



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Non-sitting and sitting weeks—11 June to 3 August 2018

Issue 7/2018

Government Business

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

Bills introduced

[Betting Operations Tax Bill 2018](#) *(presented 2 August)*

Summary: This bill establishes a new tax that will be payable by betting operators that accept bets from, or provide services to, people located in the ACT, regardless of where the operator may be based. This bill will amend the *Taxation Administration Act 1999* so that the general tax administration and enforcement provisions of that Act will apply.

[Courts and Other Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#) *(presented 2 August)*

Summary: This bill will amend the *ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008*, *Court Procedures Act 2004*, *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1990*, *Magistrates Court Act 1930*, and *Supreme Court Act 1933*. The bill's primary set of amendments will increase the retirement age of Magistrates, the ACAT President, and the Director of Public Prosecutions from 65 to 70.

[Government Procurement \(Secure Local Jobs\) Amendment Bill 2018](#) *(presented 2 August)*

Summary: This bill will amend the *Government Procurement Act 2001* to facilitate the adoption of the Secure Local Jobs Code. The bill establishes new tender evaluation and contract oversight requirements for territory entities as well as internal governance and supporting infrastructure, including a statutory role of registrar to oversee the new arrangements.

Bills debated

[Animal Diseases Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will make a number of amendments to the *Animal Diseases Act 2005* and the *Animal Diseases Regulation 2006*. This bill will extend the use of the National Livestock Identification System to include owners of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, which will improve biosecurity in the ACT.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 2 August with all parties supporting its passage through the Assembly and it was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendments.

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

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.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 31 July with tri-partisan support given to its passage through the Assembly and it was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Prostitution Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will make a number of amendments to the *Prostitution Act 1992* to address issues of ongoing stigma, safety issues and discrimination. It will also better protect children from sexual exploitation and align the Act with other legislation governing professions in the ACT to better recognise sex work as a legitimate profession.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 31 July with the Opposition indicating they would be opposing parts of the bill. The Opposition moved amendments to the bill which were not passed by the Assembly and the bill was then agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Senior Practitioner Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will facilitate the creation of a senior practitioner role to enable vulnerable people in the ACT to achieve a better quality of life, free of unnecessary interventions that limit their human rights. This bill will also provide a framework for the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices in the ACT.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 2 August with the Government moving amendments to the bill. All parties indicated their support for the amendments and the bill was agreed to in principle.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

[Stock Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will make limited amendments to the *Stock Act 2005*, and provides the Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate with more flexible options when dealing with impounded stock and also updates provisions relating to permits for moving stock on foot.

Proceedings: All parties indicated their support for the bill when debate resumed on 2 August. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Work Safety Regulation 2011* to improve safety in the construction industry by enhancing consultation and collaboration. This bill will also mandate consultation with workers and their representatives in the establishment of workgroups, mandate the election and training of Health and Safety Representatives and mandate the election of Health and Safety Committees as well as training for its members.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 31 July with the Opposition indicating they would be opposing the bill. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the bill.

The Assembly voted that the bill be agreed to in principle and the bill passed the Assembly without amendment.

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

Ministerial statements

The Chief Minister outlined the **Government's priorities for spring 2018** during a ministerial statement on 31 July. The statement outlined the Government's policy and legislative priorities for the second half of 2018 including; delivering new local schools, strengthening care in hospitals, rolling out better health services, and increasing investment in services for Canberra.

On 31 July the Minister for Transport and City Services made a ministerial statement providing a response to a motion passed by the Assembly on 21 March relating to a **Waramanga playground**. During the statement the Minister noted that the Government has implemented an innovative community engagement process through a Better Suburbs Program, which will inform the delivery of future city services in Canberra. On 19 August 2018, Better Suburbs will host a one day Play Spaces Forum with the intention that it will be the beginning of a new phase in community decision making about play spaces in Canberra.

A **delegation to the USA and American Planning Association Study Tour** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 31 July. The Minister highlighted the delegation's visits to four cities in the United States in April 2018. The delegation attended the Congress in New Orleans which included learning from a range of city officials, politicians, planning and allied professionals about how they are addressing a variety of planning, housing and city growth challenges.

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

[Government Agencies \(Land Acquisition Reporting\) Bill 2018](#) (presented on 1 August)

Summary: The purpose of this bill is to improve integrity in land acquisitions. The bill introduces reporting requirements for all acquisitions undertaken by ACT Government entities, reinforcing due diligence and procurement principles such as value for money.

Motions debated

On 1 August Ms Le Couteur MLA moved a motion relating to **rental support for social housing**. The motion noted that the amount of social housing in the ACT has been falling as a proportion of overall housing stock for two decades. The motion called on the Government to allow community housing providers to access rates rebated for properties where the tenants would be eligible for such rebates if they were home owner. The Government moved an amendment to the motion, to which the Opposition indicated they would oppose. The amendment then passed the Assembly and the ACT Greens then moved an amendment to the Government's amendment which also passed the Assembly.

The amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

Bullying in the ACT Health system was the subject of a motion moved by Mrs Dunne MLA on 1 August. The motion noted the recent media reports about bullying in the ACT health system in both the public and private sectors. The motion called on the Executive to finalise terms of reference and appointees for a board of inquiry to investigate bullying in the ACT health system. The Government moved amendments to the motion which were passed by the Assembly.

Following a vote by the Assembly the amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 1 August related to:

- The ACT's contribution to the Australian Space Agency—Ms Cheyne MLA
- Multicultural Framework 2015-2020—Mrs Kikkert MLA
- Public interest disclosures in the ACT public service—Miss C. Burch MLA
- Energy Efficiency Rating Scheme in the ACT—Ms Orr MLA

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

Executive Member's Business

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

Motion debated

The **National Energy Guarantee** (NEG) was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Rattenbury MLA on 2 August. The motion noted the Federal Government's proposed NEG has been broadly criticised for its weak emissions reduction target that is incompatible with the Paris Climate Agreement

commitment. The motion called on the Government to use the upcoming Energy Council meeting to advocate for improvements to the NEG. The Opposition indicated they would not be supporting the motion and the Government indicated their support for the motion.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

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 2 August Ms Cheyne MLA moved a motion to **amend the resolution of 30 November 2017** which established the Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT by adding that Committee considerations do not preclude Members from publicly discussing Territory rights, including the current Federal legislative restriction on voluntary assisted dying to allow all Members to comply with a previously passed motion of the Assembly. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the motion and the Opposition indicated they would not support the motion.

The motion was passed following a vote of the Assembly.

The full terms of the above motion can be found in the Minutes of Proceedings.

Matters of public importance

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

The importance of recognising the achievements of the ACT's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women—Ms Cody MLA

The importance of all parents having an informed choice in determining their children's education—Ms Lee MLA

Papers Presented

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

- ACT Chief Health Officer's Report 2018 (*presented 31 July by Minister for Health and Wellbeing*)
- Auditor General's Reports—
 - Report 7/2018—Five ACT public schools' engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, families and community (*presented 31 July by Speaker*)
 - Report 8/2018—Assembly of rural land west of Canberra (*presented 31 July by Speaker*)

- Government Responses—
 - Report 4/2018—2016-17 Financial Audits-Computer Information Systems (*presented by Treasurer on 31 July*)
 - Report 5/2018—ACT clubs' community contributions (*presented 31 July by Minister for Regulatory Services*)
- City Renewal Authority – Quarterly Land Acquisitions Report – 1 April to 30 June 2018 (*presented 31 July by Chief Minister*)
- Statement of Leases Granted for the period 1 April to 30 June 2018 (*presented 31 July by Minister for Planning and Land Management*)
- Auditor-General's Report No 9/2018—ACT Health's management of allegations of misconduct and complaints about inappropriate workplace behaviour, dated 1 August 2018 (*presented 2 August by Speaker*)
- Statement by Minister—Call-in powers—Development application No 201833501—Block 6 Section 79 Giralang (*presented 2 August by Minister for Planning and Land Management*)
- ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body—Report on the outcomes of the ATSIEB Hearings 2016-17—Seventh Report to the ACT Government—Government response (*presented 2 August by Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs*)

Petitions and petition response

- The following e-petition and petitions were lodged on 31 July—
 - Eating disorder health care services in the ACT—lodged by Mr Petterson MLA and referred to the Minister for Mental Health. The petition was also referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services.
 - Sunday/Public Holiday Bus Timetables—lodged by Ms Le Couteur MLA and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.
- A copy of the terms of these petitions can be accessed from the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.
- The following ministerial responses to a petition was lodged on 31 July—
 - ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools initiative.
 - Development of an aged care facility in Kingston.
 - Active living options in Page.
- A copy of the response can be found at <https://epetitions.act.gov.au/PaperPetitions.aspx>

Committee Activities

Committee reports presented

Environment, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Report 6—Inquiry into a Proposal for a Mammal Emblem for the ACT (*presented 31 July*)

Estimates 2018-2019—Select Committee

Report—Appropriation Bill 2018-2019 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2018-2019 (*presented 31 July*)

Privileges 2018—Select Committee

Report—Newsletter circulated by two MLAs with links to a Third-Party Website (*presented 31 July*)

Scrutiny Committee

[Scrutiny Report 19](#) (*presented 31 July*)

This report contained the committee's comments on eight bills, 32 pieces of subordinate legislation and six government responses.

Committee statements

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 31 July relating to the committee's consideration of no statutory appointments for the period 1 January to 30 June 2018.

The chair also made a statement informing the Assembly that the committee has resolved to extend the deadline for submissions to its inquiry into building quality in the ACT until 30 September 2018.

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 31 July relating to the committee's consideration of statutory appointments and presented a schedule of appointments considered for the period 1 January to 30 June 2018.

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 2 August informing the Assembly that the committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into ACT Libraries.

The chair also made a statement on 2 August relating to the committee's consideration of statutory appointments and presented a schedule of appointments considered for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

On 2 August the chair made further statements in relation to the committee's consideration of the following petitions:

- Petition 13 and 16-17—Community Facilities in Farrer
- Petition 18-17—Mount Taylor access
- Petition 26-17—Rerouting of buses, Anketell to Cowlshaw Streets, Tuggeranong
- Petition 30-17—Heritage value of Lake Burley Griffin and surrounds
- Petition 31-17—Upgrade of playground at Torrens shops

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 31 July relating to the committee's consideration of statutory appointments and presented a schedule of appointments considered for the period 1 January to 30 June 2018.

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 31 July informing the Assembly that the committee had considered no appointments during the period 1 January to 30 June 2018.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 31 July relating to the committee's consideration of statutory appointments and presented a schedule of appointments considered for the period 2016-2017.

Government responses

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee—Report 3—Inquiry into a New Convention Centre for Canberra (*presented 31 July*)

Referral to Committee

Independent Integrity Commission 2018—Select Committee

The Chief Minister moved that the exposure draft of the Integrity Commission Bill 2018 be referred to the committee for inquiry and report in accordance with the resolution of the Assembly which established the committee. The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Education Activities

ACT Schools Constitutional Convention

Fifty students from ACT Government and Non-Government schools took part in the ACT Schools Constitutional Convention which aims to give ACT students an opportunity to examine both historical and current constitutional issues in order to learn about Australia's constitution, including the modern procedures and practices of parliament. The convention took place over two days on 26 and 27 July 2018 and explored the question "Should the Commonwealth Parliament have specific powers to legislate for the environment?"

On the first day of the convention students attended a program delivered by the National Archives (currently occupying a space at the Museum of Australian Democracy while the Archives are being renovated). The program involved examination of historical records in order to explore the Constitution and its fundamental role in Australia's system of government. Students then visited the Museum of Australian Democracy where they took part in a recreation of the World Heritage Properties Conservation Bill 1983 in the original House of Representatives and Senate chambers.

The Legislative Assembly hosted the second day of the convention and involved students debating the reach of constitutional powers and the role of the Commonwealth Parliament in legislating on environmental matters. Students considered a wide range of arguments for and against the use of Commonwealth powers before looking at how constitutional change is achieved through section 128 of the Constitution and then participated in a mock referendum to decide the question "Should the Commonwealth Parliament have specific powers to legislate for the environment?"

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, 14 August 2018.

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