



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Sitting week—19-23 August 2019

Issue 9/2019

Condolence Motion

On 20 August a condolence motion was moved by the Chief Minister for Ms Tracey Whetnall, a proud Dharawal woman, mother, grandmother and ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Official Visitor.

The Leader of the Opposition, the 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.

Censure motion

On 20 August Miss Candice Burch MLA moved a censure motion against the Minister for Transport and City Services for failure to address the ongoing workforce planning issues in the Transport Portfolio, and to deliver the weekend bus network as was promised to Canberrans. During debate the ACT Greens moved amendments to the motion that included calling on the Government, drivers and unions to negotiate a future enterprise agreement that allows the delivery of frequent and reliable weekend services equivalent to those contained in Network19. The Opposition moved an amendment to the ACT Greens proposed amendments to include the censure as was included in Miss Burch's original motion, however following a vote of the Assembly the amendment was not agreed to. The amendments moved by the ACT Greens were then agreed to.

The amended motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

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

Government Business

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

Bills introduced

[Courts \(Fair Work\) Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](#) (presented 22 August 2019)

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory laws to support the instigation and conduct of fair work proceedings in the Magistrates Court and facilitate the trial of corporations for industrial manslaughter under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

Bills debated

[ACT Teacher Quality Institute Amendment Bill 2019](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010 and the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Regulation 2010. The amendments will ensure the quality of the ACT's teacher workforce and build a workforce that meets the needs of ACT school children into the future. The amendments include, requiring pre-service teachers to apply for approval with the ACT Teacher Quality Institute to undertake professional experience in a school in the ACT during pre-service teacher education, authorising the Institute to provide pre-service teacher information to principals and universities and authorising the Institute to collect data about the current workforce profile of teachers to inform teacher workforce planning.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on 22 August with tri-partisan support for the legislation.

The bill was passed by the Assembly.

[Appropriation Bill 2019-2020](#)

Summary: This bill will appropriate money for the purposes of the Territory for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2019.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on 20 August and the bill was passed without amendment following a vote of the Assembly.

[Appropriation \(Office of the Legislative Assembly\) Bill 2019-2020](#)

Summary: This bill will appropriate money for expenditure in relation to the Office of the Legislative Assembly and officers of the Assembly for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2019.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on 20 August and the bill was passed without amendment following a vote of the Assembly.

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

Motions debated

On 22 August, Ms Berry MLA and Mr Rattenbury MLA moved a co-sponsored motion in relation to **climate change action**. The motion included noting that that students and young people in the ACT are very concerned about climate change action, and many will participate in a "Strike for Climate" on 20 September 2019. The motion declared its support for the ACT Strike for Climate and for the students and residents that choose to support this event. During debate the ACT Greens indicated their support for the motion.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

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

Private Members' Business

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

Motions debated

On 21 August, Mr Coe MLA moved a motion in relation to **rates increases**. The motion included noting that rapidly increasing taxation by the ACT Government is driving Canberrans into financial hardship, and called on the Labor-Greens Government to stop their punitive increases to rates, taxes, fees and charges. The Government moved amendments to the motion which included noting that the ACT Government is currently undertaking such a tax-mix switch through its 20-year tax reform agenda, which is designed to create stability in the ACT Budget and avoid the financial volatility experienced in other Australian jurisdictions. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the Government amendments. Following a vote of the Assembly, the amendments were agreed to.

The amended motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Consideration of a large scale venue in the review of EPIC was the subject of a co-sponsored motion moved on 21 August by Mr Gupta MLA and Ms Orr MLA. The motion included noting that whilst existing community and private facilities in Gungahlin and across the city provide a range of spaces and services for multicultural groups to engage in performance and events, these venues have limited capacity to facilitate larger events of more than 350 people. The motion called on the ACT Government to explore the feasibility of a large-scale venue suitable for hosting multicultural and other community events to be located at EPIC, include scoping of alternative potential sites for such a centre in the wider Gungahlin region and report back to the Assembly on the feasibility of such a centre within 12 months. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the motion.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

On 21 August, Ms Le Couteur MLA moved a motion in relation to **encouraging the consumption of more plant-based foods**. The motion included noting that the International Panel on Climate Change's recent report on climate change and land use emphasises the importance of shifting towards plant-based diets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help address climate change. The motion called on the ACT Government to support a shift to more plant-based foods through its operations and to support a shift more broadly in the ACT through a range of initiatives, including by Events ACT ensuring that all events catered by the ACT Government include plant-based food options in sufficient quantity to adequately cater for vegetarians and vegans - noting that all people eat plant-based foods when on offer, as well as having some events where the food is purely plant-based. During debate the Government and Opposition both indicated they would not support the motion.

Following a vote of the Assembly the motion was not agreed to.

Other motions debated on 21 August related to:

Development application assessment—Mr Parton MLA

Drought relief for ACT farm businesses—Mr Wall MLA

Animal related businesses—Mr Wall 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

On 22 August, the Government moved a motion to fix the 2020 Assembly sitting calendar. The motion was agreed to by the Assembly without amendment.

The 2020 Assembly sitting calendar has been agreed to as follows:

February	11	12	13	
	18	19	20	
March	31			
April		1	2	
May	5	6	7	
June	16	17	18	
August	11	12	13	
	25	26	27	28

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

Matter of public importance

The following matter of public importance was discussed in the Assembly this week—

The importance of a well-connected and practical bus network for Canberra's outer suburban areas—
Mr Parton MLA.

Papers Presented

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

- Estimates 2019-2020—Select Committee—Schedule of answers to outstanding questions on notice for the period 30 July to 30 August 2019, dated 19 August 2019, including a copy of the relevant answers (*presented by the Speaker on 20 August 2019*)

- Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee—Report 5—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018—Recommendation 1—Update on progress to improve Sydney to Canberra rail link (*presented by the Manager of Government Business on 22 August 2019*)
- Low income Canberrans—Support—Response to the resolution of the Assembly of 28 November 2018 (*presented by the Manager of Government Business on 22 August 2019*)
- 2018-19 Capital Works Program—Progress report—Year-to-date 30 June 2019 (*presented by the Manager of Government Business on 22 August 2019*)
- ACT Government delegation to Singapore and London—July 2019—Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment (*presented by the Manager of Government Business on 22 August 2019*)

Petitions

The following petitions were lodged on 20 and 22 August—

- Upgrading of Yarralumla shops—lodged by Miss C. Burch MLA.
- Roller derby facilities in the ACT—lodged by Ms J. Burch MLA.

The following ministerial response to a petition was lodged on 22 August—

- ACT transport network.

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

Committee Activities

Committee reports presented

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

[Report 15—Additional amendments to the standing orders](#) (*presented 22 August*)

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

[Report 9—Inquiry into a Territory Coat of Arms](#) (*presented 22 August*)

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

[Report 6—Report on Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence—Policy Approaches and Responses](#) (*presented 22 August*)

Committee statements

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the Committee made a statement on 22 August informing the Assembly that following consideration of petition No 6-19 concerning bus services through the Australian National University, and the Minister's response, the Committee had resolved not to inquire further into the matters raised in the petition.

Committee referrals

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

On 20 August, petition No 24-19 was referred to the Committee requesting that the Assembly address safety and security issues, improve parking and upgrade facilities and amenity at the Yarralumla shops.

Responses to committee reports

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

Report 8—Review of the standing orders and continuing resolutions of the Legislative Assembly—[Government response to Recommendation 7, relating to the use of honorifics for Ministers](#) (*presented by the Manager of Government Business on 22 August*)

Education Activities

Education programs were conducted recently for students from both Harrison School and Campbell Primary schools who visited the Assembly to participate in sessions that included the passage of a mock bill, voting in mock elections and meeting the Members. Education staff are preparing for the last Interschool Parliamentary Debates of the year with debates happening in the chamber for year 9-10 students on 30 August 2019 and for year 7-8 students on 6 September 2019. Program topics include lowering the voting age, Australia recycling its own waste and banning mobile phones in schools.

Upcoming programs include a public sector seminar on 4 September 2019, teacher professional development on 11 October 2019 and a community seminar—Get to know your Assembly on 24 October 2019.

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)
Mr Deepak Gupta (Australian Labor Party)
Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

Next Sitting

Tuesday, 17 September 2019.

This document is produced by the Office of the Legislative Assembly for information.