



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2016–2017–2018

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 69

**WEDNESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2018**

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**1** The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms J. Burch) took the Chair and made a formal recognition that the Assembly was meeting on the lands of the traditional custodians. The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

**2 SUB JUDICE CONVENTION AND CONTINUING RESOLUTION 10—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**

The Speaker made a statement concerning the application of the sub judice convention and Continuing Resolution 10.

The Speaker asked Members, when addressing notice No 1, Private Members' business, to avoid canvassing issues that may affect a matter that is currently the subject of a court case.

**3 CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MARITIME, MINING AND ENERGY UNION—AFFILIATIONS**

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

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the criminal charges laid against the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMMEU) and its ACT Divisional Branch Secretary for alleged cartel conduct in the ACT; and
  - (b) the formal affiliation between the CFMMEU and the ACT Labor Party; and
- (2) calls on ACT Labor Members of the Assembly to suspend all affiliations with the CFMMEU.



Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 12	
Miss C. Burch	Ms Lee	Ms J. Burch	Ms Orr
Mr Coe	Mr Parton	Ms Cheyne	Mr Pettersson
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Ms Cody	Mr Ramsay
Mr Hanson		Ms Fitzharris	Mr Rattenbury
Mrs Kikkert		Mr Gentleman	Mr Steel
Ms Lawder		Ms Le Couteur	Ms Stephen-Smith

And so it was negatived.

#### 4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Wall moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mr Milligan for today's sitting for personal reasons.

Question—put and passed.

#### 5 PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION

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

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) in the hierarchy of waste, avoidance is the best form of waste minimisation;
  - (b) single use plastic generates a significant amount of waste per year;
  - (c) that the waste generated from single use plastic is slow to degrade and often harmful to the environment;
  - (d) recyclable plastic often ends up in the general waste stream and options for the recycling of single use soft plastics are limited;
  - (e) the ACT banned single use plastic bags on 1 November 2011, and a review in 2014 reported that 65 percent of Canberra grocery shoppers supported the ban;
  - (f) a further review of the ACT's plastic bag ban was commissioned in January 2018;
  - (g) the Government's commitment to reducing waste as articulated through the Waste Feasibility Study and its Roadmap; and
  - (h) public support for initiatives such as the single use plastic bag ban, the "Straws Suck" campaign and the container deposit scheme demonstrate a willingness for behavioural change that lead to a reduction in the generation and increase in recycling of single use plastic waste; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) update the Assembly on the status of the latest review into the ACT's plastic bag ban by the last sitting week of 2018; and

- (b) investigate further opportunities that will reduce the use of single use plastic throughout the ACT, so that less waste is generated.

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

- (1) In paragraph (1)(f), omit “January 2018”, substitute “December 2017”.
- (2) Insert new paragraph (1)(i):
  - “(i) initiatives in successive Parliamentary Agreements between the Greens and the ALP have resulted in action to reduce plastic waste, including:
    - (i) banning plastic bags;
    - (ii) new street level recycling bins in town centres;
    - (iii) installation of new drinking fountains in town centres and other areas to reduce plastic bottle usage;
    - (iv) a container deposit scheme;
    - (v) additional ACTsmart funding to reduce waste in the commercial sector;
    - (vi) increased waste education;”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) in the hierarchy of waste, avoidance is the best form of waste minimisation;
  - (b) single use plastic generates a significant amount of waste per year;
  - (c) that the waste generated from single use plastic is slow to degrade and often harmful to the environment;
  - (d) recyclable plastic often ends up in the general waste stream and options for the recycling of single use soft plastics are limited;
  - (e) the ACT banned single use plastic bags on 1 November 2011, and a review in 2014 reported that 65 percent of Canberra grocery shoppers supported the ban;
  - (f) a further review of the ACT’s plastic bag ban was commissioned in December 2017;
  - (g) the Government’s commitment to reducing waste as articulated through the Waste Feasibility Study and its Roadmap;
  - (h) public support for initiatives such as the single use plastic bag ban, the “Straws Suck” campaign and the container deposit scheme demonstrate a willingness for behavioural change that lead to a reduction in the generation and increase in recycling of single use plastic waste; and

- (i) initiatives in successive Parliamentary Agreements between the Greens and the ALP have resulted in action to reduce plastic waste, including:
  - (i) banning plastic bags;
  - (ii) new street level recycling bins in town centres;
  - (iii) installation of new drinking fountains in town centres and other areas to reduce plastic bottle usage;
  - (iv) a container deposit scheme;
  - (v) additional ACTsmart funding to reduce waste in the commercial sector; and
  - (vi) increased waste education; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) update the Assembly on the status of the latest review into the ACT's plastic bag ban by the last sitting week of 2018; and
  - (b) investigate further opportunities that will reduce the use of single use plastic throughout the ACT, so that less waste is generated."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 6 P-PLATE DRIVERS—PROPOSED CURFEW AND RESTRICTIONS

Miss C. Burch, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) young Canberrans commute to and from places of employment late in the evening and early in the morning, particularly those who are shiftworkers and those employed in the hospitality and trades industries;
  - (b) there are few other safe transport options available at these times of day, and a curfew on P-plater drivers may prevent many young Canberrans from working;
  - (c) an exemption process would be costly, bureaucratic, and confusing, and would place an unfair burden on responsible P-platers;
  - (d) the ACT Government advocates assigning a designated driver when heading out for an event or a night on the town. P-plater drivers are often relied upon as designated drivers right across Canberra;
  - (e) peer passenger restrictions would prevent P-platers from acting as designated drivers, and would place an unfair burden on many families;
  - (f) the "What We Heard" survey reported that 50 percent of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with restrictions on first year P-platers from driving between midnight and 5 am; and
  - (g) accident statistics show that over 66 percent of P-plater deaths on ACT roads took place outside of the proposed curfew hours. In 2016, only 2 percent of all crashes, and 20 percent of fatal crashes occurred between the hours of midnight and 5 am; and

- (2) calls on the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety to categorically rule out:
- (a) the implementation of a 12am-5am curfew for P-plater drivers, as this would significantly impact the ability of young Canberrans to participate in employment, and is not supported by accident statistics; and
  - (b) the implementation of passenger restrictions for P-plater drivers.

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes that:
- (a) the ACT Government is committed to the ‘Vision Zero’ road safety philosophy; that is, realising zero deaths and serious injuries on our roads;
  - (b) the probability of being involved in a motor vehicle accident is highest during the first months after provisional licensing. In the ACT, provisional drivers represent 6.5 percent of all active car licence holders and account for 14.3 percent of drivers involved in fatal accidents. Late night hours are identified as a high risk time for drivers aged between 17 and 24;
  - (c) in line with ‘Vision Zero’, and with best practice safety recommendations from Austroads, the ACT Government is considering a broad package of road safety reforms for young people;
  - (d) the proposed reforms align with the top level model within the *Australian Graduated Licensing Scheme Policy Framework*, endorsed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council, and designed to encourage and guide improvements in graduating licensing schemes for all states and territories;
  - (e) the ACT Government has undertaken extensive consultation on the proposals. Consultation opened in April this year, with over 4500 responses to the consultation from the community and stakeholders. This feedback will inform future decisions on graduated licensing reform. The Government expects to make implementation decisions early in 2019;
  - (f) young Canberrans commute to and from places of employment late in the evening and early in the morning, particularly those who are shiftworkers and those employed in the hospitality and trades industries;
  - (g) the ACT Government recognises that there are few other safe transport options available at these times of day, and will ensure that road safety reforms don’t prevent P-plate drivers from working; and
  - (h) the ‘What We Heard’ survey reported that 50 percent of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with restrictions on first year P-platers from driving between midnight and 5 am. 40 percent agreed or strongly agreed;

- (2) calls on all Members to support the ‘Vision Zero’ approach to road safety, and to consider implementing evidence-based road safety improvements for young drivers; and
- (3) calls on the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2018 on progress on proposals for road safety reforms for young people.”.

Debate continued.

*Papers:* Mr Steel, by leave, presented the following papers:

P-plate drivers—Copies of news articles from the Canberra Liberals website, by Steve Pratt MLA—

Opposition calls on Government to review youth driving regulations, dated 24 October 2006.

Pool crash proves P-plate program failing, dated 31 July 2007.

Mr Steel moved the following amendment to Mr Rattenbury’s proposed amendment: Omit paragraph (3), substitute:

- “(3) noting that the Government will take into account the community’s feedback, calls on the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2018 on progress on proposals for road safety reforms for young people.”.

Debate continued.

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 74 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

## 7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

## 8 P-PLATE DRIVERS—PROPOSED CURFEW AND RESTRICTIONS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Miss C. Burch, and on the amendments moved by Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety) and Mr Steel, respectively (see [entry 6](#))—

Debate resumed.

Question—That Mr Steel’s amendment to Mr Rattenbury’s proposed amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 12		NOES, 9	
Mr Barr	Mr Gentleman	Miss C. Burch	Ms Lee
Ms Berry	Ms Le Couteur	Mr Coe	Mr Parton
Ms J. Burch	Mr Pettersson	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Cheyne	Mr Ramsay	Mr Hanson	
Ms Cody	Mr Rattenbury	Mrs Kikkert	
Ms Fitzharris	Ms Stephen-Smith	Ms Lawder	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That Mr Rattenbury’s amendment, as amended, be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 12		NOES, 9	
Mr Barr	Mr Gentleman	Miss C. Burch	Ms Lee
Ms Berry	Ms Le Couteur	Mr Coe	Mr Parton
Ms J. Burch	Mr Pettersson	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Cheyne	Mr Ramsay	Mr Hanson	
Ms Cody	Mr Rattenbury	Mrs Kikkert	
Ms Fitzharris	Ms Stephen-Smith	Ms Lawder	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) the ACT Government is committed to the ‘Vision Zero’ road safety philosophy; that is, realising zero deaths and serious injuries on our roads;
  - (b) the probability of being involved in a motor vehicle accident is highest during the first months after provisional licensing. In the ACT, provisional drivers represent 6.5 percent of all active car licence holders and account for 14.3 percent of drivers involved in fatal accidents. Late night hours are identified as a high risk time for drivers aged between 17 and 24;
  - (c) in line with ‘Vision Zero’, and with best practice safety recommendations from Austroads, the ACT Government is considering a broad package of road safety reforms for young people;
  - (d) the proposed reforms align with the top level model within the *Australian Graduated Licensing Scheme Policy Framework*, endorsed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council, and designed to encourage and guide improvements in graduating licensing schemes for all states and territories;
  - (e) the ACT Government has undertaken extensive consultation on the proposals. Consultation opened in April this year, with over 4500 responses to the consultation from the community and stakeholders. This feedback will inform future decisions on graduated licensing reform. The Government expects to make implementation decisions early in 2019;
  - (f) young Canberrans commute to and from places of employment late in the evening and early in the morning, particularly those who are shiftworkers and those employed in the hospitality and trades industries;
  - (g) the ACT Government recognises that there are few other safe transport options available at these times of day, and will ensure that road safety reforms don’t prevent P-plate drivers from working; and

- (h) the ‘What We Heard’ survey reported that 50 percent of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with restrictions on first year P-platers from driving between midnight and 5 am. 40 percent agreed or strongly agreed;
- (2) calls on all Members to support the ‘Vision Zero’ approach to road safety, and to consider implementing evidence-based road safety improvements for young drivers; and
- (3) noting that the Government will take into account the community’s feedback, calls on the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2018 on progress on proposals for road safety reforms for young people.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 9 LOCAL SHOPS—MAINTENANCE

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

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) suburban shops play an essential role in local Canberra communities offering a wide range of food, beverages, dining options and community health services;
  - (b) local shop owners are small business operators who work long hours to ensure quality service, flexibility of opening hours and choice for local residents;
  - (c) a large number of shopping areas are poorly lit, run down, the target of graffiti vandals and lacking basic and regular maintenance;
  - (d) many local shops lack appropriate parking spaces and policing of parking infringements; and
  - (e) too few local shops have appropriately maintained and working toilets, sufficient seating and shade areas; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to establish and publish a schedule of regular maintenance of local shops and report on the budget allocation for such maintenance by the end of the sitting period in October 2018.

Ms Fitzharris (Minister for Transport and City Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after paragraph (1)(b), substitute:

- “(c) the ACT Government has a regular maintenance program for local shops, which includes litter picking, cleaning of surfaces, pruning of bushes, lifting of trees, servicing of bins, daily cleaning of toilets, pressure cleaning of paving as required, removal of graffiti from government assets, repairs to damaged street furniture, minor horticultural maintenance of garden beds, and removal of leaves during autumn; and

- (d) regular cleaning activities occur in public areas of all local shopping centres in Canberra with service levels dictated by usage levels. The city and other high usage areas such as town and group centres are cleaned daily, while local shops are cleaned at least twice a week, depending on size and usage. Public toilets at these locations are cleaned daily;
- (2) further notes that:
- (a) in September 2017, the ACT Government launched the Better Suburbs program to engage with the community and set a vision and priorities for improved delivery of city services for the next four years and up to 2030, in the form of a Better Suburbs Statement which will be released in September 2018; and
  - (b) survey results from the Better Suburbs program showed that satisfaction with services for shopping precincts was highest in the central district of Canberra at 75 percent, with an average of 72 percent across all Canberra districts; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) publish the details of regular maintenance of local shops online; and
  - (b) consider options for the delivery and operation of public toilets in new local centres, which could include partnerships with private and non-government organisations to provide publicly available toilets with local businesses to maintain.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
- (a) suburban shops play an essential role in local Canberra communities offering a wide range of food, beverages, dining options and community health services;
  - (b) local shop owners are small business operators who work long hours to ensure quality service, flexibility of opening hours and choice for local residents;
  - (c) the ACT Government has a regular maintenance program for local shops, which includes litter picking, cleaning of surfaces, pruning of bushes, lifting of trees, servicing of bins, daily cleaning of toilets, pressure cleaning of paving as required, removal of graffiti from government assets, repairs to damaged street furniture, minor horticultural maintenance of garden beds, and removal of leaves during autumn; and

- (d) regular cleaning activities occur in public areas of all local shopping centres in Canberra with service levels dictated by usage levels. The city and other high usage areas such as town and group centres are cleaned daily, while local shops are cleaned at least twice a week, depending on size and usage. Public toilets at these locations are cleaned daily;
- (2) further notes that:
- (a) in September 2017, the ACT Government launched the Better Suburbs program to engage with the community and set a vision and priorities for improved delivery of city services for the next four years and up to 2030, in the form of a Better Suburbs Statement which will be released in September 2018; and
  - (b) survey results from the Better Suburbs program showed that satisfaction with services for shopping precincts was highest in the central district of Canberra at 75 percent, with an average of 72 percent across all Canberra districts; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) publish the details of regular maintenance of local shops online; and
  - (b) consider options for the delivery and operation of public toilets in new local centres, which could include partnerships with private and non-government organisations to provide publicly available toilets with local businesses to maintain.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 10 BUDGET POLICIES

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

- (1) notes the strong and inclusive budget management of this Government including:
  - (a) a balanced budget with a modest surplus of \$36 million this year and a positive position across the forward estimates;
  - (b) the forward projections for strong and sustained economic growth, off the back of the fastest growth for any State or Territory in recent years;
  - (c) over 10 000 new jobs being created in 2017, with 80 percent of these new jobs being full time;
  - (d) unemployment at 3.6 percent in July 2018 – the lowest of any State or Territory; and
  - (e) a strong focus on diversifying business and continuing tax reform to reduce stamp duty and help first home buyers;
- (2) further notes the strong expenditure growth for growing services for our growing city, including:

- (a) \$5 billion over four years for education to deliver more schools and more school places, including a new primary school in Molonglo, an upgrade to Campbell Primary and more places for students at Amaroo, Neville Bonner and Gold Creek schools;
  - (b) \$7.8 billion over four years for health including 4000 more elective surgeries, progressing the development of Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency and expanding Hospital in the Home to 3000 more patients each year;
  - (c) over \$150 million each year on public transport to help deliver Canberrans to work on time and take more cars off the road;
  - (d) duplication of William Slim Drive from Ginninderra Drive to the Barton Highway and planning and design on the extension of John Gorton Drive and a bridge across the Molonglo River;
  - (e) delivering the Family Safety Hub, and investing \$6.5 million for more places for women seeking safe and secure refuge as well as \$1.7 million for the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and Domestic Violence Crisis Service to ensure women in crisis get the help they need, when they need it; and
  - (f) improved connectivity and active travel routes, with \$10.5 million for the Belconnen Bikeway and \$4 million to improve paths around the Tuggeranong Town Centre; and
- (3) calls on this Assembly to support the progressive and principled policies in this year's budget.

Debate ensued.

Mr Coe (Leader of the Opposition) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after "notes" (first occurring), substitute:

- "(a) the Labor Government introduced a tax reform package in 2012 with the stated aim of making 'taxes fairer, simpler and more efficient';
  - (b) since then, the total revenue from rates, land tax, stamp duty, insurance levy and the fire and emergency services levy has grown considerably faster than the combined growth rate of inflation and number of dwellings;
  - (c) the increase in taxation has been regressive, primarily due to significant increases in fixed charges and levies;
  - (d) most townhouse, unit and apartment owners are now paying a large portion of their rates in the top marginal bracket;
  - (e) ACT Government concessions have not kept pace with tax increases; and
  - (f) many Canberrans cannot afford the increasing cost of living imposed upon them by the ACT Government; and
- (2) calls on the Government to stop the massive tax increases that are having a disproportionate impact on low income earners."

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 11	
Miss C. Burch	Ms Lee	Mr Barr	Ms Le Couteur
Mr Coe	Mr Wall	Ms Berry	Mr Pettersson
Mrs Dunne		Ms J. Burch	Mr Ramsay
Mr Hanson		Ms Cheyne	Mr Rattenbury
Mrs Kikkert		Ms Cody	Ms Stephen-Smith
Ms Lawder		Ms Fitzharris	

And so it was negatived.

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

#### 11 A.C.T. AMBULANCE SERVICE—DATA

Mr Coe (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the Minister for Police and Emergency Services politicised the public service by using it to craft political spin to downplay negative ambulance data and his mismanagement of ambulance resourcing;
  - (b) the Minister delayed answering question on notice No 662 for 100 days; and
  - (c) the data revealed that 41.5 percent of all emergency ambulance shifts were crewed below the minimum crewing level in 2016-17; and
- (2) calls on the Minister to:
  - (a) apologise for using the public service for political spin purposes;
  - (b) reassure the community that these shifts did not occur during known periods of high demand; and
  - (c) present to the Assembly by the September 2018 sittings the data which shows on what date and shift type these shifts fell below the minimum crewing level.

Mr Coe addressing the Assembly—

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

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

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Mr Coe continued.

