



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Non-sitting and sitting weeks—26 March to 13 April 2018

Issue 4/2018

Government Business

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

Bills introduced

[Land Tax Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 12 April)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Land Tax Act 2004* to provide for the extension of land tax to all residential dwellings that are not an owner's principal place of residence and to introduce a foreign ownership surcharge. The bill will also make a number of minor and technical amendments to the Act.

[Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 12 April)

Summary: This bill will make minor and technical amendments to the operation of four pieces of legislation namely the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017*, the *Heritage Act 2004*, the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* and the *Planning and Development Regulation 2008*.

[Waste Management and Resource Recovery Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 10 April)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Amendment Act 2017* to provide for an amendment to the commencement provisions in the Act that relate to refund marking requirements. This amendment will allow a period of two years from the commencement of the Act for these requirements to begin.

Bills debated

[Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 \(No 2\)](#)

Summary: This bill will appropriate additional money for the purposes of the Territory for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2017.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 12 April with all parties supporting its passage through the Assembly. The proposed legislation was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Appropriation \(Office of the Legislative Assembly\) Bill 2017-2018 \(No 2\)](#)

Summary: This bill will appropriate additional money for the purposes of the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2017.

Proceedings: This bill was debated together with the Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 (No 2) and was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Domestic Animals Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend a number of the Territory's laws to provide consistency in the management, care and control of all dogs in the ACT, including greyhounds kept in the ACT for racing in other jurisdictions.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 10 April 2018 with all parties supporting its passage through the Assembly.

The bill was agreed to without amendment.

[Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory laws within the Justice and Community Safety portfolio to improve the operation of each amended law.

Proceedings: Tri-partisan support was given to the proposed legislation when debate resumed on 10 April.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

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

Ministerial statements

On 10 April the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development made a statement concerning her recent four day **mission to Wellington, New Zealand** the purpose of which was to further develop the sister city agreement between Wellington and Canberra and to also hold ministerial and stakeholder meetings across the Minister's portfolios with a focus on housing affordability and sport.

The Minister for Mental Health made a statement on 10 April outlining the work being undertaken in relation to **mental health support and efforts to reduce recidivism** amongst Canberra's most vulnerable and at-risk cohorts in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Reducing the number of gaming machine authorisations was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Attorney-General on 10 April. During his statement the Attorney-General stated that reducing the number of gaming machine authorisations is a key component of the ACT Government's harm reduction strategy.

The Minister for Disability, Children and Youth made a ministerial statement on 10 April 2018 updating the Assembly on the Government's response to a number of recommendations made in the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety's report into annual and financial reports 2015-16.

The response related to funding for the **NDIS Transport Funding Hub** and the outcomes on **supported decision making trials** as undertaken by ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Services.

The following ministerial statements were made on 12 April—

Second Implementation Plan 2015-2017 of the **ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy 2011-2017** made by the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

A Step Up for Our Kids – **Out of Home Care Strategy Update**—April 2018 made by the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth.

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

[Crimes \(Consent\) Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to clarify the law of consent in sexual offences, intimate image abuse offences and child sex offences to provide improved outcomes for victims and the community.

Motions debated

Renewable energy was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Orr MLA on 11 April. The motion included, among other matters, noting that renewable energy is critical in transitioning Australia to a low-carbon economy in the cheapest and most efficient way. It also included calling on the Government to investigate opportunities to create a large virtual power plant project. During debate the Opposition stated that even though it had previously indicated support for the ACT meeting the target of 100 percent renewable electricity by 2020 it would hold the Government to account on their commitment to provide an adequate supply of renewable energy for the Territory as well as looking at a sufficient storage capacity.

The motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment

On 11 April, Miss C Burch moved a motion relating to the **performance of ACTION buses**, including school bus services and called on the relevant minister to explain why ACTION buses fail to meet punctuality benchmarks and to report to the Assembly by 7 June 2018 on steps taken to improve ACTION buses' punctuality and arrival and departure times of school buses. During debate an amendment moved by the Government included noting that the Government undertook the first stage of consultation on a new bus network late in 2017 and that the second stage of community consultation will be undertaken in coming months, which will include how school services are delivered.

The amendment also included calling on the Government to report back to the Assembly by 23 August 2018 on plans for the new bus network and steps taken to improve school service performance in the new network. The ACT Greens indicated its support for the Government's amendment which was passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then agreed to.

Public housing demand was the subject of the motion moved by Ms Le Couteur MLA on 11 April. The motion included highlighting the number of households currently waiting to access public housing and called on the Government to, among other things, implement policies to further grow the supply of affordable rental housing where rent is set at a discount to market and properties are targeted to low and moderate income households. The Opposition indicated its support for the motion during debate. An amendment moved by the Government calling on the Government to commit to growing social housing stock in Canberra through development and purchases in both new and existing suburbs was negated following a vote of the Assembly.

The unamended motion was agreed to.

Other motions debated on 11 April related to:

- 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission—Ms Lawder MLA
- Greyhound racing revenue—Mr Parton MLA
- Blood donation procedures—Mr Steel 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

Motion debated

On 11 April Ms Cody MLA moved a motion seeking to establish a Select Committee on Privileges 2018 to examine actions of certain Members.

Debate resumed on the motion on 12 April with an amendment moved by Ms Le Couteur MLA which included, among other things, amending the reporting date of the committee to the first sitting day in July 2018. A further amendment was moved by Mr Wall MLA, to Ms Le Couteur's amendment, seeking to appoint certain Members to the committee. The amendment proposed by Mr Wall was agreed to followed by the passing of Ms Le Couteur's amended amendment.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

The full terms of the above motion can be found in the [Minutes of Proceedings](#).

Executive Members' business

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

Motion debated

A motion moved by Mr Rattenbury MLA on 12 April included noting that the ACT is on track to achieve the 100 percent **renewable electricity** target and is currently planning actions to achieve the net zero emissions target. The terms of the motion also proposed that the Assembly support the continuation of the ACT's climate change efforts. During debate the Opposition indicated they would not oppose the passing of the motion.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Matters of public importance

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

The importance of protecting and celebrating our Aboriginal, European and natural heritage—
Ms Lawder MLA

The importance of making sure that multicultural dimensions are supported in the Office for Mental Health—Mrs Kikkert MLA

Papers Presented

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

- City Renewal Authority—Quarterly Land Acquisitions Report—1 January to 31 March 2018
(presented by the Chief Minister on 12 April)
- Suburban Land Agency—Quarterly Land Acquisitions Report—1 January to 31 March 2018 *(presented by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development on 12 April)*
- Canberra Institute of Technology Annual Report 2017 *(presented by the Manager of Government Business on behalf of the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research on 12 April)*

Petition and Petition Response

The following petition was lodged on 10 April—

Page—Installation of pedestrian crossing and public amenities—lodged by Mrs Kikkert MLA and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

A copy of the terms of this petition can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](#) site.

The following ministerial response to a petition was lodged on 10 April—

Mortimer Lewis Drive, Greenway—Provision of sunshade at playground.

A copy of the response can be found on the [Paper Petitions](#) pages.

Committee Activities

Committee reports presented

Environment, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Report 5—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017 (presented on 12 April)

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

Report 3—Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 (No 2)

On 10 April 2018 the chair of the committee tabled its report on the Appropriation Bill 2017-18 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-18 (No 2).

In the report, the committee noted the referral of the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-18 (No. 2), and made no further comment.

The substantive part of the report deals with the Appropriation Bill 2017-18 (No 2). In the report the committee made two recommendations regarding the Bill.

The first recommends that ACT government agencies, including the Education Directorate, develop criteria for review and criteria for success for future projects prior to procurement and implementation. This recommendation concerns the provision of laptops to Year 7 to Year 11 students in ACT government schools.

In its second recommendation the committee recommended that if procurement documents on service providers on a panel for the Elective Surgery Wait List Reduction program are not published on the ACT government procurement website, that these be published.

There were other areas in which the committee made comment but did not provide recommendations.

In one, it noted the profile of funding provided to the ACT Ombudsman's office so that it can meet new requirements placed upon it by the Reportable Conduct scheme, and considered it likely that additional funding, on top of what has already been provided, was likely to be necessary if the scheme were to function effectively.

In a second line of comment, the committee considered the timing of demolition works at Campbell Primary School in relation to the appropriation made under the Bill. In brief, the committee found that the demolition works had been done – and the money needed to fund it, spent – before the appropriation was made, and noted that this was a departure from conventional practice.

A third line of comment concerned the replacement of aluminium cladding at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. In this instance, answers provided to the Committee were not clear, and the committee stated that would welcome clearer answers in the future.

Scrutiny Committee

[Scrutiny Report 16](#) (presented on 10 April)

This report contained the committee's comments on four bills, 27 pieces of subordinate legislation, five national regulations and four government responses.

Committee statements

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

On 12 April the chair of the committee made a statement relating to the referral to the committee of an exchange between a witness and a committee chair that had occurred in the course of any inquiry into annual reports, and matters arising from that exchange. The chair stated that the committee had resolved that no further action be taken. The chair also advised that the committee would consider matters relevant to possible changes of standing orders in the context of the review of standing orders.

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 12 April informing the Assembly that the committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into and report on building quality in the ACT. At the conclusion of the statement the chair presented the following paper:

Inquiry into the quality of recently constructed buildings in the ACT—Discussion Paper

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

The chair of the committee made a statement on 12 April relating to the committee's consideration of a petition concerning the safe schools coalition. The chair advised that the committee had determined not to inquire further into the matters raised in the petition.

On 12 April the chair made a further statement informing the Assembly that the committee had extended its reporting date for its inquiry into the extent, nature and consequence of insecure work in the ACT to the last sitting day in May 2018.

Government responses

2016 ACT Election and the Electoral Act—Select Committee—Report—Inquiry into 2016 ACT Election and Electoral Act (presented 10 April)

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 3—Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 (No 2) (presented 12 April)

Education Activities

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, 8 May 2018.

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