



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Non-sitting and sitting weeks—16 April to 11 May 2018

Issue 5/2018

Want of Confidence Motion

On 8 May, the Opposition moved a **want of confidence motion** in the Minister for Health and Wellbeing concerning issues relating to the public health system in the Territory. During debate the ACT Greens indicated they would not be supporting the motion.

The motion was negated following a vote of the Assembly.

Government Business

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

Bills introduced

[Casino and Other Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 10 May)

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory laws to create a high level of transparency in decisions relating to the Casino including, the establishment of a Casino Advisory Panel, a new regulation to set out requirements for social impact assessments, and a new gaming machine licence condition to ensure harm minimisation measures applicable to casino gaming machines cannot be circumvented.

[Children and Young People Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 10 May)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Children and Young People Act 2008* to clarify requirements for commencing a care and protection appraisal for matters involving allegations of abuse or neglect of a child. This bill will also consolidate responsible person delegations and enable sub-delegation within an approved care and protection organisation. A number of technical and consequential amendments to the Act will also be made by this bill.

[Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 10 May)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008* and the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008* to establish a regulatory framework that would allow for authorised people to remotely access, use and disclose information on the ACT's monitored medicines database as a public health and clinical support tool. This bill will also establish administrative functions relating to the use of the database information, and introduce several new offence provisions to limit the bill's impact on personal privacy.

[Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 10 May)

Summary: This bill will expand the scope of the Reportable Conduct Scheme to include institutions that provide spiritual care and pastoral activities.

[Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 10 May)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* to provide an improved framework for residential tenancy agreements, including clarification of provisions which affect vulnerable tenants, including social housing tenants.

[Veterinary Practice Bill 2018](#) (presented 10 May)

Summary: This bill will repeal the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 2015* and the *Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2015*. This bill will improve the efficiency and productivity of the veterinary profession in the ACT by bringing it into harmonisation with NSW legislation and incorporate deemed registration under the national recognition of veterinary registration. This bill will also ensure that the veterinary practice board has the necessary provisions to identify and address malpractice in the sector.

Bills debated

[Land Tax Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Land Tax Act 2004* to provide for the extension of land tax to all residential dwellings that are not an owner's principal place of residence and to introduce a foreign ownership surcharge. The bill will also make a number of minor and technical amendments to the Act.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 8 May with the Opposition outlining the reasons why they would not be supporting the proposed legislation. The ACT Greens indicated its support for the bill and the bill was agreed to in principle after a vote of the Assembly.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Planning and Development \(Lease Variation Charge Deferred Payment Scheme\) Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Planning and Development Act 2007* to provide a deferred payment scheme for the Lease Variation Charge. The scheme is entered through an arrangement with the Commissioner for ACT Revenue and aims to provide greater flexibility for managers of large development projects.

Proceedings: The bill was agreed to in principle when debate resumed on the proposed legislation on 8 May.

The bill was passed without amendment by the Assembly.

[Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will make minor and technical amendments to the operation of four pieces of legislation namely the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017*, the *Heritage Act 2004*, the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* and the *Planning and Development Regulation 2008*.

Proceedings: This bill received tri-partisan support when debate resumed on 8 May and was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Road Transport Reform \(Light Rail\) Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will make a number of amendments to Territory laws relating to road transport legislation to support the operation of light rail within the ACT.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this proposed legislation on 10 May with all parties in the Assembly supporting the bill which was agreed to in principle.

During the detail stage minor and technical amendments were moved by the Government. The amendments resulted from further consideration of the appropriate regulatory framework for the light rail service and were passed by the Assembly.

The amended bill was then agreed to.

[Waste Management and Resource Recovery Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Amendment Act 2017* to provide for an amendment to the commencement provisions in the Act that relate to refund marking requirements. This amendment will allow a period of two years from the commencement of the Act for these requirements to begin.

Proceedings: When debate resumed on the bill on 8 May the Opposition highlighted that, while opposed to the container deposit scheme in the Territory, it would not be opposing the bill as it was largely administrative in nature. During debate the ACT Greens stated that it looked forward to the scheme commencing in the ACT and indicated its support for the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly without amendment.

A full record of the debates can be accessed at [Hansard](#).

Ministerial statements

On 8 May the Minister for Mental Health made a statement relating to the **Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing**. During the statement the Minister outlined the progress made in the establishment of the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing and its proposed model and functions.

On 10 May the Minister for Health and Wellbeing made a statement concerning the **ACT Health System-Wide Data Review** and updated the Assembly on its progress. During the statement the Minister stated that ACT Health would be turning its attention to developing a comprehensive Implementation Plan to ensure that outcomes of the System-Wide Data Review are implemented appropriately. The Opposition also made a statement in relation to the matter and sought to highlight the fact that the review had not yet been provided to the Assembly, stakeholders or the community.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](#) site

Private Members' Business

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

Bill introduced

[Magistrates Court \(Retirement Age of Magistrates\) Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Magistrates Court Act 1930* to extend the retirement age of magistrates from 65 to 70 years old.

Motions debated

Social and economic services for the Territory was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Cody MLA on 9 May. The motion included noting that Canberra needs ongoing, long term strategic investment in services and infrastructure to keep Canberrans moving and productive, as well as protecting the city's enviable lifestyle. The motion also called on the Government to continue to invest in expanding core community, social, health, education, emergency services and transport services to cater for a growing city.

During debate, although not opposing the motion, the Opposition sought to highlight areas where it believed services for the Territory could be improved. The ACT Greens indicated its support for the motion but stated that any investment in services needs to be for the benefit of all residents, including those struggling day-to-day.

The motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

On 9 May, Ms Lawder MLA moved a motion relating to Government **resources available to deal with dangerous dogs**. The motion included highlighting a number of dog attacks that had occurred in 2017 and staffing levels within Domestic Animal Services (DAS). The motion called on the Government to provide information on the staffing levels within DAS. During debate an amendment was moved by the Government that sought to highlight actions the Government had taken to address concerns around the management of dogs and prevention of dog attacks. The amendment also called on the Government to provide staff configuration within DAS. The ACT Greens stated they would support the amendment proposed by the Government. The amendment was passed following a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was then agreed to.

Other motions debated on 9 May related to:

- Management issues within ACT Health—Mrs Dunne MLA
- Evening and weekend ACTION bus services—Miss C Burch MLA
- Measures for improving energy efficiency—Ms Orr MLA
- Screening for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Bimberi—Mrs Kikkert MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](#) site.

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

Motions debated

On 10 May a motion was moved by the Government seeking to amend the Assembly's standing orders to allow for an **acknowledgement of the traditional custodians** at the beginning of each sitting day to replace the current practice of making the acknowledgement at the beginning of each sitting week. Both the Opposition and ACT Greens indicated support for the amendment to the standing orders.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

A motion was moved on 10 May proposing the establishment of a **Select Committee on Privileges** to consider whether the Assembly had been misled in the matter of the appointment of Ms Gallagher to fill the casual vacancy in the Australian Senate. During debate both the Government and ACT Greens stated that they would not support the establishment of a Select Committee on Privileges as proposed.

The motion was negated after a vote of the Assembly.

The full terms of the above motion can be found in the [Minutes of Proceedings](#).

Executive Members' Business

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

Motion debated

A motion moved by Mr Rattenbury MLA on 10 May related to a recent **pill testing trial** conducted at a music festival in the Territory and included calling on the Government to continue to take an evidence-based harm minimisation approach to drug policy. During debate the Opposition outlined the reasons as to why they would not be supporting the motion and sought to reiterate its concerns with the pill testing trial.

The motion was passed following a vote of the Assembly.

Matters of public importance

The following matters of public importance were discussed in the Assembly this week—

The importance of bees to the ACT's environment and economy—Ms Le Couteur MLA

The importance of maintaining the ACT as the centre of the Federal public service—Ms Cody MLA

Papers Presented

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

- ACT clubs' community contributions—Auditor-General's Report No 5/2018 (*presented by the Speaker on 8 May*)
- Courts Construction Project—Update to the Legislative Assembly on progress (*presented by the Attorney-General on 10 May*)
- Determinations made pursuant to the Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995:
 - Full-time Statutory Office Holders: Auditor-General, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Electoral Commissioner
 - Full-time Statutory Office Holders
 - Head of Service, Directors-General and Executives
 - Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly
 - Part-time Public Office Holders
 - Part-time Public Office Holder—Territory Records Advisory Council
 - Principal Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, ACT Courts and Tribunal (*presented by the Chief Minister on 8 May*)
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—Reports:
 - Report 1 of 2018—Final Report—Regulated water and sewerage services prices 2018-23
 - Report 2 of 2018—Price Direction—Regulated water and sewerage services—1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023 (*presented by the Treasurer on 10 May*)
- Schedule of leases granted under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*—1 January to 31 March 2018 (*presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 10 May*)

Petitions and Petition Responses

The following petitions were lodged on 8 May—

ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools initiative—lodged by Ms Orr MLA and referred to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development and also referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs.

Safe cycle and pedestrian paths between Commonwealth and Kings Avenue bridges—lodged by Ms Le Couteur MLA and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

Request to delay approvals of development applications—lodged by Miss C Burch MLA and referred to the Minister for Planning and Land Management.

A copy of the terms of these petitions can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](#) site.

The following ministerial responses to petitions were presented on 8 May—

Proposed closure of a public carpark in O'Malley.

Downer Community Centre lease arrangements.

A copy of the responses can be found on the [Paper Petitions](#) and [E-Petitions](#) pages.

Committee Activities

Committee reports presented

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

[Report 3—Inquiry into the Extent, Nature and Conservation of Insecure Work in the ACT](#) (*presented on 8 May*)

Scrutiny Committee

[Scrutiny Report 17](#) (*presented on 8 May*)

This report contained the committee's comments on four bills, 17 pieces of subordinate legislation and four government responses.

Committee inquiries

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

On 8 May 2018 a motion was agreed to by the Assembly referring the Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill 2018 to the committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in October 2018.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

On 10 May the chair moved a motion to extend the reporting date for the committee's inquiry into papers relating to methodology for determining rates and land tax for strata residences. The motion was agreed to and the committee will now report by the last sitting day in September 2018.

Committee statements

End of Life Choices in the ACT—Select Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 10 May concerning submissions received by the committee and programming of its first public hearings.

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)
Miss Candice Burch (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, 5 June 2018.

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