Ms Stephen-Smith moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes that:
- (a) the Minister for Police and Emergency Services provided an answer to Question on Notice (QON) 662 on 31 January 2018, prior to commencement of the 2018 sitting period;
  - (b) the answer provided to QON 662 enabled the Assembly to have two discussions on 14 and 21 February 2018 concerning ambulance crewing;
  - (c) since August 2017, the Minister for Emergency Services has answered 12 QONs concerning ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS), including questions relating to crewing and shifts;
  - (d) a further seven questions have been answered on notice arising from the recent budget estimates hearings concerning ACTAS;
  - (e) advice from ACTAS is that preparing information relating to dates and times of shifts concerning minimum crewing requires considerable amounts of staff time;
  - (f) ACTAS staff should be spending their time providing support to paramedics and continuing to deliver high quality care to Canberrans;
  - (g) the information provided in the answer to QON 662 cannot be extrapolated to identify if a certain percentage of shifts were below the minimum crewing metric for the whole shift;
  - (h) the minimum crewing metric is not used by all ambulance services in the country; and
  - (i) response times and patient satisfaction are better measures of the quality of the ambulance service provided to a community;
- (2) further notes that:
- (a) ACTAS has the best response times in the nation and the highest patient satisfaction;
  - (b) notwithstanding that ACTAS is one of the best ambulance services in the country, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services requested a review of minimum crewing be undertaken, with a view of supporting ACTAS staff;
  - (c) the Government is implementing the ACTAS Blueprint for Change, designed to lead to improvements, including for staff, and enhance capabilities of the service; and
  - (d) the Government has provided additional funding to ACTAS, including for an additional two ambulances and 23 paramedics; and
- (3) calls on the Government to publicly respond by the end of the year regarding the outcomes of the review of minimum crewing in ACTAS currently underway.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 11		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Le Couteur	Miss C. Burch	Ms Lee
Ms Berry	Mr Pettersson	Mr Coe	Mr Wall
Ms J. Burch	Mr Ramsay	Mrs Dunne	
Ms Cheyne	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Ms Cody	Ms Stephen-Smith	Mrs Kikkert	
Ms Fitzharris		Ms Lawder	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) the Minister for Police and Emergency Services provided an answer to Question on Notice (QON) 662 on 31 January 2018, prior to commencement of the 2018 sitting period;
  - (b) the answer provided to QON 662 enabled the Assembly to have two discussions on 14 and 21 February 2018 concerning ambulance crewing;
  - (c) since August 2017, the Minister for Emergency Services has answered 12 QONs concerning ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS), including questions relating to crewing and shifts;
  - (d) a further seven questions have been answered on notice arising from the recent budget estimates hearings concerning ACTAS;
  - (e) advice from ACTAS is that preparing information relating to dates and times of shifts concerning minimum crewing requires considerable amounts of staff time;
  - (f) ACTAS staff should be spending their time providing support to paramedics and continuing to deliver high quality care to Canberrans;
  - (g) the information provided in the answer to QON 662 cannot be extrapolated to identify if a certain percentage of shifts were below the minimum crewing metric for the whole shift;
  - (h) the minimum crewing metric is not used by all ambulance services in the country; and
  - (i) response times and patient satisfaction are better measures of the quality of the ambulance service provided to a community;
- (2) further notes that:
  - (a) ACTAS has the best response times in the nation and the highest patient satisfaction;
  - (b) notwithstanding that ACTAS is one of the best ambulance services in the country, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services requested a review of minimum crewing be undertaken, with a view of supporting ACTAS staff;

- (c) the Government is implementing the ACTAS Blueprint for Change, designed to lead to improvements, including for staff, and enhance capabilities of the service; and
  - (d) the Government has provided additional funding to ACTAS, including for an additional two ambulances and 23 paramedics; and
- (3) calls on the Government to publicly respond by the end of the year regarding the outcomes of the review of minimum crewing in ACTAS currently underway.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 12 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.29 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

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**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE:** All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mrs Jones\* and Mr Milligan\*.

\*on leave

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**Tom Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly