



Matters of public importance —your Assembly @ work

Sitting week—30 October to 3 November 2017

Issue 12/2017

Condolence Motion

On 31 October, a condolence motion was moved by the Chief Minister in relation to the death of Justice John Gallop AM QC RFD. Mr Gallop was a highly respected Canberran who was committed to justice, the law and his community. A number of other Members also spoke to the motion and at its conclusion all Members of the Assembly stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Gallop.

Motion of no confidence

A motion of no confidence in the Chief Minister was moved by the Leader of the Opposition on 2 November. A number of Members from all parties spoke to the motion. The Government and the ACT Greens indicated they would not be supporting the motion.

The motion was not agreed to by the Assembly.

Government business

Includes all business items presented to the Assembly by the Executive including bills, motions, and papers

Bills introduced

Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to provide a specific offence to capture the conduct of drive-by shooting. Provisions in the bill will also provide police with statutory power to establish and control a crime scene.

Domestic Animals (Racing Greyhounds) Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* by adding provisions that outline the obligations attached to those who

own or have day-to-day control of greyhounds that are involved, or are intended to be involved, in greyhound racing outside the ACT. The bill also makes amendments to the *Domestic Animals Regulation 2001* by including additional information to be required for racing greyhound registrations, and the information that will be provided on certificates of registration. The bill also proposes amendments to the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* to make it an offence to conduct, or facilitate the conduct of, greyhound racing in the ACT.

Lakes Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Lakes Act 1976* by updating and modernising the provisions relating to navigation and safety on ACT lakes.

Racing (Greyhounds) Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Racing Act 1999* and several other pieces of Territory law by removing the legal framework for the administration and control of greyhound racing in the ACT.

Reportable Conduct and Information Sharing Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory laws to further support the operation of the Reportable Conduct Scheme in relation to information sharing and the promotion of child safety.

Workers Compensation Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Workers Compensation Act 1951* and the *Workers Compensation Regulation 2002* to improve access to statutory entitlements for Territory workers and also increase the amount of statutory compensation payable in certain circumstances.

Copies of bills presented to the Assembly and associated explanatory statements can be accessed from the ACT Legislation Register at www.legislation.act.gov.au.

Bills debated

Casino (Electronic Gaming) Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will establish a regulatory framework for the introduction of electronic gaming products in the casino, subject to redevelopment occurring. Requirements for the casino includes undertaking a Social Impact Assessment before being issued a gaming machine authorisation certificate, forfeiting one in every three gaming machines acquired and limits the number of machines to 200 and Fully Automated Table Games (FATG) to 60.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 2 November. The Opposition indicated they did not support the legislation proposed. The bill was agreed to in principle after a vote of the Assembly.

During the detail stage the ACT Greens moved amendments that would set the bet limit to \$1. The Government then moved amendments to the ACT Greens amendments that would set the bet limit to \$2. The Government's amendments to the ACT Greens amendments were agreed to.

The bill as amended was passed by the Assembly.

Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory laws in the Justice and Community Safety portfolio to improve the operation of each amended law without making major policy changes.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 31 October with all parties in support of the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Nature Conservation (Minor Public Works) Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will streamline the processes for obtaining planning approvals to enable Territory entities, or groups working on behalf of the Territory, to carry out minor works in reserves.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 31 October with all parties in support of the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Tree Protection Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Tree Protection Act 2005* to provide for the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to have discretion to deregister a registered tree that has died from natural causes. The bill will also clarify who has access to merits review of certain decisions made by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 31 October with the Opposition indicating support for the passage of the bill as drafted, indicating they would not support the amendments being presented by the ACT Greens. The bill was agreed to in principle.

During the detail stage the ACT Greens presented three amendments to the bill however. Both the Government and Opposition indicated they did not support the amendments and they were negatived.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Waste Management and Resource Recovery Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016* to establish a cost effective container deposit scheme to assist the beverage industry to discharge their responsibilities in relation to dealing with waste and litter generated by beverage product packaging. The bill will also assist the community to reduce litter and promote a cleaner environment.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 31 October with the Opposition indicating they would not be supporting the passage of the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle after a vote of the Assembly.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

A full record of the debates can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

Motion debated

Financial integrity and compliance was the subject of a motion moved by the Government on 2 November. The motion commits to investigating the feasibility of improving the linkages between the Government's contract and financial management systems and processes to enable reporting on contracts associated with invoices on the notifiable invoices register. The Opposition moved amendments to the motion. The Government and the ACT Greens indicated they supported only one of the Opposition's amendments which was passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then agreed to by the Assembly.

Ministerial statements

The following ministerial statements were made on 31 October—

United States Delegation was the title of a ministerial statement made by the Chief Minister. During the statement the Chief Minister provided an overview of his trip to the USA which focused on raising Canberra's profile as an investment destination for defence, cyber security and space sectors.

The Attorney-General, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, and the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion each made a statement providing an update to the Assembly on their **one year of achievements** in the areas of their portfolio responsibilities.

The Minister for Corrections made a statement in relation to **female detainee accommodation at the Alexander Maconochie Centre**. The Minister highlighted the arrangements to take place in accommodating the increase of female detainees at the centre. The Minister also commented on the impact the relocation of the female detainees will have on the men at the centre, and what the future needs of the centre are.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

Private Members' business

Includes all items presented to the Assembly by all non-Executive Members, including bills and motions

Bills introduced

Crimes (Criminal Organisation Control) Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will provide for a criminal organisation control regime to prevent, disrupt and deter the operations of any organised criminal organisations.

Domestic Animals (Dangerous Dogs) Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* and the *Domestic Animals Regulation 2001* to strengthen laws in relation to dangerous dogs in the community.

Bills debated

Government Procurement (Financial Integrity) Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend a number of laws relating to government expenditure to improve integrity in spending and provide the ACT community with further opportunities to examine how taxpayer's money is disbursed.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 1 November with the Government and the ACT Greens indicating they would support the bill in principle. The Government indicated they would move amendments to the bill. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the proposed Government amendments.

During the detail stage the Government moved six amendments which included the omission of the specified dollar amount of \$12,500 to keep the setting of the value of a notifiable invoice to be a prescribed amount.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

A full record of the debates can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

Motions debated

A motion moved by Ms Cheyne called on the Government to convey to the Commonwealth Government and Opposition the need to repeal the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997* (Cwlth) and restore to the Territories the right to make laws in respect of **voluntary euthanasia and voluntary assisted dying**. The Canberra Liberals indicated they have concerns with the course of action being proposed by the motion and that there was no official party policy on euthanasia and instead treat it as an issue of conscience. The

ACT Greens indicated their support for the motion as they support the right of people in the ACT to debate and legislate for themselves on everything, including voluntary assisted dying.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Access Canberra shopfront service was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Lee on 1 November. The motion included calling on the Government to undertake an analysis of the various shopfronts to determine whether the range of services available at the various shopfront locations provide appropriate choice and availability for all ACT residents and sufficient customer service. The Government indicated they were happy to undertake the review noted in Ms Lee's motion to ensure Access Canberra has its settings right and to ensure it is easier and simpler. The ACT Greens also indicated their support for the motion.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 1 November related to:

ACT Policing funding—Mrs Giulia Jones MLA

Clubs sector—Mr Parton MLA

Housing affordability and homelessness funding—Ms Orr MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

Matter of public importance

The following matter of public importance was discussed in the Assembly this week—

The importance of community participation in the ACT on government service delivery, including through Fix My Street—
Ms Cody MLA

Executive Members' business

Includes all items presented to the Assembly by Executive Members, including bills and motions

Motion debated

Recreational cycling tourism was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Rattenbury on 2 November. The motion included calling on the Government to conduct an analysis of the value of recreational trails across Canberra (including Kowen Forest), including their social, health, economic and recreational value.

The Government moved amendments to the motion that would produce an ACT cycling tourism strategy that covers all cycling disciplines.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to by the Assembly.

Assembly business

Includes any business relating to the establishment or membership of a committee or the proposed referral of a matter to a committee. It also includes business which proposes to amend, disallow, disapprove or declare void any instruments which are made under specific Acts agreed to by the Assembly. Assembly business also includes any notice or order of the day which deals with the administration of the Assembly or how the Assembly conducts its proceedings

Bills debated

Legislative Assembly Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend provisions of the *Auditor-General Act 1996*, the *Electoral Act 1992*, the *Financial Management Act 1996*, the *Legislative Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Act 2012*, the *Legislative Assembly Precincts Act 2001* and the *Ombudsman Act 1989*, which have a bearing on the effective operation of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and Officers of the Legislative Assembly.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 2 November with all parties indicating their support for the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle.

During the detail stage the Speaker moved three amendments to the bill which ensures the interpretation of the law set out regarding parliamentary privilege is not construed as displacing Commonwealth laws. All parties indicated support for the amendments.

The bill as amended was agreed to by the Assembly.

Details on the above motions can be found here.

Papers presented

The following are papers of interest that were presented during the sitting week:

2016-17 Annual report—ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group (*presented by the Minister for Environment and Heritage on 31 October*)

2016-17 Annual Report—Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development—Corrigendum (*presented by the Chief Minister on 2 November*)

2016-17 Annual Report—Official Visitor (Disability Services) (*presented by the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth on 31 October*)

2016-17 Annual report—Official Visitor for Children and Young People (*presented by the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth on 31 October*)

2016-17 Annual report—Official Visitor (Homelessness Services) (*presented by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development on 31 October*)

2016-17 Annual Report—Official Visitor (Mental Health) (*presented by the Minister for Mental Health on 2 November*)

2016-17 Consolidated Annual Financial Statements incorporating the Audit Opinion (*presented by the Treasurer on 2 November*)

Approval of Variation No 348 to the Territory Plan—Incorporating Active Living Principles into the Territory Plan (*presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 31 October*)

City Renewal Authority—Lands Acquisitions Quarterly Report—1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017 (*presented by the Chief Minister on 2 November*)

Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme—Update on the ACT Government response—Quarterly report 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017 (*presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 2 November*)

Statement of leases—1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017 (*presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 2 November*)

Petitions and petition responses

The following ministerial responses to petitions were lodged during the sitting week—

Advertising billboards.

ACTION bus services between Deakin, Kingston and Manuka.

A copy of the response can be found [here](#).

Committee activities

Committee reports presented

Independent Integrity Commission—Select Committee

The chair presented the committee's report entitled *Inquiry into an Independent Integrity Commission* on 31 October.

A copy of the report can be accessed [here](#).

Scrutiny Report 11 (*presented 31 October*)

This report contained the committee's comments on 28 pieces of subordinate legislation, one national law, two regulatory impact statements and six government responses.

A copy of the report can be access [here](#).

Committee inquiries

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee

On 31 October, the chair of the committee made a statement in relation to arts funding petitions referred to the committee. During the statement the chair indicated that the committee will continue to engage with the Minister for the Arts and Community Events on arts funding through the annual reports process.

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

On 2 November, the chair of the committee made a statement in relation to the proposed inquiry into the University of Canberra annual report. The chair indicated the committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into and report on the 2016 University of Canberra annual report.

Education Activities

Information on our various program offerings are available on the Assembly's website.

Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

Electorate of Brindabella

Ms Joy Burch (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Mick Gentleman (Australian Labor Party)
Ms Nicole Lawder (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Mark Parton (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Andrew Wall (Canberra Liberals)

Electorate of Ginninderra

Ms Yvette Berry (Australian Labor Party)
Ms Tara Cheyne (Australian Labor Party)
Mrs Vicki Dunne (Canberra Liberals)
Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Gordon Ramsay (Australian Labor Party)

Electorate of Kurrajong

Mr Andrew Barr (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Steve Doszpot (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Elizabeth Lee (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Shane Rattenbury (ACT Greens)
Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (Australian Labor Party)

Electorate of Murrumbidgee

Ms Bec Cody (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC (Canberra Liberals)
Mrs Giulia Jones (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Caroline Le Couteur (ACT Greens)
Mr Chris Steel (Australian Labor Party)

Electorate of Yerrabi

Mr Alistair Coe (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Meegan Fitzharris (Australian Labor Party)
Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

Next sitting

Tuesday, 28 November 2017.

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