

**2001-2002-2003**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**No. 82**

**WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2003**

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**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 GMO (ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION) BILL 2003**

Ms Tucker, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to prohibit certain dealings with genetically modified organisms, and for other purposes.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Tucker moved – That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Corbell – Minister for Health) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**3 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2003 (NO 3)**

Ms Dundas, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

*Paper:* Ms Dundas presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Dundas moved – That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Quinlan – Treasurer) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

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#### **4 A.C.T. WORKCOVER**

Ms MacDonald, pursuant to notice, moved – That the Assembly:

- (1) acknowledges the importance of ACT Workcover in promoting occupational health and safety in the ACT;
- (2) congratulates the winners of the 2003 ACT Occupational Health and Safety Awards for their leadership in the field of occupational health and safety; and
- (3) recognises the importance their leadership plays in increasing awareness about health and safety practices in ACT work places.

Debate ensued.

Ms Tucker moved the following amendment: After paragraph (3), insert

“(4) calls on the Government to:

- (a) investigate increasing the number of inspectors employed by ACT Workcover to ensure greater compliance with the relevant legislation in the ACT and to improve effective communication of the legislation to the ACT stakeholders; and
- (b) report back to the Assembly on this investigation.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question – That the motion, as amended, be agreed to – put and passed.

#### **5 PUBLIC HOUSING – CURRONG APARTMENTS**

Ms Tucker, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly, noting the Government’s commitment to maintain stocks of public housing in the ACT, calls on the Government to:

- (1) until there has been an increase in the number of public housing properties in the ACT to a number 212 higher than the number at 28 October 2003:
  - (a) cancel plans to demolish Currong Apartments; and
  - (b) not move out residents who would prefer to stay at Currong Apartments;
- (2) reconsider the options for refurbishing the Currong Apartments as ongoing public housing, taking into account the reports on options prepared for the ACT Government in September 1998, 1999 and May 2001; and
- (3) report back to the Legislative Assembly by the end of the last sitting week in February 2004.

Ms Tucker, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate ensued.

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 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Mr Stanhope (Chief Minister) informed the Assembly of the absence of Mr Wood (Minister for Urban Services) and advised the Assembly that questions without notice normally directed to Mr Wood could be directed to the Chief Minister.

## **7 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

## **8 PAPER**

Mr Stanhope (Minister for Environment), having added to an answer, presented the following paper:

Draft water strategy – Answer to question taken on notice from Mrs Dunne.

## **9 PRESENTATION OF PAPER**

Mr Corbell (Minister for Health) presented the following paper:

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64 –

Cemeteries and Crematoria Act – Cemeteries and Crematoria (Fees for 2003-2004) Determination 2003 – Disallowable Instrument DI2003-297, together with its explanatory statement (LR, 14 November 2003).

## **10 PUBLIC HOUSING – CURRONG APARTMENTS**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Tucker – That this Assembly, noting the Government's commitment to maintain stocks of public housing in the ACT, calls on the Government to:

- (1) until there has been an increase in the number of public housing properties in the ACT to a number 212 higher than the number at 28 October 2003:
  - (a) cancel plans to demolish Currong Apartments; and
  - (b) not move out residents who would prefer to stay at Currong Apartments;
- (2) reconsider the options for refurbishing the Currong Apartments as ongoing public housing, taking into account the reports on options prepared for the ACT Government in September 1998, 1999 and May 2001; and
- (3) report back to the Legislative Assembly by the end of the last sitting week in February 2004 –

Debate resumed.

Question – That the motion be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes, 3

Mrs Cross  
Ms Dundas  
Ms Tucker

Noes, 12

Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald
Mrs Burke	Mr Pratt
Mr Corbell	Mr Quinlan
Mr Cornwell	Mr Smyth
Ms Gallagher	Mr Stanhope
Mr Hargreaves	Mr Stefaniak

And so it was negatived.

## 11 FIRE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND AMBULANCE AUTHORITIES BILL 2003

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.

Mr Smyth (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr Pratt, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Question – That this Bill be agreed to in principle – put.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes, 6

Mrs Burke	Mr Smyth
Mr Cornwell	
Mrs Cross	
Mrs Dunne	
Mr Pratt	

Noes, 9

Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald
Mr Corbell	Mr Quinlan
Ms Dundas	Mr Stanhope
Ms Gallagher	Ms Tucker
Mr Hargreaves	

And so it was negatived.

## 12 ADJOURNMENT NEGATIVED

It being past 5 p.m. – The question was proposed – That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Corbell (Minister for Health) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate –

Question – put and negatived.

## 13 CYPRUS – RECOGNITION AS AN INDEPENDENT AND UNIFIED NATION

Mr Hargreaves, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly recognises the strong desire of the people of Cyprus to be a unified and independent nation and calls on the Chief Minister to convey this resolution to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Debate ensued.

Mr Smyth (Leader of the Opposition) moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after “convey”, substitute “this resolution to the Prime Minister of Australia”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question – That the motion, as amended, be agreed to – put and passed.

#### **14 RATES CONCESSIONS – LOW INCOME EARNERS**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Dundas – That the ACT Government develop a proposal to provide rates concessions to all people on low incomes, including more generous concessions for pensioners, and present this to the Assembly by the last day of sitting in December 2003 –

Ms Dundas, by leave, moved the following amendment:

Omit “by the last day of sitting in December 2003”, substitute “with the Government’s response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts’ inquiry into revenue raising issues in the ACT.”.

Debate resumed.

Amendment agreed to.

Question – That the motion, as amended, be agreed to – put and passed.

#### **15 SENTENCING REFORM AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

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.

Mr Stanhope (Attorney-General), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr Stefaniak, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Question – That this Bill be agreed to in principle – put.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes, 6

Noes, 11

Mrs Burke  
Mr Cornwell  
Mrs Dunne  
Mr Pratt  
Mr Smyth  
Mr Stefaniak

Mr Berry  
Mr Corbell  
Mrs Cross  
Ms Dundas  
Ms Gallagher  
Mr Hargreaves

Ms MacDonald  
Mr Quinlan  
Mr Stanhope  
Ms Tucker  
Mr Wood

And so it was negatived.

#### **16 PLASTIC BAGS – REDUCTION IN USAGE**

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly:

- (1) acknowledges that plastic bag use needs to be reduced and plastic bag recycling needs to be enhanced in the ACT;
- (2) calls on the Government to ensure that there are plastic bag recycling drop off points at all major town centres across Canberra;

- (3) calls on the Government to embark on an education and awareness campaign promoting the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling plastic bags;
- (4) calls on the Government to work with business and encourage more consumer choice for carrying goods bought, i.e. allowing choice of plastic bag, calico bag, boxes or degradable bags; and
- (5) calls on the Government to work with business and trial (a) a plastic bag levy in Canberra and (b) the use of biodegradable or degradable plastic bags using a similar approach to the ReBaG trial in 1999.

Debate ensued.

Mr Stanhope (Minister for Environment), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Mr Stanhope moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after “acknowledges that plastic bag use needs to be reduced and plastic bag recycling needs to be enhanced in the ACT”, substitute:

- “(2) notes that the ACT Government has agreed with the Commonwealth to work with other States and Territories, and the Australian Retailers Association to achieve:
- (a) a community goal of cutting bag litter by 75% by 2005;
  - (b) a reduction in the use of lightweight single use plastic bags of 50% by the end of 2005;
  - (c) an increase in the recycling of these bags by between 15 and 30% by the end of 2005;
  - (d) the phasing out of lightweight plastic bags within 5 years;
  - (e) an appropriate Australian Standard for degradable bags;
  - (f) a national campaign to reduce plastic bag litter and encourage retailers to get behind the *Retailers Code of Practice for the Management of Plastic Shopping Bags* to ensure the national bag reductions and recycling targets are met; and
  - (g) the introduction by retailers of a transparent and independent auditing process to measure bag use, recycling and litter levels, which will also regularly report to Ministers on progress and undertake a vigorous program to encourage more retailers to join the scheme.”.

Debate continued.

Mrs Dunne moved the following amendment to Mr Stanhope’s amendment:

After “join the scheme” add:

- “(3) calls on the Government to ensure that there are plastic bag recycling drop off points at all major town centres across Canberra;
- (4) calls on the Government to embark on an education and awareness campaign promoting the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling plastic bags;
- (5) calls on the Government to work with business and encourage more consumer choice for carrying goods bought, i.e. allowing choice of plastic bag, calico bag, boxes or degradable bags; and

- (6) calls on the Government to work with business and trial (a) a plastic bag levy in Canberra and (b) the use of biodegradable or degradable plastic bags using a similar approach to the ReBaG trial in 1999.”.

Debate continued.

Question – That Mrs Dunne’s amendment to Mr Stanhope’s amendment be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes, 9		Noes, 8	
Mrs Burke	Mr Pratt	Mr Berry	Mr Quinlan
Mr Cornwell	Mr Smyth	Mr Corbell	Mr Stanhope
Mrs Cross	Mr Stefaniak	Ms Gallagher	Mr Wood
Ms Dundas	Ms Tucker	Mr Hargreaves	
Mrs Dunne		Ms MacDonald	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question – That Mr Stanhope’s amendment, as amended, be agreed to – put and passed.

Debate continued.

Question – That the motion, as amended, viz:

That this Assembly:

- (1) acknowledges that plastic bag use needs to be reduced and plastic bag recycling needs to be enhanced in the ACT;
- (2) notes that the ACT Government has agreed with the Commonwealth to work with other States and Territories, and the Australian Retailers Association to achieve:
  - (a) a community goal of cutting bag litter by 75% by 2005;
  - (b) a reduction in the use of lightweight single use plastic bags of 50% by the end of 2005;
  - (c) an increase in the recycling of these bags by between 15 and 30% by the end of 2005;
  - (d) the phasing out of lightweight plastic bags within 5 years;
  - (e) an appropriate Australian Standard for degradable bags;
  - (f) a national campaign to reduce plastic bag litter and encourage retailers to get behind the *Retailers Code of Practice for the Management of Plastic Shopping Bags* to ensure the national bag reductions and recycling targets are met; and
  - (g) the introduction by retailers of a transparent and independent auditing process to measure bag use, recycling and litter levels, which will also regularly report to Ministers on progress and undertake a vigorous program to encourage more retailers to join the scheme;
- (3) calls on the Government to ensure that there are plastic bag recycling drop off points at all major town centres across Canberra;

- (4) calls on the Government to embark on an education and awareness campaign promoting the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling plastic bags;
- (5) calls on the Government to work with business and encourage more consumer choice for carrying goods bought, i.e. allowing choice of plastic bag, calico bag, boxes or degradable bags; and
- (6) calls on the Government to work with business and trial (a) a plastic bag levy in Canberra and (b) the use of biodegradable or degradable plastic bags using a similar approach to the ReBaG trial in 1999 –

be agreed to – put and passed.

## **17 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Wood (Manager of Government Business) moved – That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 11.20 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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

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**T DUNCAN**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly