Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on the Proposed Amendment to the Appropriation Bill 2025-2026

Minutes of proceedings

Inquiry into the Proposed Amendment to the Appropriation Bill 2025-26

Minutes of Meeting 1 - Wednesday, 3 September 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Fiona Carrick MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA.

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Secretary opened the meeting at 1.15pm.

1.2. The Committee noted the resolution of establishment.

2. Announcement of Chair

2.1. The Secretary notified the Committee that, pursuant to the resolution establishing the Committee, Mr Cocks was Chair. Mr Cocks took the Chair.

3. Election of Deputy Chair

3.1. Mr Cocks moved that Mr Rattenbury be appointed Deputy Chair of the Committee. There being no further proposal, Mr Rattenbury was declared elected as Deputy Chair.

4. Resolution of establishment

4.1. The Committee noted the resolution of establishment.

5. Conflicts of interest

5.1. Mr Rattenbury declared that he was a Cabinet member at the time of the decisions relating to the acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.

6. Standard resolutions

6.1. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to adopt the following general resolutions:

- The Committee authorises the Secretary to write on its behalf to informally request supplementary documents or ask follow-up questions as part of an inquiry.
- Pursuant to Standing Order 241(d) the Committee authorises the Chair to provide public briefings on matters related to an inquiry. Party political comments are not permitted. The Chair will provide as much notice as possible of any engagement.

- The privilege statement providing for witness and committees privilege is to be incorporated at the beginning of the transcript for all Committee hearings.
- Pursuant to Standing Order 241, the Committee authorises for publication all Ministerial and Statutory Officer responses to questions taken on notice and questions on notice received, unless there is a request for confidentiality.
- The Committee authorises its Members to nominate one or more employees in their office to access Committee documents.

7. Meeting arrangements

7.1. The Committee deliberated on its schedule of meetings.

7.2. The Committee **resolved** [COCKS] to schedule a public hearing on 8 September 2025 from 12.30pm to 5.30pm, a private meeting on 12 September 2025 from 11.30am to 12.30pm, and a private meeting on 15 September from 2.00pm to 3.00pm.

8. Conduct of the inquiry

8.1. The Committee deliberated on the conduct of the inquiry.

8.2. The Committee agreed not to issue a call for public submissions.

8.3. The Committee agreed to invite Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, in her capacities as Minister for Health and Minister for Finance, and officials from Treasury to the hearings, as well as Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, should he believe his presence at the hearings would assist the Committee.

8.4. The Committee **resolved** [RATTENBURY] that the Committee approve the template letter inviting ministers to make a submission to the inquiry and attend the public hearings, as amended and subject to the agreement of the Chair with the final amendments.

8.5. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to endorse the media release.

9. Other business

9.1. No further business was raised.

10. Next meeting

10.1. The next meeting of the Committee is a public hearing scheduled for:

Date: Monday, 8 September 2025

Time: 12.30pm

Location: Prince Edward Island Room

11. Close

11.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 1.36pm.5pm.

Minutes of Meeting 2 – Monday, 8 September 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Fiona Carrick MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA.

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 12.33 pm.

1.2. The Chair opening the public hearing and made a statement.

2. Inquiry into the proposed amendment to the Appropriation Bill 2025-2026

2.1. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health and Minister for Finance
- Sam Engele, Deputy Director-General, City and Environment Directorate
- Russ Campbell, Acting Head of Service
- Scott Austin, Acting Under Treasurer
- Janet Zagari, CEO, Canberra Health Services
- Peter Garrisson, Solicitor-General
- Caitlin Bladin, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Health and Community Services Directorate

2.2. The Chair suspended the public hearing at 1.58 pm. The witnesses withdrew.

2.3. In private session, the Committee considered two documents tabled by Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA.

2.4. The Committee **resolved** [COCKS] that the Operations Agreement and Deed of Settlement and Released tabled by Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA be received as evidence and authorised for publication as exhibits.

2.5. The Committee deliberated on the scope of questions for the hearings.

2.6. The Committee suspended the meeting at 2.03 pm.

2.7. The Committee resumed the meeting at 4.32 pm.

2.8. The Chair re-opened the public hearing.

2.9. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health and Minister for Finance
- Sam Engele, Deputy Director-General, City and Environment Directorate
- Russ Campbell, Acting Head of Service
- Scott Austin, Acting Under Treasurer

- Janet Zagari, CEO, Canberra Health Services
- Peter Garrisson, Solicitor-General
- Caitlin Bladin, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Health and Community Services Directorate

2.10. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

2.11. The Chair closed the public hearing at 5.10 pm.

3. Private meeting

3.1. The Chair opened the private meeting at 5.12 pm.

3.2. The Committee **resolved** [CARRICK] that the Committee adopt the minutes of Meeting 1, held on 3 September 2025.

3.3. The Committee noted incoming correspondence from the Office of Chris Steel MLA and outgoing correspondence to Chris Steel MLA and Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA.

3.4. The Committee deliberated on issues arising from the hearing, and the drafting of the Committee's report.

4. Next meeting

4.1. The next meeting of the Committee is a private meeting scheduled for:

Date: Friday, 12 September 2025
Time: 11.30 am
Location: Prince Edward Island Room

5. Close

5.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 5.19 pm.

Minutes of Meeting 3 – Friday, 12 September 2025

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Fiona Carrick MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA.

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 11.35 am.

2. Conflicts of interest

2.1. No conflicts of interest were declared.

1. Confirmation of minutes

1.1. The Committee **resolved** [CARRICK] to adopt the minutes for Meeting 2 – 8 September 2025.

2. Correspondence

2.1. The Committee noted correspondence from Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, providing an addendum to the 2025 - 2026 Budget to reflect the changes proposed in the amendment to the Appropriation Bill 2025 – 2026.

3. Tabled documents

3.1. The Committee noted the publication of the following documents:

3.1.1. North Canberra Hospital Operations Agreement – published as Exhibit 1 pursuant to Committee resolution on 8 September 2025.

3.1.2. North Canberra Hospital Deed of Settlement and Release – published as Exhibit 2 pursuant to Committee resolution on 8 September 2025.

5.2 The Committee **resolved** [COCKS] that the Committee receive and publish as a submission, the list of claims made by Calvary Health Care Ltd, tabled by the Minister for Health on 8 September 2025 as a partial response to a question asked during the hearings.

5.3. The Committee **resolved** [COCKS] that the Committee publish as correspondence, a letter from the Auditor-General to the Minister for health regarding the accounting treatment of the $65 million payment to Calvary Health Care Ltd, tabled by the Minister for Health on 8 September 2025 in response to a question asked during the hearings.

5.4. The Committee noted three documents tabled by the Minister for Health during the hearing on 8 September 2025, relating to a question regarding the reasons for adopting the policy to acquire Calvary Public Hospital which were already in the public domain.

5.5. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to receive an answer to a question taken on notice during the hearings in relation to Calvary's claims for costs (QTON No. 5), in confidence.

4. Inquiry into the Proposed Amendment to the Appropriation Bill 2025-2026 - Report consideration

4.1. The Committee noted that the Chair's draft report was circulated on 11 September 2025.

4.2. No member submitted an alternative draft report.

4.3. The Committee considered the Chair's draft report by exception.

4.4. The Committee considered the Chair's draft report as follows:

4.4.1. Paragraph 1.1 to Paragraph 1.8 – agreed.

4.4.2. Paragraph 1.9 – amended and agreed.

4.4.3. Paragraph 1.10 to Paragraph 2.5 – agreed.

4.4.4. New paragraph 2.5a – inserted.

4.4.5. Paragraph 2.6 to Paragraph 2.7 – agreed.

4.4.6. New paragraph 2.7a – inserted.

4.4.7. Paragraph 2.8 to Paragraph 2.10 – agreed.

4.4.8. Paragraph 2.11 – amended and agreed.

4.4.9. Paragraph 2.11a – inserted and agree.

4.4.10. Paragraph 2.12 to Paragraph 2.13 – agreed.

4.4.11. Finding 2 – removed.

4.4.12. Paragraph 2.14 to Paragraph 2.16 – approved.

4.4.13. Paragraph 2.17 – amended and agreed.

4.4.14. Paragraph 2.18 to Paragraph 2.24 – agreed.

4.4.15. Finding 4 – amended and agreed.

4.4.16. Paragraph 3.1 to Paragraph 3.2 – agreed.

4.5. The Committee concluded report consideration and **resolved** [COCKS] that the report (as amended) be agreed to.

4.6. The Committee **resolved** [COCKS] that the Secretary be authorised to make minor formatting and typographical changes to the report to prepare it for printing, after its adoption by the Committee but prior to its non-sitting circulation.

4.7. The Committee agreed to circulate the report through the Speaker on 15 September 2025.

4.8. The Committee noted that any additional comments or dissenting reports to be provide to the secretariat by midday on 15 September 2025.

4.9. The Committee noted the draft tabling statement for the Chair.

4.10. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] that the Committee endorse the draft media release for the report's non-sitting circulation.

5. Other business

5.1. No other business was raised.

6. Next meeting

6.1. With the adoption of the report no further meetings are required and the Committee will dissolve upon circulation of the Committee's report.

7. Close

7.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 12.22 pm *sine die*.

All minutes are signed by the Chair, except for Meeting 3, which is certified correct by the secretary.

[CERTIFIED CORRECT]

Mr James Bunce
Committee Secretary
15 September 2025