



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021–2022

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 40

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2022

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms Burch) took the Chair and made the following acknowledgement of country in the Ngunnawal language:

Dhawura nguna, dhawura Ngunnawal.

Yanggu ngalawiri, dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari.

Nginggada Dindi dhawura Ngunnaawalbun yindjumaralidjinyin.

This is Ngunnawal Country.

Today we are gathering on Ngunnawal country.

We always pay respect to Elders, female and male, and Ngunnawal country.

The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

- 2 **HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 4—
INQUIRY INTO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (NO 2)—REPORT NOTED**

Mr Davis (Chair), pursuant to order, presented the following report:

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee—Report 4—*Inquiry into the Public Health Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)*, dated 21 February 2022, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

3 PETITIONS AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSES—PETITIONS AND RESPONSES NOTED

Petitions

The Clerk announced that the following Members had lodged petitions for presentation:

Ms Clay, from 523 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to take certain action in relation to advertising in public spaces (e-Pet 35-21).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, this petition stands referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services.

Mr Rattenbury, from 190 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to extend the current Reid Oval fencing along Limestone Avenue (e-Pet 39-21).

Mr Braddock, from 57 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to supply free Rapid Antigen Tests to teachers at community language schools (e-Pet 3-22).

Ministerial responses

The Clerk announced that the following responses to petitions had been lodged:

Ms Berry (Minister for Sport and Recreation), dated 8 February 2022—Response to e-petition 42-21 and petition 47-21, lodged by Mrs Jones on 30 November 2021, concerning the provision of a grant to upgrade the Phillip Pool.

Ms Berry (Minister for Sport and Recreation), dated 8 February 2022—Response to e-petition No 23-21 and petition No 48-21, lodged by Ms Davidson on 30 November and 1 December 2021, respectively, concerning a multi-purpose indoor sports stadium in the Woden Town Centre.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Emergency Services), dated 8 February 2022—Response to petition No 45-21, lodged by Mrs Jones on 11 November 2021, concerning an increased police presence at the Coombs convenience store.

Ms Berry (Minister for Sport and Recreation), dated 24 February 2022—Response to e-petition No 46-21, lodged by Ms Clay on 2 December 2021, concerning investment in cricket infrastructure in eastern Belconnen.

Mr Steel (Minister for Transport and City Services), dated 24 February 2022—Response to e-petition No 30-21, lodged by Mrs Jones on 2 December 2021, concerning the construction of fully fenced playgrounds, incorporating the needs of children with autism, at Kambah and Throsby.

Ms Davidson (Minister for Mental Health), dated 28 February 2022—Response to e-petition No 34-21, lodged by Dr Paterson on 30 November 2021, concerning the ACT Eating Disorders Position Statement, including an update to the Position Statement.

The Speaker proposed—That the petitions and responses so lodged be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**4 CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)—A.C.T. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—UPDATE—
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED**

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) made a ministerial statement to update the Assembly on the ACT Government response to the COVID-19 emergency and presented the following papers:

Status of the Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19—Chief Health Officer Report 24—March 2022, dated 8 March 2022.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)—ACT Government response—Update—Ministerial statement, 22 March 2022.

Ms Stephen-Smith moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.
Question—put and passed.

**5 CBR SWITCHED ON: A.C.T.'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES 2022-2025—
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) made a ministerial statement concerning the ACT's economic development priorities for 2022 to 2025 and presented the following paper:

CBR Switched On: ACT's Economic Development Priorities 2022-2025—Ministerial statement, 22 March 2022.

Mr Barr moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.
Question—put and passed.

**6 WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE A.C.T.—ANNUAL STATEMENT ON THE STATUS 2022—
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED**

Ms Berry (Minister for Women) made a ministerial statement concerning the status of women and girls in the ACT and presented the following papers:

Women and Girls in the ACT—Annual Statement on the Status 2022—
Ministerial statement, 22 March 2022.

Annual Statement—March 2022.

Ms Berry moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

7 MENTAL HEALTH IN THE A.C.T.—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Davidson (Minister for Mental Health) made a ministerial statement concerning mental health in the ACT and presented the following paper:

Mental health in the ACT—Ministerial statement, 22 March 2022.

Ms Davidson moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.
Question—put and passed.

8 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE (LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY ROLE)—SCRUTINY REPORT 13—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Cain (Chair) presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Scrutiny Report 13, dated 15 March 2022, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the report.

9 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 4—INQUIRY INTO THE ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 2021—REPORT NOTED

Mr Cain (Chair) presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 4—*Inquiry into the Electoral Amendment Bill 2021*, dated 16 February 2022, including a dissenting report (Mr Braddock), together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

10 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 6—INQUIRY INTO THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (NO 2)—REPORT NOTED

Mrs Kikkert (Chair) presented the following report:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 6—*Inquiry into the Financial Management Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)*, dated 25 February 2022, together with a dissenting report (Mrs Kikkert) and a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

11 ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES 2022-2023—SELECT COMMITTEE—PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Ms Burch (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that, in order to fully evaluate whether examination of the 2022-2023 Budget should be undertaken by a select committee or by standing committees, the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure recommends that a select committee be established so that the Assembly could more easily consider both processes.

12 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—INQUIRY—FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Cain (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety had resolved to conduct an inquiry into, and report on, the Family Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

13 PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Ms Clay (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services.

Paper: Ms Clay, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper:

Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 July to 31 December 2021.

14 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—INQUIRY—AUDITOR-GENERAL REPORT NO 13/2021—CAMPBELL PRIMARY SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROJECT PROCUREMENT—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mrs Kikkert (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts had resolved to inquire further into, and report on, Auditor-General's Report No 13/2021—Campbell Primary School Modernisation Project Procurement.

15 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) informed the Assembly of the absence of Minister Rattenbury and advised the Assembly that questions without notice normally directed to the Attorney-General, the Minister for Consumer Affairs and the Minister for Gaming could be directed to Minister Cheyne and questions normally directed to the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction could be directed to Mr Barr.

16 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

17 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Braddock moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mr Rattenbury for today for health reasons.

Question—put and passed.

18 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Ms Lawder moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mr Milligan for the remainder of this sitting week for personal family reasons.

Question—put and passed.

19 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 17(5)—Auditor-General's Reports—

No 1/2022—Management of detainee mental health services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre, dated 2 March 2022.

No 2/2022—Fraud Prevention, dated 3 March 2022.

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to section 15—Annual report 2020-21—ACT Auditor-General's Report No 9/2021—Corrigendum.

ACT Audit Office—Progress report on the operations for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2021, dated 10 February 2022.

Bills referred to Committees, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended—Correspondence—

Bill—Inquiry—

Family Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 14 February 2022.

Bills—Not inquired into—

Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 17 February 2022.

Domestic Animals Legislation Amendment Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services, dated 17 March 2022.

Legislation (Legislative Assembly Committees) Amendment Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, dated 21 February 2022.

Standing order 191—Amendments to the Government Procurement Amendment Bill 2021, dated 14 and 16 February 2021.

20 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) presented the following papers:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to section 21—Auditor-General's reports—Government responses—

No 10/2021—2020-21 Financial Audits—Overview and No 12/2021—2020-21 Financial Audits—Financial Results and Audit Findings—Copy of letter to the Auditor-General from the Treasurer, dated 11 February 2022.

No 11/2021—Digital Records Management.

COVID-19 2021 Pandemic Response—Select Committee—Report—*Inquiry into the COVID-19 2021 pandemic response*—Government response.

Financial Management Act, pursuant to subsection 30F(3)—2021-22 Infrastructure Program—Progress report—Year-to-date 31 December 2021.

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee—Report 4—*Inquiry into the Public Health Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)*—Government response.

Subordinate legislation (including explanatory statements unless otherwise stated)

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64—

Court Procedures Act—Court Procedures (Fees) Determination 2022—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-1 (LR, 10 January 2022).

Crimes (Surveillance Devices) Act—

Crimes (Surveillance Devices) Amendment Regulation 2022 (No 1)—Subordinate Law SL2022-1 (LR, 27 January 2022).

Crimes (Surveillance Devices) Body-worn Cameras Guidelines 2022—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-9 (LR, 10 February 2022).

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Act and Financial Management Act—

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Governing Board Appointment 2022 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-6 (LR, 25 January 2022).

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Governing Board Appointment 2022 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-5 (LR, 25 January 2022).

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Governing Board Appointment 2022 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-4 (LR, 27 January 2022).

Nature Conservation Act—Nature Conservation (Scientific Committee) Appointment 2022 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-8 (LR, 10 February 2022).

Planning and Development Act—Planning and Development (Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds) Land Management Plan 2022—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-10 (LR, 10 February 2022).

Plastic Reduction Act—Plastic Reduction (Public Event) Declaration 2022 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-3 (LR, 24 January 2022).

Road Transport (General) Act—

Road Transport (General) (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Application Order 2022 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-2 (LR, 24 January 2022).

Road Transport (General) Application of Road Transport Legislation (Manuka Oval) Declaration 2022 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-11 (LR, 10 February 2022).

Road Transport (General) Application of Road Transport Legislation Declaration 2022 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2022-7 (LR, 31 January 2022).

21 HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 4—INQUIRY INTO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (NO 2)—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—PAPER NOTED

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business), pursuant to standing order 211, moved—That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee—Report 4—*Inquiry into the Public Health Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)*—Government response.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

22 DETACHED HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT is experiencing a housing crisis;
 - (b) demand for detached housing is significantly exceeding supply;
 - (c) recent land ballots for detached housing have had thousands of applicants vying for only a small number of blocks. For example, the most recent ballot for land in Whitlam had 12 417 applicants for 101 blocks;
 - (d) the ACT Government deliberately constrains the supply of land for detached housing;
 - (e) a report prepared for the ACT Government in 2015, known colloquially as the Winton Report, showed that Canberrans overwhelmingly have a preference for detached housing, a result that has been ignored by the Government;
 - (f) the ACT Government did not agree with recommendation 2(c) of the Auditor-General's Report No 4 of June 2020 on Residential Land Supply and Release, which recommended that the Government publish future projections for housing supply and demand;
 - (g) the ACT Government's land development targets are not based on projected market demand, forcing many Canberrans into apartments;
 - (h) according to the latest ABS data, Canberra's residential property prices grew 28.8 percent between December 2020 and December 2021;
 - (i) the ACT Government only plans to release 4171 blocks of land for detached housing over the next five years to 2025-26, and based on their past performance it is unlikely to deliver that amount;
 - (j) the ACT Land and Property Report for July to December 2021 has not yet been released, which means the Government's progress towards the target of 631 blocks this financial year is not publicly known;
 - (k) the ACT Government's conveyance duty concessions on multi-unit dwellings do not alleviate demand for detached housing; and
 - (l) while there are macroeconomic settings that affect the price of housing across Australia, the ACT Government controls the release of land;
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to acknowledge:
 - (a) there is a housing affordability crisis in Canberra;

- (b) the 70 percent infill strategy is leaving many Canberrans behind;
 - (c) the demand for detached housing in Canberra is significantly exceeding supply; and
 - (d) the ACT Government has a role to play in meeting the demand for detached housing in Canberra; and
- (3) also calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) use the policy levers it has available to ease the housing affordability crisis in Canberra by releasing more land for detached housing;
 - (b) commission a new housing choices survey similar to the Winton Report of 2015; and
 - (c) release ACT land and property reports within one month of the end of the relevant reporting period.

Ms Berry (Minister for Housing and Suburban Development) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes that:

- (a) house prices are rising nationally and internationally, and the ACT is affected by these increases alongside other jurisdictions in Australia and across the world;
- (b) the ACT Government is using the levers it has available to improve housing affordability, including:
 - (i) reducing stamp duty every Budget;
 - (ii) abolishing stamp duty on off the plan unit purchases up to \$600 000;
 - (iii) a land release program that supplies dwellings at above the rate of population growth;
 - (iv) the Home Buyer Concession Scheme;
 - (v) aiming to deliver 600 additional affordable dwellings by 2025-26 (along with an additional 400 public housing dwellings); and
 - (vi) the Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme;
- (c) the ACT Government’s Housing Choices Collaboration Hub brought together a diverse group of Canberrans to discuss the future of housing in Canberra, with the Collaboration Hub showing a preference for infill development, for a wider range of housing typologies at a range of different price points, with a focus on development that allows people to age-in-place;
- (d) preparing land for release is a considerable budget outlay for studies and infrastructure;
- (e) unchecked urban sprawl will destroy the bush landscape that surrounds Canberra, risking that we lose protected flora and fauna forever;

- (f) concentrating our development in our existing urban footprint improves sustainability and allows a more affordable lifestyle, close to shops, services and public transport;
 - (g) Canberra's population is growing while our household size is shrinking and ageing, meaning that we need to find suitable options to allow people to downsize in their preferred location;
 - (h) according to the latest ABS data, Canberra's residential property prices grew 28.8 percent between December 2020 and December 2021;
 - (i) building industry costs for materials and labour have significantly increased in recent months;
 - (j) the increased costs for building materials has made it challenging for local industry to deliver on some projects, and a large scale increase in building activity as a result of rapid land supply will likely create further affordability challenges;
 - (k) while housing remains affordable for most Canberrans, there are some that are struggling in the current housing market; and
 - (l) there are macroeconomic settings that affect the price of housing across Australia, and these settings that are within the control of the Commonwealth Government are the major driver of increasing land prices; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) call on the Commonwealth Government to address housing affordability using the economic levers available to it and waive the ACT's historic housing debt to the Commonwealth;
 - (b) continue to deliver land and housing options that provide diverse and affordable housing options to give Canberrans choices; and
 - (c) keep supporting environmentally sustainable development that offers the amenity and services Canberrans need and expect."

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 13		NOES, 6
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Cain
Mr Braddock	Ms Orr	Mr Hanson
Ms Burch	Mr Pettersson	Mrs Kikkert
Ms Cheyne	Mr Steel	Ms Lawder
Ms Clay	Ms Stephen-Smith	Ms Lee
Ms Davidson	Ms Vassarotti	Mr Parton
Mr Davis		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) house prices are rising nationally and internationally, and the ACT is affected by these increases alongside other jurisdictions in Australia and across the world;
 - (b) the ACT Government is using the levers it has available to improve housing affordability, including:
 - (i) reducing stamp duty every Budget;
 - (ii) abolishing stamp duty on off the plan unit purchases up to \$600 000;
 - (iii) a land release program that supplies dwellings at above the rate of population growth;
 - (iv) the Home Buyer Concession Scheme;
 - (v) aiming to deliver 600 additional affordable dwellings by 2025-26 (along with an additional 400 public housing dwellings); and
 - (vi) the Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme;
 - (c) the ACT Government’s Housing Choices Collaboration Hub brought together a diverse group of Canberrans to discuss the future of housing in Canberra, with the Collaboration Hub showing a preference for infill development, for a wider range of housing typologies at a range of different price points, with a focus on development that allows people to age-in-place;
 - (d) preparing land for release is a considerable budget outlay for studies and infrastructure;
 - (e) unchecked urban sprawl will destroy the bush landscape that surrounds Canberra, risking that we lose protected flora and fauna forever;
 - (f) concentrating our development in our existing urban footprint improves sustainability and allows a more affordable lifestyle, close to shops, services and public transport;
 - (g) Canberra’s population is growing while our household size is shrinking and ageing, meaning that we need to find suitable options to allow people to downsize in their preferred location;
 - (h) according to the latest ABS data, Canberra’s residential property prices grew 28.8 percent between December 2020 and December 2021;
 - (i) building industry costs for materials and labour have significantly increased in recent months;
 - (j) the increased costs for building materials has made it challenging for local industry to deliver on some projects, and a large scale increase in building activity as a result of rapid land supply will likely create further affordability challenges;

- (k) while housing remains affordable for most Canberrans, there are some that are struggling in the current housing market; and
 - (l) there are macroeconomic settings that affect the price of housing across Australia, and these settings that are within the control of the Commonwealth Government are the major driver of increasing land prices; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) call on the Commonwealth Government to address housing affordability using the economic levers available to it and waive the ACT's historic housing debt to the Commonwealth;
 - (b) continue to deliver land and housing options that provide diverse and affordable housing options to give Canberrans choices; and
 - (c) keep supporting environmentally sustainable development that offers the amenity and services Canberrans need and expect."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

23 CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR FOR BUSINESS

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

- (1) notes that:
- (a) the ACT Government is committed to taking action for climate change adaptation and resilience, including having transitioned to 100 percent renewable energy;
 - (b) the ACT Government has in place a range of robust programs to support households and businesses to lower their energy consumption, including through ACTSmart and the Climate Choices program;
 - (c) ACT Government business support for climate change action includes the community clubs program, business sustainability awards, a business recycling program, business rebates for energy and water efficiency upgrades, "Solar for business" program, a lighting efficiency web tool for businesses to check the efficiency of their lighting setup and the "Straws Suck" campaign;
 - (d) there are many organisations and stakeholder groups in the ACT undertaking important work to help individuals, households and businesses transition to renewable energy sources, lower their transport emissions and take other climate change activities;
 - (e) there are many online carbon footprint calculator tools, however:
 - (i) the vast majority of these are customised for household use; and
 - (ii) there is no clear, authoritative carbon calculator for businesses in the ACT (nor in any Australian jurisdiction or at the Federal level);

- (f) the effects of COVID have had a profound impact on our local businesses and the ACT Government has had in place a range of support measures;
 - (g) there is opportunity for continued assistance for local businesses by helping them reduce their running costs, through energy savings and other environmental initiatives; and
 - (h) a single, authoritative online portal and carbon calculator for ACT businesses, together with guidance to help businesses implement actions, would be a positive contribution and support for local businesses, while also contributing to positive environmental outcomes; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) as a founding member of the Net Zero Emissions Policy Forum, bring forward the development or adoption of a carbon footprint calculator for businesses as an item for the Forum to investigate, including consideration of:
 - (i) the potential for Forum members to collaborate in creating a calculator for businesses across member jurisdictions;
 - (ii) existing tools that could be adopted or adapted for use by businesses operating in the ACT;
 - (iii) providing a clear pathway and guidance to assist businesses to reduce and/or offset their carbon emissions; and
 - (iv) an accreditation scheme, rewards and incentives, promotional opportunities, and/or gamification for commitment to business carbon reduction goals; and
 - (b) report back during the November 2022 Legislative Assembly sittings.

Debate ensued.

Ms Lee (Leader of the Opposition) moved the following amendment: Omit paragraph (1)(a), substitute:

- “(a) the ACT Legislative Assembly has tripartisan commitment for climate action and taking necessary future steps to achieving net zero emissions by 2045;
- (ab) the costs and benefits associated with businesses reducing their carbon emissions;”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT Legislative Assembly has tripartisan commitment for climate action and taking necessary future steps to achieving net zero emissions by 2045;

- (b) the costs and benefits associated with businesses reducing their carbon emissions;
 - (c) the ACT Government has in place a range of robust programs to support households and businesses to lower their energy consumption, including through ACTSmart and the Climate Choices program;
 - (d) ACT Government business support for climate change action includes the community clubs program, business sustainability awards, a business recycling program, business rebates for energy and water efficiency upgrades, “Solar for business” program, a lighting efficiency web tool for businesses to check the efficiency of their lighting setup and the “Straws Suck” campaign;
 - (e) there are many organisations and stakeholder groups in the ACT undertaking important work to help individuals, households and businesses transition to renewable energy sources, lower their transport emissions and take other climate change activities;
 - (f) there are many online carbon footprint calculator tools, however:
 - (i) the vast majority of these are customised for household use; and
 - (ii) there is no clear, authoritative carbon calculator for businesses in the ACT (nor in any Australian jurisdiction or at the Federal level);
 - (g) the effects of COVID have had a profound impact on our local businesses and the ACT Government has had in place a range of support measures;
 - (h) there is opportunity for continued assistance for local businesses by helping them reduce their running costs, through energy savings and other environmental initiatives; and
 - (i) a single, authoritative online portal and carbon calculator for ACT businesses, together with guidance to help businesses implement actions, would be a positive contribution and support for local businesses, while also contributing to positive environmental outcomes; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) as a founding member of the Net Zero Emissions Policy Forum, bring forward the development or adoption of a carbon footprint calculator for businesses as an item for the Forum to investigate, including consideration of:
 - (i) the potential for Forum members to collaborate in creating a calculator for businesses across member jurisdictions;
 - (ii) existing tools that could be adopted or adapted for use by businesses operating in the ACT;
 - (iii) providing a clear pathway and guidance to assist businesses to reduce and/or offset their carbon emissions; and

- (iv) an accreditation scheme, rewards and incentives, promotional opportunities, and/or gamification for commitment to business carbon reduction goals; and

(b) report back during the November 2022 Legislative Assembly sittings.” —
be agreed to—put and passed.

24 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 5.22 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mrs Jones* and Mr Rattenbury*.

*on leave

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly