



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2012–2013–2014

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 78

WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2014

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mrs Dunne) took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.
- 2 **TRANSPORT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICIES**

Dr Bourke, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

 - (1) notes that:
 - (a) Canberra is now in its second century, and the ACT Government remains focussed on ensuring that the city continues to evolve as a modern, well planned and vibrant city; and
 - (b) planned investment in building our city must continue if the city is to maintain its position as a city of innovation, urban amenity and one of the world’s most liveable cities;
 - (2) further notes that:
 - (a) the ACT Government has identified health, education, transport and urban renewal, and remediation of Mr Fluffy homes as its priority areas;
 - (b) the projects being delivered in these priority areas are multi dimensional, delivering economic stimulus, jobs and social benefits across the city;
 - (c) the ACT Government continues to implement projects in all of its priority areas, including work to commence Stage 1 of a light rail network for the city and a light rail master plan to inform future stages;
 - (d) the transport and urban renewal priority area is focussed on infrastructure and strategic projects across all modes of transport that provide transport choice to Canberrans and support long term land use change across the territory;



- (e) the Government has delivered successful urban renewal projects, including in Braddon, the Kingston Foreshore, Belconnen Town Centre, City West and New Acton, and these projects have delivered economic, social and environmental benefits to the Canberra community;
 - (f) urban renewal and transport is supported by extensive master planning, including the recently completed master plans for Tuggeranong, Erindale, Weston Creek and Dickson;
 - (g) the light rail from Gungahlin to Civic, for which expressions of interest will be called later this week, will deliver significant social and economic benefits in addition to providing sustainable transport and an impressive entrance worthy of the city of Canberra as the capital of Australia;
 - (h) the Canberra Liberals have committed to opposing light rail but have failed to outline their alternative transport and urban renewal policy for Canberra, particularly in relation to the high growth corridor from Gungahlin to the City; and
 - (i) by 2031 commuters from Gungahlin to the City will spend almost two hours each day in their cars commuting, if solutions like light rail are not implemented;
- (3) resolves that transport and urban renewal policies must allow for increased transport demand that will result from population growth across Canberra over the next two decades; and
- (4) specifically rules out:
- (a) any plans to build Monash Drive to accommodate the growth in traffic from Gungahlin to Civic and beyond;
 - (b) policies that result in rat running through inner north Canberra and Belconnen suburbs;
 - (c) expansion of Northbourne Avenue by building an additional two or four traffic lanes for buses and/or general traffic; and
 - (d) policies that force Gungahlin residents to sit in congested traffic for up to two hours each day as there is no other alternative transport infrastructure available.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Corbell		Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

3 USE OF TASERS

Mr Hanson (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) tasers can be an effective non-lethal tool for trained police when confronted by violent individuals posing a risk to the community, to police or to themselves;
 - (b) a number of incidents have occurred in the ACT where firearms were discharged by police with tragic consequences when at the time tasers were not available as an option;
 - (c) ACT Policing has successfully issued tasers to trained substantive sergeants over the last three years;
 - (d) substantive sergeants are not always able to respond in time to incidents where frontline police are confronted by violent individuals;
 - (e) all frontline sworn police officers are issued with firearms; and
 - (f) frontline police and the Australian Federal Police Association have called for tasers to be issued to all trained sworn ACT police officers; and
- (2) calls on the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to agree that the Chief Police Officer (CPO) train and issue tasers to all frontline sworn officers, at the CPO's discretion.

Mr Corbell (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after "That this Assembly", substitute:

- "(1) notes:
- (a) tasers are only one of a range of tools available to police in a dynamic continuum of force model;
 - (b) tasers are currently available only to frontline sergeants and specialist police, who are extensively trained in their use;
 - (c) the occasions of use of tasers in the ACT are limited, demonstrating a use of force model that has at its core the fundamental notions of good communication, negotiation and the resort to a minimum amount of force reasonably necessary;
 - (d) any expansion in the use of tasers shall only occur on the grounds of improved public and/or police safety and be supported by evidence; and
 - (e) the use of tasers will continue to be kept under review by ACT Policing in consultation with the ACT Government."

Debate continued.

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 74 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

4 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPER

Ms Burch (Minister for Education and Training), having added to an answer to a supplementary question without notice today, presented the following paper:

Australian Curriculum Implementation Committee—Implementation Schedule—Phases 1, 2 and 3, dated January 2014.

6 USE OF TASERS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion Mr Hanson (Leader of the Opposition), and on the amendment moved by Mr Corbell (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (*see entry 3*)—

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Corbell		Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly notes:

- (1) tasers are only one of a range of tools available to police in a dynamic continuum of force model;
- (2) tasers are currently available only to frontline sergeants and specialist police, who are extensively trained in their use;
- (3) the occasions of use of tasers in the ACT are limited, demonstrating a use of force model that has at its core the fundamental notions of good communication, negotiation and the resort to a minimum amount of force reasonably necessary;
- (4) any expansion in the use of tasers shall only occur on the grounds of improved public and/or police safety and be supported by evidence; and
- (5) the use of tasers will continue to be kept under review by ACT Policing in consultation with the ACT Government.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

7 MAJURA PARKWAY

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

- (1) notes regarding the impact on Majura Parkway:
 - (a) the favourable cost benefit ratio for the project;
 - (b) the need for improved road transport links connecting Gungahlin and other parts of northern Canberra;

- (c) the significant contribution by the Commonwealth Government to the cost of construction;
 - (d) the need for motorists to efficiently use Majura Parkway to travel to and from the centre of Canberra; and
 - (e) the findings of the Fairbairn Avenue Duplication Traffic Modelling report of 2013, including Fairbairn Avenue is already at capacity; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to detail how they will address the congestion concerns of motorists using Fairbairn Avenue to access the City from Majura Parkway.

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes in relation to Majura Parkway:
- (a) the favourable cost benefit ratio for the project;
 - (b) that it is an important element of the Government’s *Transport for Canberra* plan as a key link between Gungahlin and central Canberra;
 - (c) the significant contribution by the Commonwealth Government to the cost of construction;
 - (d) that the ACT Government continues to hold discussions with key stakeholders in relation to preparing for and managing impacts on the road network throughout various stages of construction;
 - (e) that, as part of a Working Group including the National Capital Authority and the Canberra Airport, the ACT Government will continue to assess the need for, and plan for, transport improvements to northern and east-west connections to the Majura Parkway in the context of the initial stages of light rail, a revised ACTION bus network, the Airport Master Plan, active transport options, and other developments, e.g. IKEA; and
 - (f) that the latest traffic assessment in this area shows that Fairbairn Avenue is expected to function adequately upon opening of the completed Majura Parkway in 2016 but, with future traffic growth, improvements to some sections may be required in the subsequent five to 10 year period.”.

Debate continued.

Question that the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Corbell		Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly notes in relation to Majura Parkway:

- (1) the favourable cost benefit ratio for the project;

- (2) that it is an important element of the Government's *Transport for Canberra* plan as a key link between Gungahlin and central Canberra;
- (3) the significant contribution by the Commonwealth Government to the cost of construction;
- (4) that the ACT Government continues to hold discussions with key stakeholders in relation to preparing for and managing impacts on the road network throughout various stages of construction;
- (5) that, as part of a Working Group including the National Capital Authority and the Canberra Airport, the ACT Government will continue to assess the need for, and plan for, transport improvements to northern and east-west connections to the Majura Parkway in the context of the initial stages of light rail, a revised ACTION bus network, the Airport Master Plan, active transport options, and other developments, e.g. IKEA; and
- (6) that the latest traffic assessment in this area shows that Fairbairn Avenue is expected to function adequately upon opening of the completed Majura Parkway in 2016 but, with future traffic growth, improvements to some sections may be required in the subsequent five to 10 year period."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

8 PRESENTATION OF PAPER

Mr Corbell (Manager of Government Business), pursuant to section 64 of the Legislation Act, presented the following paper:

Major Events Act—Major Events (One Day Cricket International) Notice 2014 (No. 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2014-281 (LR, 28 October 2014), together with its explanatory statement.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) climate change and the threat it poses to our city, our economy and our environment is real;
 - (b) cities play a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in addressing the critical economic, social and environmental consequences of climate change;
 - (c) that the ACT has established greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets—targets of zero net emission (carbon neutrality) by 2060 and a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020;
 - (d) the ACT is committed to generate 90 per cent of Canberra's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020;
 - (e) the Government has established a bold and comprehensive strategy to make the ACT a more economic, social and environmentally sustainable city;
 - (f) the latest OECD Greenhouse Gas Emissions Index ranks Australia as the highest emitter per capita; and

- (g) the Abbott Government's plan to cut the federal Renewable Energy Target will ruin the renewable energy industry, result in the loss of jobs and see investment move offshore; and
- (2) calls on Assembly members to:
 - (a) support the Government's comprehensive strategy to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and encourage environmental sustainability in the ACT; and
 - (b) call on the Federal Government to maintain a Renewable Energy Target which provides certainty for investment and growth in renewable energy projects.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Corbell		Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

10 ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

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

- (1) notes CommSec's October 2014 State and Territory Economic Performance Report where the ACT is the:
 - (a) second worst overall economic performing jurisdiction in the country;
 - (b) second worst performing jurisdiction in the country for retail spending;
 - (c) second worst performing jurisdiction in the country for investments;
 - (d) worst performing jurisdiction in the country for decade-average rate level unemployment; and
 - (e) second worst performing jurisdiction in the country for construction work; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) stop talking down the economy, and depressing business and consumer confidence, which has in part led to the outcomes in paragraph (1);
 - (b) capitalise on the full potential of our city, and take direct action to diversify the ACT economy;
 - (c) make real cuts to red tape, and measure the value of the Government's regulatory cost burdens; and
 - (d) table in the Assembly by the last sitting day in February 2015, the Government's direct action initiatives to diversify the economy and measure the savings to businesses from the Government's red tape initiative.

Mr Barr (Minister for Economic Development) moved the following amendment:
Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes:

- (a) that the OECD has this month named Canberra as the most liveable city in the world, with the ACT ranking 10 out of 10 for safety, civic engagement and income, 9.9 out of 10 for health, and 9.6 out of 10 for jobs;
- (b) that a Property Council survey earlier this year rated Canberra as Australia’s most liveable city, according to residents’ views of their own city;
- (c) the strong support of small and medium enterprises in the Territory for the ACT Government, with a recent *Sensis* survey showing that support for the policies of the ACT Government was the highest of any state or territory government;
- (d) that the ACT has Australia’s second lowest unemployment rate and second highest participation rate;
- (e) that, in 2014-2015, the Government will spend \$4.9 billion in delivering services to Canberra, and make an investment in capital infrastructure of \$735 million in 2014-2015 and \$2.5 billion over the next four years;
- (f) the strong growth in exports from the ACT in recent years, with exports now worth almost \$1.3 billion a year, up from \$774 million in 2000-2001, and the ACT’s share of national exports having increased from 1.6 per cent in 2009 to 2.5 per cent in 2013;
- (g) that there are now about 25 000 businesses operating in the ACT, a doubling since 1995, when there were about 12 000 businesses operating;
- (h) that the ACT is one of only two jurisdictions in Australia, and one of only 26 worldwide, to have a triple A stable credit rating from Standard and Poor’s;
- (i) that there are about 212 000 people currently employed in the ACT, with nearly 5000 of these jobs having been created in the last four years alone;
- (j) the more than 35 000 new jobs created in the ACT in the past decade, equating to almost 10 jobs per day for 10 years;
- (k) that the ACT economy was worth \$34.4 billion in 2012-2013, with our economy growing by almost \$1 billion a year since 2000-2001;
- (l) that the ACT has the best educated community in Australia, with the ACT leading the nation in *NAPLAN* results and Canberrans twice as likely to hold post-graduate qualifications than other Australians;
- (m) the strong growth in the ACT’s knowledge economy industries in recent years, with more than 43 000 people now employed across the education, scientific and technical and ICT sectors, with more than 6000 new jobs created over the last decade;
- (n) that Canberra’s higher education sector is growing strongly, with the sector currently employing about 45 000 people in the region, and educating about 40 000 students, one quarter of whom are from overseas;

- (o) that the ACT's tourism sector is generating around \$1.8 billion in economic activity for our economy each year and employs around 17 000 people;
 - (p) that the ACT's gross per capita income was \$97 269 according to the 2012-2013 state accounts, which is nearly \$40 000 more than the national per capita average of \$57 441;
 - (q) that the ACT has a relatively even distribution of incomes compared to the national average as measured by the Gini coefficient, with the ACT measuring 0.373 and Australia 0.427, where a bigger number indicates more inequality;
 - (r) the strength of research and development in the ACT, with more than 8 per cent of Australian higher education institutional expenditure on R&D taking place in Canberra, and that as a portion of GDP Canberra's rate of higher education R&D expenditure outstrips that in all other Australian jurisdictions by a factor greater than three;
 - (s) Canberra has a young population, with the largest age demographics being ages 0-14 followed by ages 25-34;
 - (t) that the ACT Government is investing in transformational infrastructure to boost the long-term productivity of the economy such as Capital Metro light rail and the Health Infrastructure Program;
 - (u) that the ACT Government is the only government in Australia to be reforming taxes by phasing out inefficient transaction taxes such as conveyance duty and duty on insurance;
 - (v) that the ACT Government's prudent economic management, of running 10 surplus budgets, has created the fiscal capability to respond to economic shocks such as the Global Financial Crisis;
 - (w) that the ACT Government is supporting the private sector in the ACT to grow and create jobs through the continued implementation of the Business Development Strategy;
 - (x) that the Government is fostering growth and innovation in our economy through programs such as the CBR Innovation Network, Invest Canberra, Study Canberra and the *CBR* Canberra brand;
 - (y) the impact that the Commonwealth's cuts to employment and expenditure are having on the ACT economy, including reducing employment by 2.9 per cent; and
 - (z) the ACT Government's continued focus on supporting the economy and employment in response to the Commonwealth's cuts;
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) maintain confidence in the ACT economy through its plan to support the ACT economy and support jobs;
 - (b) continue to assist the ACT's private sector to grow and diversify;
 - (c) continue the Red Tape Reduction Taskforce to cut red tape for local businesses; and

- (d) encourage the Commonwealth to reverse its cuts to the Australian Public Service.”.

Debate continued.

Mr Wall addressing the Assembly—

Adjournment negatived: It being 6 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Corbell		Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) that the OECD has this month named Canberra as the most liveable city in the world, with the ACT ranking 10 out of 10 for safety, civic engagement and income, 9.9 out of 10 for health, and 9.6 out of 10 for jobs;
 - (b) that a Property Council survey earlier this year rated Canberra as Australia’s most liveable city, according to residents’ views of their own city;
 - (c) the strong support of small and medium enterprises in the Territory for the ACT Government, with a recent *Sensis* survey showing that support for the policies of the ACT Government was the highest of any state or territory government;
 - (d) that the ACT has Australia’s second lowest unemployment rate and second highest participation rate;
 - (e) that, in 2014-2015, the Government will spend \$4.9 billion in delivering services to Canberra, and make an investment in capital infrastructure of \$735 million in 2014-2015 and \$2.5 billion over the next four years;

- (f) the strong growth in exports from the ACT in recent years, with exports now worth almost \$1.3 billion a year, up from \$774 million in 2000-2001, and the ACT's share of national exports having increased from 1.6 per cent in 2009 to 2.5 per cent in 2013;
- (g) that there are now about 25 000 businesses operating in the ACT, a doubling since 1995, when there were about 12 000 businesses operating;
- (h) that the ACT is one of only two jurisdictions in Australia, and one of only 26 worldwide, to have a triple A stable credit rating from Standard and Poor's;
- (i) that there are about 212 000 people currently employed in the ACT, with nearly 5000 of these jobs having been created in the last four years alone;
- (j) the more than 35 000 new jobs created in the ACT in the past decade, equating to almost 10 jobs per day for 10 years;
- (k) that the ACT economy was worth \$34.4 billion in 2012-2013, with our economy growing by almost \$1 billion a year since 2000-2001;
- (l) that the ACT has the best educated community in Australia, with the ACT leading the nation in *NAPLAN* results and Canberrans twice as likely to hold post-graduate qualifications than other Australians;
- (m) the strong growth in the ACT's knowledge economy industries in recent years, with more than 43 000 people now employed across the education, scientific and technical and ICT sectors, with more than 6000 new jobs created over the last decade;
- (n) that Canberra's higher education sector is growing strongly, with the sector currently employing about 45 000 people in the region, and educating about 40 000 students, one quarter of whom are from overseas;
- (o) that the ACT's tourism sector is generating around \$1.8 billion in economic activity for our economy each year and employs around 17 000 people;
- (p) that the ACT's gross per capita income was \$97 269 according to the 2012-2013 state accounts, which is nearly \$40 000 more than the national per capita average of \$57 441;
- (q) that the ACT has a relatively even distribution of incomes compared to the national average as measured by the Gini coefficient, with the ACT measuring 0.373 and Australia 0.427, where a bigger number indicates more inequality;
- (r) the strength of research and development in the ACT, with more than 8 per cent of Australian higher education institutional expenditure on R&D taking place in Canberra, and that as a portion of GDP Canberra's rate of higher education R&D expenditure outstrips that in all other Australian jurisdictions by a factor greater than three;
- (s) Canberra has a young population, with the largest age demographics being ages 0-14 followed by ages 25-34;
- (t) that the ACT Government is investing in transformational infrastructure to boost the long-term productivity of the economy such as Capital Metro light rail and the Health Infrastructure Program;

- (u) that the ACT Government is the only government in Australia to be reforming taxes by phasing out inefficient transaction taxes such as conveyance duty and duty on insurance;
 - (v) that the ACT Government's prudent economic management, of running 10 surplus budgets, has created the fiscal capability to respond to economic shocks such as the Global Financial Crisis;
 - (w) that the ACT Government is supporting the private sector in the ACT to grow and create jobs through the continued implementation of the Business Development Strategy;
 - (x) that the Government is fostering growth and innovation in our economy through programs such as the CBR Innovation Network, Invest Canberra, Study Canberra and the *CBR* Canberra brand;
 - (y) the impact that the Commonwealth's cuts to employment and expenditure are having on the ACT economy, including reducing employment by 2.9 per cent; and
 - (z) the ACT Government's continued focus on supporting the economy and employment in response to the Commonwealth's cuts;
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) maintain confidence in the ACT economy through its plan to support the ACT economy and support jobs;
 - (b) continue to assist the ACT's private sector to grow and diversify;
 - (c) continue the Red Tape Reduction Taskforce to cut red tape for local businesses; and
 - (d) encourage the Commonwealth to reverse its cuts to the Australian Public Service."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

10 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Barr (Deputy Chief Minister) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.25 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly