



Matters of public importance —your Assembly @ work

Sitting week—18 to 22 September 2017

Issue 10/2017

Government business

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

Bills introduced

Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (No 2)

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory laws in the Justice and Community Safety portfolio to improve the operation of each amended law without making major policy changes.

Utilities Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Utilities Act 2000*, the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014* and the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Regulation 2017* by inserting general regulation-making power into each law to enable classes of services to be removed from the regulatory schemes if certain conditions are met. The bill will also provide for the first use of the exemption power in relation to embedded electricity networks.

Utilities (Technical Regulation) Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014* to address ongoing issues in relation to the risks caused by trees touching live powerlines in order to increase public safety. The bill will also address important actions under the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan 2014-2019.

Waste Management and Resource Recovery Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016* to establish a cost effective container deposit

scheme to assist the beverage industry to discharge their responsibilities in relation to dealing with waste and litter generated by beverage product packaging. The bill will also assist the community to reduce litter and promote a cleaner environment.

Copies of bills presented to the Assembly and associated explanatory statements can be accessed from the ACT Legislation Register at www.legislation.act.gov.au.

Bills debated

Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Planning and Development Act 2007* to provide a planning assessment framework for the storage of hazardous materials and changes the impact assessment track for development proposals on contaminated sites. It also implements a requirement that an Assembly committee decide with 15 working days whether it will inquire into any Draft Variation to the Territory Plan referred to it.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 19 September. During debate the Opposition stated they would be supporting the bill in principle, however, would be moving several amendments during the detail stage. The ACT Greens also stated their intention to support the passage of the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle. During the detail stage amendments proposed by the Government and the Opposition were agreed to by the Assembly.

The amended bill was then passed by the Assembly.

Crimes (Food and Drink Spiking) Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to introduce offences of food or drink spiking.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on 19 September with all parties supporting the passage of the bill through the Assembly. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly without amendment.

A full record of the debates can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

Ministerial statements

The following ministerial statements were made on 19 September 2017.

The Chief Minister provided details of his attendance at a recent **Australian Tourism Ministers' Meeting** held in Beijing together with other State and Territory tourism ministers. He stated that he also attended a tourism industry briefing hosted by the Deputy Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy. During the statement the Chief Minister provided the Assembly with details of a **delegation to Hong Kong**, led by him, aimed at growing Canberra's international visitor economy and promoting the city as a trade and investment destination, to drive economic growth and diversification.

The Minister for Health and Wellbeing provided the Assembly with an update on the review being undertaken on **ACT Health System-Wide Data** that is due for completion by 31 March 2018. The minister stated that the review has been designed to ensure robust quality assurance of ACT Health's data into the future.

Recidivism rates in the ACT was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Corrections. During his statement the minister outlined the work that the Government is doing to reduce recidivism.

The Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion provided the Assembly with an update on the **Community Sector Reform Program** and how the co-contribution levy funds have been and will continue to be invested.

Ms Lee MLA also made a statement on the matter.

The following ministerial statements were made on 21 September 2017.

The Minister for Transport and City Services made a statement on the **management of dogs in the ACT**. During the statement the minister highlighted the overwhelming community response to recent community engagement on the Animal Management and Welfare Strategy, confirming that responsible pet ownership is an important issue for Canberrans. The Minister then went on to outline what the Government is doing in relation to the management of dogs.

Both Ms Cody MLA and Ms Le Couteur MLA made statements on the matter.

The final sixth monthly report on the role of the ACT Government under the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** was the subject of a statement made by the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth. During the statement the minister stated that she understood that the transition to the NDIS had not been easy for all Canberrans, however, the ACT Government is continuing bilateral discussions with the Commonwealth to ensure that Canberrans with disability be provided timely and secure access to the services they need.

Ms Le Couteur MLA and Ms Lee MLA made statements in relation to the matter.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

Private Members' business

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

Bill introduced

Government Procurement (Financial Integrity) Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend a number of laws relating to government expenditure to improve integrity in spending and provide the ACT community with further opportunities to examine how taxpayer's money is disbursed.

Motions debated

Mr Wall MLA moved a motion which sought to highlight issues being faced by **traders in Mitchell**. The motion noted the important contribution that businesses in Mitchell make to the ACT economy and called on the Government to construct a light rail stop at Mitchell. The motion also included calling on the Government to improve the urban services delivered in the suburb and to undertake consultation with business about implementing urgent minor capital works. During debate an amendment was moved by the Government that noted that they will prioritise operationalising a Sandford Street light rail stop at the earliest opportunity, but that this was unlikely before services began in late 2018. The amendment also noted that the relevant minister has undertaken to follow-up on a range of issues raised by the Mitchell Traders Group. The amendment was agreed to after a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was then passed.

Delivery of city services in the Territory was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Orr MLA. Terms of the motion included noting the work undertaken by the Government to improve the look and feel of the city and outlined the amount provided by the ACT Government in 2017 for city services in new suburbs. Among other things, the motion called on the Government to, after engagement across the community, set a long term vision for the delivery of city services for Canberra. During debate both the Opposition and ACT Greens highlighted a number of areas that they thought could be improved in relation to the delivery of urban services, however, both parties supported the motion.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 20 September related to:

Inclusive and supportive community—
Ms Cheyne MLA

Aluminium cladding on government buildings—Ms Lawder MLA

Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm—
Mr Milligan MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

Matters of public importance

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

The importance of international engagement to support economic and job growth opportunities in the ACT—Mr Steel MLA

The importance of veterans in the ACT community—Mr Hanson MLA

Executive Members' business

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

Motion debated

Privatisation of land in the parliamentary precinct was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Rattenbury MLA on 21 September 2017. The motion sought to highlight the Federal Government's plans to sell off buildings within the precinct including the East Block and West Block offices. An amendment was moved by the Government that included noting that the Government will take an active role in discussions about the future use of these heritage buildings to the full extent of the ACT's power and jurisdiction. During debate the Opposition indicated they would not be supporting the motion or the amendment as it was their opinion that private investment can provide an opportunity to revitalise the properties and ensure their significant heritage values are maintained with adaptive reuse. The amendment was agreed to after a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly after a further vote.

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

Motion debated

On 21 September a motion was moved seeking to amend the Assembly's standing order

relating to the production of documents held by the Executive.

The motion was passed by the Assembly after debate.

Papers presented

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

Professional Standards Councils Annual Report 2016-2017 (*presented by the Attorney-General on 19 September 2017*)

Heavy Vehicle National Amendment Regulation 2017 (*presented by the Minister for the Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety on 19 September*)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education—Annual Report 2016-2017 (*Minister for Education and Childhood Development on 21 September*)

Committee activities

Government responses

Government responses to the following standing committee reports on Annual and Financial Reports 2015-2016 were presented on 21 September 2017—

**Economic Development and Tourism—
Report 1**

**Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—
Report 1**

**Environment and Transport and City
Services—Report 1**

**Health, Ageing and Community Services—
Report 1**

Justice and Community Safety—Report 1

Planning and Urban Renewal—Report 1

Public Accounts—Report 1

Education Activities

Information on our various program offerings are available on the 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)

Mr Steve Doszpot (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, 24 October 2017.

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