



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

2004–2005–2006–2007

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 119

WEDNESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2007

1 The Assembly met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. A quorum of Members not being present, the Speaker (Mr Berry) ordered the bells to be rung. A quorum having been formed, the Speaker took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 PETITION

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

Mr Pratt, from 1132 residents, requesting that the Assembly alleviate traffic problems in the southern Tuggeranong area, especially the duplication of Tharwa and Drakeford Drives.

3 GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2007

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation to improve transparency and accountability in government, and for related purposes.

Title read by Clerk.

Mrs Dunne moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Corbell—Attorney-General) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

4 ELECTRICITY FEED-IN (SOLAR PREMIUM) BILL 2007—EXPOSURE DRAFT—PAPER AND STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mr Gentleman, by leave, presented the following paper:

Electricity Feed-in (Solar Premium) Bill 2007—Exposure draft—
and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the paper.

5 PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM—PROPOSED INQUIRY

Mr Stefaniak (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly calls on the Chief Minister to establish an inquiry under the *Inquiries Act 1991* (“the Act”) into the public hospital system in the ACT with the following terms of reference, procedures and timelines:

Terms of reference

- (1) to review and evaluate the internal governance and management practices and procedures of the public hospital system;
- (2) to review and evaluate the organisational and administrative arrangements for the public hospital system within ACT Health;
- (3) to assess the current impediments to the provision of hospital services to the population;
- (4) to assess the adequacy of beds and related equipment, particularly in the hospital emergency departments;
- (5) to assess the adequacy of suitably trained and qualified staff to provide the services required, particularly in the hospital emergency departments;
- (6) to review and evaluate the Government’s strategies to meet the future needs of the population for hospital services;
- (7) to consider and evaluate any other related matters that may emerge in the course of the inquiry;

The inquiry process

- (8) call for submissions addressing the terms of reference;
- (9) require submissions from key stakeholders;
- (10) collate and analyse available sources for insights into public hospitals governance, management, and administration and organisational arrangements;
- (11) gather and analyse relevant facts, including statistics, benchmarks and attitudinal data;
- (12) frame and present specific questions of fact and interpretation to stakeholders (agencies and individuals) in writing for written response as necessary;
- (13) frame and present follow-up questions of fact and interpretation as required;
- (14) conduct public hearings and cross-examination of interested parties and stakeholders including, but not restricted to, key agencies and organisations;
- (15) prepare an interim report, including a draft concept, framework and process to implement sustainable hospital governance, management and administration and organisational arrangements;
- (16) take and analyse submissions on the draft report and finalise the report for delivery to the ACT Government;

Time frames for the inquiry

- (17) inquiry to present its interim report to the Chief Minister by 31 March 2008; and

(18) inquiry to present its final report to the Chief Minister by 30 April 2008.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6		NOES, 9	
Mrs Burke	Mr Stefaniak	Mr Barr	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne		Mr Berry	Mr Hargreaves
Mr Mulcahy		Mr Corbell	Ms MacDonald
Mr Pratt		Dr Foskey	Mr Stanhope
Mr Seselja		Ms Gallagher	

And so it was negatived.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 STATEMENT BY MINISTER—LEAVE NOT GRANTED

Mr Hargreaves (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services) sought leave to make a statement concerning the Legislative Assembly Library.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

8 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr Hargreaves (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services) moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Hargreaves from making a statement concerning the Legislative Assembly Library.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 6	
Mr Barr	Mr Gentleman	Mrs Burke	Mr Stefaniak
Mr Berry	Mr Hargreaves	Mrs Dunne	
Mr Corbell	Ms MacDonald	Mr Mulcahy	
Dr Foskey	Mr Stanhope	Mr Pratt	
Ms Gallagher		Mr Seselja	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

9 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY—STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr Hargreaves (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services), by leave, made a statement concerning the Legislative Assembly Library.

10 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT—CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT—2006-2007 FINANCIAL YEAR—PAPER AND STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr Stanhope (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 25—Consolidated Annual Financial Report, including audit opinion—2006-2007 Financial Year—

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

11 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT—CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT—PAPER AND STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr Stanhope (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 26—Consolidated Financial Report for the financial quarter and year-to-date ending 30 September 2007—

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

12 RAIL HERITAGE IN THE A.C.T.

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

- (1) recognises the importance of rail heritage in the ACT;
- (2) acknowledges the significant contribution the Australian Railway Historical Society provides for Canberra; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) investigate ways to ensure the future of the Australian Railway Historical Society and investigate the provision of financial assistance in any possible relocation; and
 - (b) ensure the provision of suitable land, catering for all of the Society's needs, should it be necessary for the Society to be relocated.

Dr Foskey moved the following amendment: Omit paragraphs 3(a) and (b), substitute: “ensure that the Australian Railway Historical Society remains at its current site.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That Dr Foskey's amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

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

13 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—POSTPONEMENT AND CONSIDERATION OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Ms MacDonald moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Notice No. 4, Private Members' business, relating to City and urban scapes, being postponed until the next sitting and Order of the day No. 16, Private Members' business, relating to the Utilities (Network Facilities Tax) Repeal Bill 2007, being called on forthwith.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

14 UTILITIES (NETWORK FACILITIES TAX) REPEAL BILL 2007

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—

Debate resumed.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6		NOES, 7	
Mrs Burke	Mr Pratt	Mr Barr	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne	Mr Seselja	Mr Berry	Mr Hargreaves
Dr Foskey		Mr Corbell	Ms MacDonald
Mr Mulcahy		Ms Gallagher	

And so it was negatived.

15 ADJOURNMENT

It being past 6 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.26 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Ms Porter* and Mr Smyth*.

*on leave

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly