



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2004–2005–2006–2007

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 101

WEDNESDAY, 30 MAY 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 LIVE MUSIC—VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

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

- (1) acknowledges that live music should be accorded a recognised cultural value;
- (2) recognises the importance of:
 - (a) live music and live music venues to the Canberra community; and
 - (b) protecting live music venues in Canberra; and
- (3) requests the Government investigate ways of ensuring the protection of live music venues in Canberra.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 FEDERAL BUDGET 2007-2008—IMPACT ON A.C.T. ECONOMY

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that on Tuesday, 8 May 2007, the Howard Government delivered the Federal Budget for the 2007-08 financial year;
 - (b) the ACT Chief Minister, Mr Jon Stanhope MLA, greeted the Budget as “a good, attractive Budget for the vast majority of Australians” and “great for the ACT economy”;

- (c) that the Howard Government has delivered ten consecutive Budget surpluses;
 - (d) that in contrast to the \$10.6 billion surplus of the latest Federal Budget, the 2005-06 ACT Budget recorded a deficit of \$162.3 million, outlined on page 9 of the 2006-07 ACT Budget Paper 3;
 - (e) that whereas the Federal Government is lowering taxes for ordinary Australians, in the last ACT Budget taxes increased; and
 - (f) the ACT Government continues to receive higher than forecast returns from the GST;
- (2) joins with the Chief Minister in welcoming the Howard Government Budget;
 - (3) commends the Australian Government on its commitment to sound fundamental economic policies; and
 - (4) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) similarly commit to sound economic management;
 - (b) seek to reduce the tax burden on the people of Canberra by lowering the cost of Government in the ACT; and
 - (c) reduce the number of “nuisance” taxes in the ACT.

Mr Stanhope (Treasurer) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after paragraph 1(b), substitute:

- “(c) and commends the ACT Government for its commitment to responsible financial management that will ensure the sustainable delivery of high quality services to the people of Canberra.”.

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.

4 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Member named and suspended: The Speaker named Mr Stefaniak (Leader of the Opposition) for persistently and wilfully disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Mr Corbell (Manager of Government Business), pursuant to standing order 203, moved—That Mr Stefaniak be suspended from the service of the Assembly.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 7	
Mr Barr	Mr Gentleman	Mrs Dunne	Mr Seselja
Mr Berry	Mr Hargreaves	Dr Foskey	Mr Smyth
Mr Corbell	Ms MacDonald	Mr Mulcahy	Mr Stefaniak
Ms Gallagher	Mr Stanhope	Mr Pratt	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Stefaniak was therefore suspended at 3.44 p.m. for 3 sitting hours in accordance with standing order 204, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions continued.

5 FEDERAL BUDGET 2007-2008—IMPACT ON A.C.T. ECONOMY

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Mulcahy and on the amendment moved by Mr Stanhope (Treasurer) (*see entry 3*)—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 7	
Mr Barr	Mr Hargreaves	Mrs Burke	Mr Seselja
Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald	Mrs Dunne	Mr Smyth
Mr Corbell	Ms Porter	Dr Foskey	
Ms Gallagher	Mr Stanhope	Mr Mulcahy	
Mr Gentleman		Mr Pratt	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly notes:

- (1) that on Tuesday, 8 May 2007, the Howard Government delivered the Federal Budget for the 2007-08 financial year;
- (2) the ACT Chief Minister, Mr Jon Stanhope MLA, greeted the Budget as ‘a good, attractive Budget for the vast majority of Australians’ and ‘great for the ACT economy’;
- (3) and commends the ACT Government for its commitment to responsible financial management that will ensure the sustainable delivery of high quality services to the people of Canberra.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

6 AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM—IMPACT OF CHANGES ON THE A.C.T.

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the amendments made to the Commonwealth *Electoral Act 1918* by the *Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Electoral Integrity and Other Measures) Act 2006* will disenfranchise thousands of eligible voters in our community;
 - (b) the Howard Government’s enrolment changes are unnecessary and are likely to weaken Australia’s electoral system;
 - (c) the direct impact these changes will have on the ACT’s electoral roll; and

- (d) the importance of a strong electoral system which has as many eligible voters enrolled as possible in order to maintain trust in the electoral system by the electorate; and
- (2) requests the Chief Minister write to the Federal Minister, Gary Nairn MP, expressing the concern of this Assembly at the negative impact these changes will have.

Debate ensued.

Dr Foskey addressing the Assembly—

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 34 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

7 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Papers: Mr Barr (Minister for Education and Training) presented the following papers:

Policies in ACT schools, prepared by the Department of Education and Training—

Appropriate use of mobile telephones.

Countering bullying, harassment and violence in ACT public schools.

Countering racism in ACT public schools.

Countering sexual harassment in ACT public schools.

Providing safe schools P-12.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.29 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly