



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 12

FRIDAY, 23 APRIL 2021

---

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms Burch) took the Chair and made the following acknowledgement of country in the Ngunnawal language:

Dhawura nguna, dhawura Ngunnawal.

Yanggu ngalawiri, dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari.

Nginggada Dindi dhawura Ngounaawalbun yindjumaralidjinyin.

*This is Ngunnawal Country.*

*Today we are gathering on Ngunnawal country.*

*We always pay respect to Elders, female and male, and Ngunnawal country.*

The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

### 2 PETITION—PETITION NOTED

The Clerk announced that the following Member had lodged a petition for presentation:

Mr Pettersson, from 508 residents, requesting that the Government support the establishment of “The Friends of Yerrabi Pond Association” and upgrade and maintain the facilities at Yerrabi Ponds (Pet 14-21).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, this petition stands referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services.

---

The Speaker proposed—That the petition so lodged be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

### **3 YERRABI POND—RECREATION AREA**

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

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the importance of Yerrabi Pond as the primary recreation area for the growing Gungahlin community since opening in 1999; and
  - (b) that residents would like to see improved amenities at the pond with particular consideration to:
    - (i) number of toilets and their amenity;
    - (ii) improved signage;
    - (iii) landscaping and replanting of bushes and grass;
    - (iv) number of tables, bins and barbeques to cater to local demand;
    - (v) recreational facilities for young people; and
    - (vi) path improvements for pedestrians and cyclists;
- (2) further notes the \$300 000 in funding provided by the ACT Government for Yerrabi Pond foreshore improvements in the 2020-21 Budget; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) consult with the Gungahlin community to inform improvements and future upgrades;
  - (b) consider further upgrades to Yerrabi Pond in future ACT Budgets; and
  - (c) support a “Friends of Yerrabi Pond” group to engage in this process.

Debate ensued.

Mr Braddock moved the following amendment: Insert new paragraph (3)(d):

- “(d) consider rating Yerrabi Pond for secondary contact recreation activities.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and passed.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the importance of Yerrabi Pond as the primary recreation area for the growing Gungahlin community since opening in 1999; and
  - (b) that residents would like to see improved amenities at the pond with particular consideration to:

- (i) number of toilets and their amenity;
  - (ii) improved signage;
  - (iii) landscaping and replanting of bushes and grass;
  - (iv) number of tables, bins and barbeques to cater to local demand;
  - (v) recreational facilities for young people; and
  - (vi) path improvements for pedestrians and cyclists;
- (2) further notes the \$300 000 in funding provided by the ACT Government for Yerrabi Pond foreshore improvements in the 2020-21 Budget; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) consult with the Gungahlin community to inform improvements and future upgrades;
  - (b) consider further upgrades to Yerrabi Pond in future ACT Budgets;
  - (c) support a “Friends of Yerrabi Pond” group to engage in this process; and
  - (d) consider rating Yerrabi Pond for secondary contact recreation activities.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

#### **4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER**

Ms Castley moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mr Hanson for today’s sitting due to illness.

Question—put and passed.

#### **5 SMALL BUSINESS—PROPOSED MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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

- (1) notes the importance of Canberra’s 30 000 small businesses which employ almost two-thirds of Canberra’s workforce;
- (2) further notes:
  - (a) the ACT Government has established several ministerial advisory councils to enable important groups in the ACT to represent the views and experiences of their communities including women, our multicultural community, seniors, youth and the LGBTIQ+ community, but there is no dedicated platform for the small business community;
  - (b) it is important the ACT Government understands the issues affecting the small business community and implements policies which support the sector to grow; and
  - (c) the ACT has previously had a small business ministerial advisory council which provided practical, strategic advice to the Chief Minister on policy; and

- (3) calls on the ACT Government to establish an ACT small business ministerial advisory council to comprise representatives from key sectors in the small business community.

Debate ensued.

Ms Cheyne moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly” and substitute

- “(1) notes the importance of Canberra’s 30 000 small businesses which contribute significantly to Canberra’s workforce;
- (2) further notes that the ACT Government has:
- (a) a range of ways it consults with the small business community to assist the Government in understanding the issues affecting small businesses and to implement policies that support the sector to grow, including face to face interactions; workshops; forums; regular meetings with associations and peak bodies; and a YourSay Panel;
  - (b) appointed a Minister for Business and Better Regulation to advocate and liaise with local businesses and improve the ease of doing business with government;
  - (c) appointed a Local Business Commissioner to provide advice to the Government on systemic issues facing the business community in the ACT as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and
  - (d) established the Better Regulation Taskforce that will make starting, running, and growing a business easier in the ACT by engaging with businesses to identify issues that are a burden to business and working across government to resolve these; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to continue to engage with businesses in a way that suits them and is respectful of their time.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 14		NOES, 7
Mr Braddock	Dr Paterson	Mr Cain
Ms Burch	Mr Pettersson	Ms Castley
Ms Cheyne	Mr Rattenbury	Mrs Jones
Ms Clay	Mr Steel	Mrs Kikkert
Ms Davidson	Ms Stephen-Smith	Ms Lawder
Mr Davis	Ms Vassarotti	Mr Milligan
Mr Gentleman		Mr Parton
Ms Orr		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the importance of Canberra’s 30 000 small businesses which contribute significantly to Canberra’s workforce;
- (2) further notes that the ACT Government has:
  - (a) a range of ways it consults with the small business community to assist the Government in understanding the issues affecting small businesses and to implement policies that support the sector to grow, including face to face interactions; workshops; forums; regular meetings with associations and peak bodies; and a YourSay Panel;
  - (b) appointed a Minister for Business and Better Regulation to advocate and liaise with local businesses and improve the ease of doing business with government;
  - (c) appointed a Local Business Commissioner to provide advice to the Government on systemic issues facing the business community in the ACT as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; and
  - (d) established the Better Regulation Taskforce that will make starting, running, and growing a business easier in the ACT by engaging with businesses to identify issues that are a burden to business and working across government to resolve these; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to continue to engage with businesses in a way that suits them and is respectful of their time.” —

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

## 7 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Ms Burch (Speaker) presented the following papers:

Electoral Act, pursuant to subsection 10A(2)—ACT Legislative Assembly Election 2020—Report, dated 15 April 2021.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 1—*Annual and Financial Reports 2019-2020; Appropriation Bill 2020-2021 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2020-2021*—Speaker’s response to recommendations 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29.

## 8 PRESENTATION OF PAPER

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) presented the following paper:

Health workers—Government response to resolution of the Assembly of 20 August 2020.

## 9 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 2:15 pm adjourned until Tuesday, 11 May 2021 at 10 am.

---

---

**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE:** All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mr Hanson.\*

\*on leave.

---

---

**Julia Agostino**  
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly