



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 19

WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE 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 Ngunnaawalbun 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 INTERACTION BETWEEN MRS JONES AND MR BARR—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker made a statement concerning an interaction between Mrs Jones and Mr Barr during yesterday's question time.

3 PETITIONS—MINISTERIAL RESPONSE—RESPONSE NOTED

Ministerial response

The Clerk announced that the following response to a petition had been lodged:

Ms Berry (Minister for Education and Youth Affairs), dated 7 June 2021—Response to e-petition No 2-21, lodged by Mrs Kikkert on 30 March 2021, concerning French language tuition at Belconnen High School.

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

Question—put and passed.

4 SAFER FAMILIES ANNUAL STATEMENT 2021—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPERS—PAPER NOTED

Ms Berry (Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) made a ministerial statement concerning the Safer Families Annual Statement 2021 and presented the following papers:

Safer Families Annual Statement 2021.

Safer Families Annual Statement 2021—Ministerial statement, 23 June 2021.

Ms Berry moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

5 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Ms Berry (Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Domestic Violence Agencies Act 1986*.

Paper: Ms Berry presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Berry moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mrs Kikkert) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

6 ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY—STANDING COMMITTEE—INQUIRY—FUTURE OF THE WORKING WEEK—PAPER—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Ms Lawder (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, made a statement regarding the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality's inquiry into the future of the working week and tabled the following paper:

Standing Committee—Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Discussion Paper—Future of the working week, dated 16 June 2021.

7 ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY—STANDING COMMITTEE—INQUIRY—MEMORIALISATION THROUGH PUBLIC COMMEMORATION—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Ms Lawder (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality had resolved to conduct an inquiry into and report on memorialisation through public commemoration.

8 A.C.T. INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN—UPDATE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Barr (Treasurer)—That the Assembly take note of the following paper (viz):

ACT Infrastructure Plan—Update—Ministerial statement, 2 June 2021.

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Gentleman—Minister for Planning and Land Management) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day of the next sitting.

9 CIVIL LAW (WRONGS) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

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.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—put and passed.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to—put and passed.

10 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

11 PRESENTATION OF PAPER

Ms Burch (Speaker) presented the following paper:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 17(4)—No 6/2021—Teaching Quality in ACT Public Schools, dated 22 June 2021.

12 CARERS RECOGNITION BILL 2021

Ms Orr, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the recognition of carers, and for other purposes.

Paper: Ms Orr presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Orr moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Ms Davidson—Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

13 E-WASTE RECYCLING

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) as we transition off fossil fuel, we generate new waste streams such as general electrical appliances, solar PV panels and inverters and large batteries used to power EVs, buildings and grids;
 - (b) recycling arrangements have not kept pace with the rapid uptake of new technology;
 - (c) recycling costs are modest compared to the original purchase price with the primary cost typically comprising freight, making central and efficient collection essential;
 - (d) previous Assembly motions addressed some of these waste streams but did not result in recycling arrangements in the ACT;
 - (e) previous government responses indicated that there were no recycling providers operating on a commercial scale for these items, but the industry has since matured;
 - (f) the federal government advises that they are considering new national product stewardship schemes and have added large PV energy batteries to the work of the Battery Stewardship Council, but no new schemes have been announced;
 - (g) the Assembly was advised in June 2019 and November 2019 about progress on battery and solar panel recycling and told that recommendations would be made in the near future, but no new schemes have been announced; and
 - (h) the community, businesses and the recycling industry are ready to recycle now;
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) recycling operations in Australia that can recover solar, large battery and general electrical appliance waste include Access Recycling, Apple GiveBack, DropZone MRI, E-Cycle Solutions, Electronic Products Stewardship Australasia Sims, Envirostream, Lotus Energy, Mia Energia, Officeworks Bring IT Back, ReclaimPV, Relectrify, Sims E-Recycling, Solar Recovery Corporation, TechCollect, Tech Shed, WV Technologies;
 - (b) many of these recycling operations are looking for local government partners;
 - (c) the ACT Government has expertise in setting up recycling arrangements, having built producer responsibility into the ACT Government next generation household battery program and having established television and computer recycling under national product stewardship arrangements; and

- (d) the Victorian Government is participating in and leading national product stewardship arrangements but is also taking state-based action at the same time, having banned all e-waste including general electrical appliances, solar panels, solar battery systems and inverters from landfill in July 2019; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) investigate how the ACT can contribute to the establishment of national recycling arrangements for general electrical appliances, solar PV panels and inverters and large batteries that power EVs, buildings and grids;
 - (b) liaise with the Commonwealth to confirm which of these items will be covered by a national product stewardship scheme commencing within the next 12 months;
 - (c) advocate through national channels for collection and national recycling arrangements for any of these items not covered by a national product stewardship scheme commencing in the next 12 months;
 - (d) advocate through national forums including the Environment Ministers Meeting to investigate business models and payment arrangements to cover recycling and freight costs for the local collection and national recycling of these items, including user pays, product stewardship, producer responsibility and government pays;
 - (e) report back to the Assembly by February 2022 on options and a timeline for a recycling scheme to minimise waste going to landfill for the following products:
 - (i) general electrical appliances;
 - (ii) solar PV panels and inverters; and
 - (iii) large batteries used to power EVs, buildings and grids; and
 - (f) consider banning e-waste from ACT Government landfill sites as part of the development of future circular economy legislation.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

14 EDUCATION SYSTEM REVIEW

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the ACT Government school system is underperforming across key areas:
 - (i) outcomes for literacy and numeracy in ACT Government schools have been consistently identified as underperforming by reports from multiple highly regarded research institutions and other bodies in the ACT, nationally, and internationally;

- (ii) enduring overcrowding and deteriorating infrastructure is widespread in the ACT schools;
 - (iii) reports of bullying and violence have compromised school culture;
 - (iv) genuine equity for students is not being achieved; and
 - (v) governance arrangements across the school system are sub-optimal;
- (b) the hard working and dedicated ACT Government school teachers, support and administrative staff who are passionate about achieving the best outcomes for ACT students but who are let down by a chronically underperforming education system; and
- (c) the “Bringing out the best in every child – an Education strategy for the ACT” released by the Canberra Liberals and its evaluation and way forward for the issues facing the ACT Government school system; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to establish an independent review into the ACT Government education system under the terms of reference set out in the Canberra Liberals Education Strategy for the ACT and table this review in the Assembly on the last sitting day of 2022.

Mr Hanson, by leave, tabled the following paper:

Bringing out the best in every child: An Education strategy for the ACT—Canberra Liberals, dated June 2021.

Mr Davis moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly notes: (1) that:” and substitute:

- “(a) between 2017 and 2018 the ACT Education Directorate undertook a systematic and community-led review of the education system in the ACT engaging with over 5 000 people including teachers, students, academics, and community-sector leaders; and
 - (b) this review concluded in the publication of the Future of Education Strategy which outlines a plan for ACT public education from 2018-2028;
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) there have been a series of inquiries into the ACT education system over the last five years, including:
 - (i) the current Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion’s inquiry into the management of school infrastructure;
 - (ii) the Ninth Assembly Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs’ inquiry into Standardised Testing in ACT Schools; and
 - (iii) the Ninth Assembly Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs’ inquiry into the management and minimisation of bullying and violence in ACT schools; and

- (b) these reviews have provided a series of recommendations to which the ACT Government has responded;
- (3) the hard working and dedicated ACT Government school teachers, support and administrative staff who are passionate about achieving the best outcomes for ACT students; and
- (4) calls on the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs to update the Assembly on the Government's progress on implementing the agreed upon recommendations of the Ninth Assembly Standing Committee inquiries into standardised testing and bullying and violence at the next sitting of the Assembly in August 2021."

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 15

NOES, 8

Ms Berry	Ms Orr	Mr Cain
Mr Braddock	Dr Paterson	Ms Castley
Ms Burch	Mr Pettersson	Mr Hanson
Ms Cheyne	Mr Rattenbury	Mrs Kikkert
Ms Clay	Mr Steel	Ms Lawder
Ms Davidson	Ms Stephen-Smith	Ms Lee
Mr Davis	Ms Vassarotti	Mr Milligan
Mr Gentleman		Mr Parton

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

"That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) between 2017 and 2018 the ACT Education Directorate undertook a systematic and community-led review of the education system in the ACT engaging with over 5 000 people including teachers, students, academics, and community-sector leaders; and
 - (b) this review concluded in the publication of the Future of Education Strategy which outlines a plan for ACT public education from 2018-2028;
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) there have been a series of inquiries into the ACT education system over the last five years, including:
 - (i) the current Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion's inquiry into the management of school infrastructure;
 - (ii) the Ninth Assembly Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs' Inquiry into Standardised Testing in ACT Schools; and

- (iii) the Ninth Assembly Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs' inquiry into the management and minimisation of bullying and violence in ACT schools; and
- (b) these reviews have provided a series of recommendations to which the ACT Government has responded;
- (3) the hard working and dedicated ACT Government school teachers, support and administrative staff who are passionate about achieving the best outcomes for ACT students; and
- (4) calls on the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs to update the Assembly on the Government's progress on implementing the agreed upon recommendations of the Ninth Assembly Standing Committee inquiries into standardised testing and bullying and violence at the next sitting of the Assembly in August 2021."—

put and passed.

15 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 4:52 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly