2019 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2018-2019—Recommendation 5 (presented 14 August)

Education Activities

Information on our various program offerings are available on the Assembly's [website](#).

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)
Miss Candice Burch (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, 21 August 2018.

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