



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Non-sitting and Sitting weeks—25 February-22 March 2019

Issue 3/2019

Condolence Motion

On 19 March a condolence motion was moved by the Chief Minister in relation to the death of Uncle Carl Brown, a proud Ngunnawal Elder.

The Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the ACT Greens and the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs also spoke to the motion and at the conclusion all Members of the Assembly stood in silence as a mark of respect.

On 19 March a condolence motion was moved by the Chief Minister in relation to the recent terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand.

A number of Members also spoke to the motion and at the conclusion all Members of the Assembly stood in silence as a mark of respect.

On 21 March a condolence motion was moved by the Chief Minister for Mr Grant Lalor, a former ACT Magistrate and Assistant Director of the Department of Public Prosecutions.

The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the ACT Greens also spoke to the motion and at the conclusion all Members of the Assembly stood in silence as a mark of respect.

Want of Confidence Motion

On 21 March, 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

[Financial Management Amendment Bill 2019](#) (presented 19 March)

This bill will amend the *Financial Management Act 1996* to make provisions for a capital works reserve as a mechanism for improving the accuracy of budget estimates and performance of the Territory's capital works program.

[Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](#) (presented 21 March)

This bill will make minor amendments to a number of Territory laws within the Justice and Community Safety portfolio to improve the operation of each amended law.

[Motor Accident Injuries Bill 2019](#) (presented 19 March)

This bill will implement a model for the new Motor Accident Injuries Scheme, as chosen by the citizens' jury. It will replace the current at-fault compensation scheme operating under the Road Transport (Third Party Insurance) Act 2008 with a new hybrid no-fault common law scheme.

Bills debated

[Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](#)

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory laws to improve the administration and operation of the ACT tax system for the benefit of both taxpayers and administrators. The amendments include providing the ACT Revenue Office with the ability to inform parties who have an interest in the property of a defaulting taxpayer, such as mortgagees or credit providers, of the amount of an outstanding tax debt and the existence of a statutory first charge. It also allows for a limited exemption from land tax for private properties rented through a community housing provider.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 21 March with the bill being agreed to in principle. The Government then moved amendments to the bill with the ACT Greens supporting them and the Opposition indicated they would support some and oppose others.

Following a vote of the Assembly the amended bill was agreed to.

[Royal Commission Criminal Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](#)

Summary: This bill will make a number of amendments to Territory laws to address Recommendations from the Commonwealth Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The bill will improve the protection of children from abuse by adding ministers to a list of mandated reporters and creating a new offence of failure to report a sexual offence committed against a child.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 19 March with the bill being agreed to in principle. During debate two Opposition Members raised concerns about the bill based on conscience matters. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the bill.

The bill was agreed to by the Assembly without amendment.

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

Ministerial statements

The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs made a ministerial statement on 19 March relating to the **ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028**. During the statement the Minister tabled the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028 and its ten Focus Area Action Plans. The Minister stated that the Agreement sets the long-term direction in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs in the ACT, and outlines the joint priorities to enable equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT.

The Chief Minister made a ministerial statement on 19 March in relation to a **Ministerial Delegation to Indonesia in February 2019**. The Chief Minister stated that the mission particularly aimed to promote Canberra as a higher education and health care leader at a time when Indonesia is actively seeking international partnerships to help meet its workforce and service needs, as the country grows rapidly and its economy powers ahead. The Chief Minister also stated that the signing of the Indonesia Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement improves market access in a number of areas of competitive advantage for the ACT; particularly higher and vocational education, and healthcare services.

The Minister for Building Quality Improvement made a ministerial statement on 21 March in relation to **building regulatory reforms**. The Minister updated the Assembly on building regulatory reforms and other work to improve practices in the building industry and compliance with building standards. The Minister also stated that last month a new requirement was created for all applicants for class A and B builder licences to pass an examination to qualify for these licences and that shortly the Construction Occupations Registrar will start to send notices to licensees who are coming up for renewal, informing them they will also have to sit the exam before their licence is renewed.

The following ministerial statements were made on 19 March—

International Women’s Day 2019 made by the Minister for Women.

ACT Fire and Rescue—Aerial Capability made by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Woodland Conservation Strategy—Progress report made by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

Report of a review of a Critical Incident by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services—Assault of a Detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 23 May 2018—Government response made by the Minister for Corrections and Justice Health.

The following ministerial statements were made on 21 March—

Singapore delegation made by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

Implementation of the Winninga Model of Care at the Alexander Maconochie Centre made by the Minister for Corrections and Justice Health.

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

Motions debated

On 21 March the Government moved a motion in relation to the Welcoming Cities Network. The motion noted that the Welcoming Cities Network is a national network of cities, shires, towns and municipalities committed to an inclusive social, cultural, economic and civic life for everyone and also noted that membership of the Welcoming Cities Network would further support the development of new and alternative strategies to create opportunities for all members of our community to participate in and contribute to social, economic and civic life. The motion also included that the ACT Government and the Assembly supports the ACT's membership of the Welcoming Cities Network to strengthen the ACT's ongoing commitment to an inclusive city. During debate the Opposition and ACT Greens indicated their support for the motion.

The motion was then passed by the Assembly.

The full debate on the above motion 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

Bills debated

[Crimes \(Anti-Consorting\) Amendment Bill 2019](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the Crimes Act 1900 to prevent consorting between defined persons. The bill will affect consorting with persons already convicted of criminal behaviour, apply once an official warning has been issued, and apply outside legitimate purposes for a limited time.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 20 March with the Government and ACT Greens indicating they would not support the bill in principle.

Following a vote of the Assembly the bill was not agreed to in principle.

Motions debated

The **impact of decentralisation policies** was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Cheyne MLA on 20 March. The motion noted that Canberra plays a critical role as our nation's capital and is Australia's centre of public administration, driven by the expertise and hard work of public servants who are highly capable, diligent and committed in their service to the entire country. It also noted the Commonwealth Government's commitment to move more jobs out of Canberra every year, as demonstrated by Canberra losing more than 6 700 Federal public service jobs since the Coalition Government took office in 2013, as of mid-2017. The motion also called on the ACT Government to condemn the Federal Government's policy of decentralisation. During debate the Opposition and ACT Greens both indicated their support for the motion.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

A motion relating to **enforcement of dangerous dogs legislation** was moved by Ms Lawder MLA on 20 March. The motion noted that there were 485 officially reported serious dog attacks in Canberra in 2017-2018. It also noted that the number of dog attacks in 2018 is now about 700. During debate the

Government indicated support for the core of the motion, however noted they would amend the motion to clear up facts about dog attacks in Canberra, including noting that in 2018 the average rate of reports of dog attacks reported in Canberra was two a day. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the amended motion.

The amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

A motion was moved on 20 March by Ms Le Couteur MLA in relation to **strategies to minimise the impact of rising temperatures in residential premises**. The motion noted that this summer there were numerous reports of Canberra apartments less than five years old, including public housing, reaching inside temperatures of over 40 degrees. The motion called on the ACT Government to deliver an action plan including to investigate potential changes to ACT Housing design requirements for public housing purchases and construction that address the needs of vulnerable tenants in a future hotter climate, for example inclusion of energy-efficient cooling and external summer shading. During debate the Government moved amendments to the motion which included calling on the Government to improve monitoring of building quality to ensure that buildings meet the energy efficiency rating they were approved with. The Act Greens indicated they would not be supporting the Government's amendments and the Opposition indicated they would support them.

Following a vote of the Assembly, the amended motion was then agreed to.

Other motions debated on 20 March related to:

Support for culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans with disabilities—Ms Lee MLA

Improving and expanding services for older Canberrans—Ms Lawder 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

A motion was moved on 21 March to amend standing order 22 to include the words "Except that a Member who is pregnant shall be entitled, without a vote of the Assembly, to 18 weeks maternity leave of absence, and that leave shall commence at a time notified by the Member to the Speaker."

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

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

Matter of public importance

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

The importance of developing Canberra's young writers and performing and visual artists—
Mrs Dunne MLA

The importance of promoting tolerance and inclusion in the ACT—Mr Petterson MLA

Papers Presented

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

- Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 17(5)—Auditor-General's Report No 2/201—Recognition and Implementation of Obligations under the Human Rights Act 2004, dated 22 February 2019.
(presented by the Speaker on 19 March)
- Engagement of Long-Term Senior Executive Service Members Between 1 September 2018 and 28 February 2019, pursuant to Section 56 of the Public Sector management Standards, dated March 2019 *(presented by the Manager of Government Business on 19 March)*
- Coroner's report—Fire at the premises of Energy Services Invironmental, dated 1 November 2018.
 - Government response. *(presented by the Manager of Government Business on 21 March)*
- Coroners's report—Fire at the Sydney Building, dated 1 November 2018.
 - Government response. *(presented by the Manager of Government Business on 21 March)*
- Coroner's report—Death of Siauto Eliuta Tunumafono, dated 29 November 2018.
 - Government response. *(presented by the Manager of Government Business on 21 March)*
- Coroner's report—Death of Timothy Allen Smith-Brown, dated 14 August 2018.
 - Government response. *(presented by the Manager of Government Business on 21 March)*

Petitions and petition response

The following e-petition and petition was lodged on 19 March—

- Tree replanting program—lodged by Ms Le Couteur MLA.

The following e-petitions and petition were lodged on 21 March—

- Viable public transport for ANU—lodged by Mrs Kikkert MLA.
- Violence in ACT schools—lodged by Ms Lee MLA.

The following ministerial response to a petition was lodged on 19 March—

- Restore funding to the ANU School of Music H-course for years 11 and 12 students.

A copy of this response can be found on the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

Committee Activities

Committee reports presented

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

Report 10—[Inquiry into the ACT Register of Lobbyists](#) *(presented 21 March)*

Report 11—[Citizen’s Right of Reply—Mr Joel Dignam](#) (presented 21 March)

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

Report 4—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018](#) (presented 19 March)

End of Life Choices in the ACT—Select Committee

[Report](#) (presented 21 March)

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Report 8—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018](#) (presented 21 March)

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

Report 6—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018](#) (presented 19 March)

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

Report 5—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018](#) (presented 21 March)

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

Report 8—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018](#) (presented 19 March)

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

Report 5—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018](#) (presented 19 March)

Scrutiny Committee

[Scrutiny Report 28](#) (presented 19 March)

This report contained the committee’s comments on three Bills, four pieces of subordinate legislation, five government responses, one national regulation and proposed amendments to the Electoral Amendment Bill 2018 and the Controlled Sports Bill 2018.

Committee statements

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 19 March in relation to Recommendation 12 of the committee’s recent review of standing orders and stated that the committee is of the view that the broadcast of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body proceedings is not viable.

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 21 March in relation to the inquiry into a Territory Coat of Arms. The chair stated that the committee is now accepting written submissions to the inquiry, with a closing date of 21 April 2019.

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 19 March in relation to the e- petition 7-18, concerning eating disorder health care services, and stated that the committee has determined not to hold an inquiry into the matter.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 19 March in relation to the statutory appointments made for the period of 1 July to 31 December 2018.

Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 21 March in relation to scrutiny amendments from non-government members and reminded non-government members that pursuant to standing order 182A, amendments proposed by members on any bill, must be considered and reported on by the Scrutiny Committee before they can be moved, unless leave is granted by the Assembly.

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 21 March in relation to the committee's resolution to undertake an inquiry into the ACT Planning Strategy 2018 and noted that the committee will not be inviting or receiving submissions to this inquiry.

Responses to committee reports

Environment and Transport and City Services—Select Committee

Report 7—Inquiry into ACT Libraries—Government response (*presented by the Manager of Government Business on 21 March*)

Justice and Community Safety—Select Committee

Report 4—Report on Inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the Motor Accident Injuries Bill 2018—Government response (*presented by the Manager of Government Business on 19 March*)

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, 2 April 2019.

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