



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021–2022

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 63

TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2022

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms Burch) took the Chair and made the following acknowledgement of country in the Ngunnawal language:

Dhawura nguna, dhawura Ngunnawal.

Yanggu ngalawiri, dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari.

Nginggada Dindi dhawura Ngunnaawalbun yindjumaralidjinyin.

This is Ngunnawal Country.

Today we are gathering on Ngunnawal country.

We always pay respect to Elders, female and male, and Ngunnawal country.

The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 PETITION—PETITION NOTED

The Clerk announced that the following Member had lodged a petition for presentation:

Ms Lawder, from 692 residents, requesting that the Assembly reconsider the proposed design of Stromlo Forest Park car park and ensure no introduction of paid parking (e-Pet 030-22).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, this petition stands referred to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality.

The Speaker proposed—That the petition so lodged be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE (LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY ROLE)—SCRUTINY REPORT 22—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Cain (Chair) presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Scrutiny Report 22, dated 17 October 2022, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings and a revised copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings for Scrutiny Report 21—

and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the report.

4 SHORING COLLAPSE AT DICKSON ON 11 OCTOBER 2022—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Cheyne (Minister for Business and Better Regulation) made a ministerial statement concerning the shoring collapse at Dickson on 11 October 2022 and presented the following paper:

Shoring Collapse at Dickson on 11 October 2022—Ministerial statement, 18 October 2022.

Ms Cheyne moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

5 APPROPRIATION BILL 2022-2023

The Assembly, according to order, resumed consideration at the detail stage—

Detail Stage

Schedule 1—Appropriations—Proposed expenditure—

Consideration resumed on Part 1.8—Community Services Directorate—

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Part 1.9—Major Projects Canberra—debated and agreed to.

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.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 PRESENTATION OF PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Bills referred to Committees, pursuant to resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended—Correspondence—Bill—Inquiry—Sexual Assault Reform Legislation Amendment Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 12 October 2022.

Integrity Commission Act, pursuant to section 213—Special Report—Suburban Land Agency Land Sales, dated 17 October 2022.

8 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) presented the following papers:

Subordinate legislation (including explanatory statements unless otherwise stated)

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64—

Animal Welfare Act—Animal Welfare (Advisory Committee Member) Appointment 2022 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-228 (LR, 10 October 2022).

Health Act—Health (Interest Charge) Determination 2022 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-225 (LR, 29 September 2022).

Public Health Act—Public Health (COVID-19 Management) Declaration 2022—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-224 (LR, 29 September 2022).

Public Sector Management Act—Public Sector Management Amendment Standards 2022 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-227 (LR, 6 October 2022).

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal (Fees and Allowances of Members) Determination 2022—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-226 (LR, 4 October 2022).

Road Transport (General) Act—

Road Transport (General) Application of Road Transport Legislation (Deciding Applications for Registration - Taxi) Declaration 2022 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-230 (LR, 11 October 2022).

Road Transport (General) Application of Road Transport Legislation (Manuka Oval) Declaration 2022 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-229 (LR, 11 October 2022).

9 RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the International Day of Older Persons is celebrated on 1 October each year, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly on 14 December 1990 (resolution 45/106);
 - (b) Ageism Awareness Day, which is centred around the International Day of Older Persons, took place on 7 October 2022;
 - (c) the number of Canberrans aged over 55 years is increasing as a proportion of the population, based on the 2021 Census results; and
 - (d) ageism is increasingly an issue for society as life expectancy continues to rise, particularly in the ACT, where we have the highest male and female life expectancy in Australia;
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) accelerate the replacement and repair of footpaths, including but not limited to, work on the age-friendly suburbs strategy;
 - (b) accelerate work on making Canberra a dementia-friendly city; and

- (c) start collecting usage data via MyWay cards of senior citizens to better understand their travel needs and habits;
- (3) write to the Australian Government in support of a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons; and
- (4) provide a copy of this correspondence and any response received to the Assembly by 1 March 2023.

Ms Davidson (Minister for Veterans and Seniors) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after paragraph (1)(d), substitute:

- “(e) older people continue to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 compared to the general population, in terms of both health risks as well as social wellbeing and connectedness; and
 - (f) the ACT Government is committed to supporting older Canberrans through the Age-Friendly City Plan, Re-envisioning Older Persons Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT Strategy and the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) continue to implement the Age-Friendly City Plan and Re-envisioning Older Persons Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT Strategy;
 - (b) continue consultation and the implementation of the Age Friendly Suburbs Program, which includes remediation and repair of, and new, footpaths;
 - (c) continue to progress work to make Canberra a more dementia-friendly city;
 - (d) consider the results of the ACT Household Travel Survey with a focus on older Canberrans, to better understand their travel needs and habits;
 - (e) continue to work with the older community, the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing, stakeholder groups and across government, to identify the broader needs of, and supports required for, older Canberrans;
 - (f) write to the Australian Government in support of a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons; and
 - (g) provide a copy of this correspondence and any response received to the Assembly by 1 March 2023.”.

Debate continued.

Ms Lawder moved the following amendment to the proposed amendment: Omit paragraph (2)(d), substitute:

- “(d) start collecting senior citizen’s usage data via MyWay cards as stipulated in the Age-Friendly City Plan to better understand travel habits and needs.”.

Debate continued.

Ms Lawder, who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Question—That the amendment to the proposed amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9

Mr Cain
Ms Castley
Mr Cocks
Mr Hanson
Mrs Kikkert
Ms Lawder
Ms Lee
Mr Milligan
Mr Parton

NOES, 16

Mr Barr
Ms Berry
Mr Braddock
Ms Burch
Ms Cheyne
Ms Clay
Ms Davidson
Mr Davis
Mr Gentleman
Ms Orr
Dr Paterson
Mr Pettersson
Mr Rattenbury
Mr Steel
Ms Stephen-Smith
Ms Vassarotti

And so it was negatived.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the International Day of Older Persons is celebrated on 1 October each year, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly on 14 December 1990 (resolution 45/106);
 - (b) Ageism Awareness Day, which is centred around the International Day of Older Persons, took place on 7 October 2022;
 - (c) the number of Canberrans aged over 55 years is increasing as a proportion of the population, based on the 2021 Census results; and
 - (d) ageism is increasingly an issue for society as life expectancy continues to rise, particularly in the ACT, where we have the highest male and female life expectancy in Australia;
 - (e) older people continue to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 compared to the general population, in terms of both health risks as well as social wellbeing and connectedness; and
 - (f) the ACT Government is committed to supporting older Canberrans through the Age-Friendly City Plan, Re-envisioning Older Persons Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT Strategy and the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) continue to implement the Age-Friendly City Plan and Re-envisioning Older Persons Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT Strategy;
 - (b) continue consultation and the implementation of the Age Friendly Suburbs Program, which includes remediation and repair of, and new, footpaths;
 - (c) continue to progress work to make Canberra a more dementia-friendly city;
 - (d) consider the results of the ACT Household Travel Survey with a focus on older Canberrans, to better understand their travel needs and habits;

- (e) continue to work with the older community, the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing, stakeholder groups and across government, to identify the broader needs of, and supports required for, older Canberrans;
- (f) write to the Australian Government in support of a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons; and
- (g) provide a copy of this correspondence and any response received to the Assembly by 1 March 2023.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

10 EMBEDDED UTILITIES NETWORKS

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) as a result of the introduction of embedded networks in developments such as apartment blocks, retirement villages, social housing, and caravan parks, embedded network users may face higher utility prices compared to those with unlimited retail choice;
 - (b) embedded network users have limited consumer rights and protections; and
 - (c) embedded network providers operate in a loosely regulated environment that may require strengthened oversight;
- (2) further notes the:
 - (a) NSW Parliament’s ongoing inquiry into embedded networks; and
 - (b) Victorian Government’s announcement in July 2022 to ban new embedded networks;
- (3) acknowledges the:
 - (a) ACT Government’s achievement of 100 percent renewable electricity in the ACT; and
 - (b) success of the ACT Government’s energy policies in keeping the ACT’s regulated retail electricity prices below the national average despite an unstable national and global energy market;
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to conduct a review of embedded networks in the ACT, with regard as to whether the following reforms are appropriate:
 - (a) a ban on new embedded networks (exempting buildings that use renewable energy microgrids to deliver low-cost renewable energy to apartment blocks);
 - (b) further regulation of embedded network providers; and
 - (c) further consumer protections for embedded network users to equalise consumer protections for on-market users; and
- (5) requests that the ACT Government report back to the Assembly on this matter by 30 June 2023.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11 APPROPRIATION BILL 2022-2023

The Assembly, according to order, resumed consideration at the detail stage—

Detail Stage

Schedule 1—Appropriations—Proposed expenditure—

Consideration resumed on Part 1.10—Superannuation Provision Account—

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Part 1.11—Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate—
debated and agreed to.

Part 1.12—Housing ACT—debated and agreed to.

Part 1.13—Canberra Institute of Technology—debated and agreed to.

Part 1.14—City Renewal Authority—

Debate adjourned (Ms Cheyne—Minister for Business and Better Regulation) and the
resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Cheyne (Minister for Business and Better Regulation) moved—That the Assembly do
now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.08 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly