



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021–2022–2023

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 92

TUESDAY, 29 AUGUST 2023

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- 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 DEATH OF THE HONOURABLE SIMON CREAN

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) moved—That this Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of the Honourable Simon Crean, former federal Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Labor Leader and Minister of a diverse range of portfolios, and tenders its profound sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues in their bereavement.

Ms Lee (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Rattenbury (Leader of the ACT Greens) and Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) addressed the Assembly in support of the motion and all Members present having stood, in silence—

Question—passed.

**3 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 18—INQUIRY INTO JUSTICE (AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023—REPORT NOTED**

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

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 18—*Inquiry into Justice (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*, dated 13 July 2023, including additional comments (*Mr Braddock*) and a dissenting report (*Mr Cain*), 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.

**4 ESTIMATES 2023-2024—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—INQUIRY INTO APPROPRIATION BILL 2023-2024 AND APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2023-2024—REPORT NOTED**

Mr Parton (former Chair), by leave, pursuant to order, presented the following report:

Estimates 2023-2024—Select Committee—Report—*Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024*, dated 18 August 2023, including additional comments (*Ms Clay*), together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings and a schedule of unanswered questions—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**5 PETITIONS AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSES—PETITIONS AND RESPONSES NOTED**

**Petitions**

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

Dr Paterson, from 2108 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to undertake a number of activities to manage the impact of Indian Myna birds on the environment and the public (e-Pet 017-23).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, this petition stands referred to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Ms Vassarotti, from 1134 residents, requesting that the Assembly take action to preserve public urban green open spaces especially around schools through legislative protection and oversight (e-Pet 004-23).

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

Ms Davidson, from 96 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to provide a school bus from Hughes to Lyons Early Childhood School (e-Pet 014-23).

Mr Cocks, from 62 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to invest in a multipurpose arts facility in the Woden Town Centre and consider the option to include a multipurpose centre at the proposed CIT site (e-Pet 005-23).

### **Ministerial responses**

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

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Emergency Services), dated 7 August 2023—Response to e-petition No 006-23, lodged by Mr Pettersson on 9 May 2023, concerning police resourcing for Gungahlin.

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for the Environment), dated 10 August 2023—Response to e-petition No 010-23, lodged by Ms Lawder on 9 May 2023, concerning a review of the kangaroo culling program.

Mr Steel (Minister for Transport and City Services), dated 13 July 2023—Response to e-petition No 007-23, lodged by Mr Pettersson on 9 May 2023, concerning traffic management for the Grove Retirement Village.

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

*Paper:* Ms Davidson, by leave, presented the following paper:

Petition which does not conform with the standing orders—Lyons Early Childhood School and Hughes Primary School—School bus—Ms Davidson (497 signatures).

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

## **6 PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE—LYONS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL AND HUGHES PRIMARY SCHOOL—SCHOOL BUS—PETITION**

Ms Davidson, pursuant to standing order 99, moved—That the petition and the out-of-order petition just tabled relating to transport for families split between Hughes and Lyons schools be referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services.

Question—put and passed.

## **7 BOARD OF INQUIRY REPORT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) made a ministerial statement concerning the report of the Board of Inquiry into the Criminal Justice System and presented the following papers:

Australian Capital Territory Board of Inquiry—Criminal Justice System—Final report—Report prepared by Walter Sofronoff KC, dated 31 July 2023.

Interim Government response, dated 7 August 2023.

Board of Inquiry Report—Ministerial statement, 29 August 2023.

Mr Barr moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question—put and passed.

**8 BOARD OF INQUIRY INTO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM—REPORT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Rattenbury (Attorney-General) made a ministerial statement concerning the report of the Board of Inquiry into the Criminal Justice System and presented the following papers:

Board of Inquiry—Criminal Justice System—Final report—Copy of letter to ACT Attorney-General from NSW Director of Public Prosecutions, dated 14 August 2023.

Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Criminal Justice System—Ministerial statement, 29 August 2023.

Mr Rattenbury moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question—put and passed.

**9 SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM—2023—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED**

Ms Berry (Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) made a ministerial statement concerning the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program 2023 and presented the following papers:

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program—

Annual Statement—2023, dated August 2023.

Ministerial statement, 29 August 2023.

Ms Berry moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question—put and passed.

**10 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE (LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY ROLE)—SCRUTINY REPORT 32—STATEMENT BY CHAIR**

Mr Cain (Chair) presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Scrutiny Report 32, dated 22 August 2023, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

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

**11 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 17—INQUIRY INTO SUPREME COURT AMENDMENT BILL 2023—REPORT NOTED**

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

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 17—*Inquiry into Supreme Court Amendment Bill 2023*, dated 6 July 2023, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

**12 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 19—INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND ROAD SAFETY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023—REPORT NOTED**

Mr Cain (Chair) presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 19—*Inquiry into Electoral and Road Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*, dated 24 August 2023, including additional comments (*Mr Braddock*), together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

**13 ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER**

Ms Castley (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality.

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

Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2023.

**14 EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER**

Mr Pettersson (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion.

*Paper:* Mr Pettersson, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper:

Education and Community Inclusion—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2023.

**15 ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER**

Dr Paterson (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity.

*Paper:* Dr Paterson, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper:

Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2023.

**16 HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER**

Mr Davis (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing.

*Paper:* Mr Davis, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper: Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2023.

**17 HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING—STANDING COMMITTEE—CALVARY PUBLIC HOSPITAL BRUCE—TRANSITION TO CANBERRA HEALTH SERVICES—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER**

Mr Davis (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing had received briefings from the Minister of Health and officials from ACT Health and Canberra Health Services concerning the progress of the transition of Calvary Public Hospital Bruce to Canberra Health Services.

*Paper:* Mr Davis, by leave, presented the following paper:

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee—Calvary briefings by Minister for Health—Communique, dated 14 July 2023.

**18 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER**

Mr Cain (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety.

*Paper:* Mr Cain, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper: Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2023.

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

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 January to 30 June 2023.

**20 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER**

Mrs Kikkert (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

*Paper:* Mrs Kikkert, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2023.

## **21 VICTIMS OF CRIME AMENDMENT BILL 2023**

Ms Cheyne (Minister for Human Rights), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Victims of Crime Act 1994*.

*Paper:* Ms Cheyne presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Cheyne moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Cain) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## **22 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AMENDMENT BILL 2023**

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Families and Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Children and Young People Act 2008*, and for other purposes.

*Paper:* Ms Stephen-Smith presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Stephen-Smith moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mrs Kikkert) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## **23 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

## **24 PAPER**

Ms Berry (Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) presented the following paper:

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program—Annual Statement—2003, dated August 2023.

## **25 ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE—ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF 1 JUNE 2023—PAPERS**

Ms Clay, pursuant to Assembly resolution of 1 June 2023, presented the following papers:

Active travel infrastructure—Assembly resolution of 1 June 2023—

Copy of letter to Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP, Federal Member for Ryan from Jo Clay MLA, Member for Ginninderra, dated 13 June 2023.

Copy of letter responding to Jo Clay MLA, Member for Ginninderra from Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP, Federal Member for Ryan, dated 17 July 2023.

## **26 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

The Speaker presented the following papers:

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

No 4/2023—Procurement of a hybrid electric fire truck, dated 30 June 2023.

No 5/2023—Activities of the Government Procurement Board, dated 20 July 2023.

No 6/2023—Implementation of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement, dated 10 August 2023.

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

Bills—Inquiry—Electoral and Road Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2023—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 4 July 2023.

Bills—Not inquired into—

Bail Amendment Bill 2023—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 4 July 2023.

Courts Legislation Amendment Bill 2023—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 4 July 2023.

Planning (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2023—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services, dated 6 July 2023.

Canberra Institute of Technology—Consultancy contracts—Assembly resolution of 7 June 2022—Auditor-General's response—Copy of letter to the Speaker from ACT Auditor-General, dated 20 July 2023.

Commissioner for Standards, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5AA of the Assembly of 31 October 2013, as amended—Annual report—2022/2023, dated 2 July 2023.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act, pursuant to subsection 21(2)—Can Canberra 'Burn Right Tonight' or is there 'no safe level of air pollution'?—An investigation into wood heater policy in the ACT—Government response, dated August 2023.

Estimates 2023-2024—Select Committee—Report—Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024—Speaker's response to recommendation 117, dated 29 August 2023.

Ethics and Integrity Adviser for Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 6A of the Assembly of 10 April 2008, as amended—Annual Report—2022-2023, dated 5 July 2023.

Standing order 191—Amendments—

Financial Management Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2), dated 5, 6 and 7 July 2023.



Gaming Machine (Club Refuge) Amendment Bill 2022, dated 5, 6 and 7 July 2023.

Motor Accident Injuries Amendment Bill 2023, dated 5, 6 and 7 July 2023.

Transport Canberra and City Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, dated 5, 6 and 7 July 2023.

Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2022, dated 5, 6 and 7 July 2023.

## **27 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

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

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 21(2)—Auditor-General's Report No 1/2023—Construction Occupations Licensing—Government response, dated July 2023.

Budget 2023-2024—Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 10—Budget Statements—

A—ACT Electoral Commission | ACT Executive | ACT Integrity Commission | Auditor-General | Office of the Legislative Assembly—Corrigendum to ACT Executive and ACT Integrity Commission, dated 29 August 2023.

B—Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, together with associated agencies—Corrigendum to Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, dated 29 August 2023.

H—Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | Transport Canberra Operations | Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority—Corrigendum, dated 29 August 2023.

Coroners Act, pursuant to subsection 57(4)—Report of Coroner—Inquest into the death of Maarouf El-Cheikh—

Report, dated 30 January 2023.

Government response, dated August 2023, together with a statement.

Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee—Report 7—Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022—Government response, dated July 2023.

Education and Community Inclusion—Standing Committee—Report 8—Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022—Government response, dated July 2023.

Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity—Standing Committee—Report 7—Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-22—Government response, dated July 2023.

Estimates 2023-2024—Select Committee—Report—Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024—Government response, dated August 2023.

Financial Management Act—

Pursuant to section 26—Consolidated Financial Report—Financial quarter ending 30 June 2023.

Pursuant to subsection 30F(3)—2022-23 Capital Works Program—Progress Report—Year-to-date performance as at 30 June 2023.

Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to section 39—Copies of notices provided to the Ombudsman—Freedom of Information requests—Decisions not made in time—Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate—

FOI 23/024795, dated 18 July 2023.

FOI 23/042240, dated 1 August 2023.

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee—

Report 9—Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-22—Government response, dated July 2023.

Report 10—Inquiry into Abortion and Reproductive Choice in the ACT—Government response, dated July 2023, together with a statement.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 16—Inquiry into Dangerous Driving—Government response, dated August 2023.

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 242(2)—Statement of Leases Granted for the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—

Report 13—Inquiry into Giralang Shops—Final Report—Government response, dated August 2023.

Report 14—Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-22—Government response, dated July 2023.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 17—Inquiry into grants management—Government response, dated August 2023.

**Subordinate legislation (including explanatory statements unless otherwise stated)**

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64—

Agents Act—Agents (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-195 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Architects Act—Architects (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-127 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Associations Incorporation Act—Associations Incorporation (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-180 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act, Emergencies Act, Road Transport (General) Act and Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act—Emergencies, Road Transport (General), Waste Management and Resource Recovery (Embassy and Diplomatic Residence Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-159 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act—Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-147 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Building Act—Building (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-123 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Canberra Institute of Technology Act and Financial Management Act—

Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-137 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-145 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-146 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 4)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-148 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 5)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-149 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Casino Control Act—Casino Control (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-181 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Cemeteries and Crematoria Act—Cemeteries and Crematoria (Fees) Determination 2023 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-158 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Children and Young People Act—Children and Young People (Kinship and Foster Carers Risk Assessment) Guidelines 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-202 (LR, 20 July 2023).

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act—

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (Agency Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-131 (LR, 22 June 2023).

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (Agency Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-132 (LR, 22 June 2023).

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (Agency Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 4)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-133 (LR, 22 June 2023).

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (Authority Board Chair) Appointment 2023 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-134 (LR, 22 June 2023).

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (Authority Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-135 (LR, 22 June 2023).

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (Authority Board Member) Appointment 2023 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-136 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement) Act—Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement) (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-182 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Community Title Act—Community Title (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-138 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act—Construction Occupations (Licensing) (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-126 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Co-operatives National Law (ACT) Act—Co-operatives National Law (ACT) (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-183 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Court Procedures Act—

Court Procedures (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-176 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Court Procedures Amendment Rules 2023 (No 1)—Subordinate Law SL2023-15 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Duties Act—Duties (Pensioner Duty Deferral Scheme) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-167 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Duties Act, Land Rent Act, Land Tax Act and Rates Act—Rates, Land Tax, Land Rent and Duties (Certificate and Statement Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-171 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Electricity Safety Act—Electricity Safety (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-124 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Emergencies Act—Emergencies (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-196 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act—

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Energy Savings Contribution) Determination 2023, including a regulatory impact statement—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-155 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Energy Savings Target) Determination 2023, including a regulatory impact statement—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-154 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Penalties for noncompliance) Determination 2023, including a regulatory impact statement—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-156 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Priority Household Target) Determination 2023, including a regulatory impact statement—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-157 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Environment Protection Act—Environment Protection (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-125 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Firearms Act—Firearms (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-197 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Fisheries Act—Fisheries (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-129 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Gaming Machine Act—Gaming Machine (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-184 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Gas Safety Act—Gas Safety (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-122 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Guardianship and Management of Property Act—Guardianship and Management of Property (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-177 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Health Act—Health (Fees) Determination 2023 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-150 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Health Infrastructure Enabling Act—Health Infrastructure Enabling Amendment Regulation 2023 (No 1)—Subordinate Law SL2023-14 (LR, 28 June 2023).

Heritage Act—Heritage (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-121 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Juries Act—Juries (Payment) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-175 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Land Titles Act—Land Titles (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-185 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Act—

Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Members' Salary Cap Determination 2023 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-173 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Speaker's Salary Cap Determination 2023 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-174 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Liquor Act—Liquor (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-186 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Act—Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Building and Construction Industry Levy Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-151 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Lotteries Act—Lotteries (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-187 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Nature Conservation Act—Nature Conservation (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-120 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Partnership Act—Partnership (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-188 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Planning and Development Act—

Planning and Development (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-139 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Planning and Development (Lease Variation Charges) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-172 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Public Place Names Act—Public Place Names (Narrabundah) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-152 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Public Trustee and Guardian Act—Public Trustee and Guardian (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-178 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Race and Sports Bookmaking Act—Race and Sports Bookmaking (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-130 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Rates Act—Rates (Objections Period) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-161 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Rates Act and Taxation Administration Act—Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Rates) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-160 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Registration of Deeds Act—Registration of Deeds (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-189 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Retirement Villages Act—Retirement Villages (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-190 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Road Transport (General) Act—

Road Transport (General) Application of Road Transport Legislation Declaration 2023 (No 6)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-201 (LR, 13 July 2023).

Road Transport (Offences) Amendment Regulation 2023 (No 1)—Subordinate Law SL2023-12 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Security Industry Act—Security Industry (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-192 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Sex Work Act—Sex Work (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-193 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Stock Act—

Stock (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-140 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Stock (Levy) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-141 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Stock (Minimum Stock Levy) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-143 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Surveyors Act—

Surveyors (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-142 (LR, 26 June 2023).

Surveyors (Surveyor-General) Practice Directions 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-112 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Taxation Administration Act—

Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Disability Duty Concession Scheme) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-166 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Duty) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-162 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Home Buyer Concession Scheme) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-163 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Land Rent) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-170 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Land Tax) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-168 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-165 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Taxation Administration (Betting Operations Tax—Rate) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-169 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Taxation Administration (Off the Plan Unit Duty Exemption Scheme) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-164 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Traders (Licensing) Act—Traders (Licensing) (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-191 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Unit Titles (Management) Act—Unit Titles (Management) (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-179 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Unit Titles Act—Unit Titles (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-144 (LR, 26 June 2023).

University of Canberra Act—

University of Canberra Council Appointment 2023 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-198 (LR, 3 July 2023).

University of Canberra Council Appointment 2023 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-199 (LR, 3 July 2023).

University of Canberra Council Appointment 2023 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-200 (LR, 6 July 2023).

Unlawful Gambling Act—Unlawful Gambling (Charitable Gaming Application Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-194 (LR, 30 June 2023).

Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance) Act—Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance) Amendment Regulation 2023 (No 1)—Subordinate Law SL2023-13 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Victims of Crime Regulation 2000—Victims of Crime (Fees) Determination 2023 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-153 (LR, 29 June 2023).

Water and Sewerage Act—Water and Sewerage (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-119 (LR, 22 June 2023).

Water Resources Act—Water Resources (Fees) Determination 2023—Disallowable Instrument DI2023-128 (LR, 22 June 2023).

**28 ESTIMATES 2023-2024—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—INQUIRY INTO APPROPRIATION BILL 2023-2024 AND APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2023-2024—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:

Estimates 2023-2024—Select Committee—Report—*Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024*—Government response.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**29 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 16—INQUIRY INTO DANGEROUS DRIVING—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:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 16—Inquiry into Dangerous Driving—Government response.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**30 PAYROLL TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2023**

Ms Lee (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Payroll Tax Act 2011*.

*Paper:* Ms Lee presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Lee moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Barr—Treasurer) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**31 GUNGAHLIN—CINEMA DEVELOPMENT**

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

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) the ACT Government retains its longstanding commitment to expanding entertainment options in Gungahlin, including the delivery of a cinema;
  - (b) in 2012, the ACT Government selected the site on the corner of Efkarpidis Street and Hinder Street for a cinema development;
  - (c) a competitive tender process was undertaken in 2013 and the site was released to Gungahlin Lifestyle Pty Ltd (the purchaser), with the Deed of Agreement with the Territory requiring that the site be developed to include a cinema;
  - (d) following a range of the delays on the part of the successful tenderer, the project was given approval in 2017, however, construction was further delayed due to legal action between two competing cinema operators;
  - (e) on 7 April 2020, the ACT Planning and Land Authority (the Authority) approved DA201936502 for a two-storey building with ground level commercial space, an upper-level cinema and approximately 117 car parking spaces at the site;
  - (f) this planning approval required Krnc Group (the developer) to commence building works by 8 April 2023;
  - (g) on 1 May 2023, the Authority wrote to the developer stating that DA201936502 had lapsed as the agreed works had not commenced;



- (h) on 8 June 2023, the Authority again wrote to the developer regarding the status of DA201936502, and restated the requirements of the Act; and
  - (i) to date, the Authority has not had a response from the developer or received evidence of commencement;
- (2) acknowledges the:
- (a) efforts made by the Authority to positively engage with the developer to assist the development to progress; and
  - (b) the strong frustrations of the Gungahlin community which has waited over a decade for a cinema to make Gungahlin its home; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) urgently explore options to facilitate the development of the cinema, noting that the current developer is failing to fulfill their obligations under the Deed and commitments as part of DA201936502;
  - (b) explore ways to secure development for the site that will include cinema works as soon as possible; and
  - (c) reassure the Gungahlin community that its commitment to deliver a cinema is genuine, despite the inactivity and unresponsiveness of the current developer.

Debate ensued.

Ms Castley moved the following amendment: Add new paragraph after (3)(c):

“(d) report to the Assembly by the last sitting week in 2023 with all considerations from the Government for (3)(a), (b) and (c).”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
- (a) the ACT Government retains its longstanding commitment to expanding entertainment options in Gungahlin, including the delivery of a cinema;
  - (b) in 2012, the ACT Government selected the site on the corner of Efkarpidis Street and Hinder Street for a cinema development;
  - (c) a competitive tender process was undertaken in 2013 and the site was released to Gungahlin Lifestyle Pty Ltd (the purchaser), with the Deed of Agreement with the Territory requiring that the site be developed to include a cinema;
  - (d) following a range of the delays on the part of the successful tenderer, the project was given approval in 2017, however, construction was further delayed due to legal action between two competing cinema operators;

- (e) on 7 April 2020, the ACT Planning and Land Authority (the Authority) approved DA201936502 for a two-storey building with ground level commercial space, an upper-level cinema and approximately 117 car parking spaces at the site;
  - (f) this planning approval required Krnc Group (the developer) to commence building works by 8 April 2023;
  - (g) on 1 May 2023, the Authority wrote to the developer stating that DA201936502 had lapsed as the agreed works had not commenced;
  - (h) on 8 June 2023, the Authority again wrote to the developer regarding the status of DA201936502, and restated the requirements of the Act; and
  - (i) to date, the Authority has not had a response from the developer or received evidence of commencement;
- (2) acknowledges the:
- (a) efforts made by the Authority to positively engage with the developer to assist the development to progress; and
  - (b) the strong frustrations of the Gungahlin community which has waited over a decade for a cinema to make Gungahlin its home; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) urgently explore options to facilitate the development of the cinema, noting that the current developer is failing to fulfill their obligations under the Deed and commitments as part of DA201936502;
  - (b) explore ways to secure development for the site that will include cinema works as soon as possible;
  - (c) reassure the Gungahlin community that its commitment to deliver a cinema is genuine, despite the inactivity and unresponsiveness of the current developer; and
  - (d) report to the Assembly by the last sitting week in 2023 with all considerations from the Government for (3)(a), (b) and (c).”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## **32 COST OF LIVING—ECONOMIC POLICY IMPACTS**

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

- (1) notes that:
- (a) Canberrans are facing a cost of living crisis, with living costs in the ACT reaching their highest levels in 20 years;
  - (b) over the past five years, Canberrans have experienced significant price increases for essential goods and services, with more increases to essential healthcare to come under the ACT Labor-Greens Government;
  - (c) mortgage interest charges having increased by over 91 percent in the last year; and

- (d) the ACT Labor-Greens Government is increasing the tax burden on ACT taxpayers by collecting over \$7 billion in tax from Canberrans over the last three years, an increase of nearly \$2 billion from the previous three years;
- (2) further notes that at a time when Canberrans are facing a cost of living crisis, the ACT Labor-Greens Government:
  - (a) has wasted over \$76 million and counting on the abandoned HRIMS system;
  - (b) has wasted over \$10 million on the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) contracts debacle;
  - (c) continues to pay the salary of two chief executive officers for CIT at a cost of over \$600,000 per year;
  - (d) continues to slug taxpayers \$2,000 a day to pay the salary of the outgoing Director of Public Prosecutions;
  - (e) has presided over a close to \$200 million cost blowout for the Canberra Hospital expansion project;
  - (f) mismanaged the Acton Waterfront project at a cost of \$33 million to ACT taxpayers;
  - (g) is spending over \$1.5 million on the rebranding of Canberra Health Services; and
  - (h) continues to waste \$400 million on interest payments on their skyrocketing debt; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Labor-Greens Government to acknowledge that their economic policies are contributing to the cost of living crisis and to apologise to Canberrans for wasting their money.

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) the prices of many essential products have increased across Australia in the last two years, and households are needing to spend more to maintain their relative standard of living;
  - (b) the ACT’s inflation rate increased by 6.2 percent from March 2022 to March 2023, compared to 7.0 nationally, which is higher than the five-year ACT average annual increase of 3.4 percent;
  - (c) per capita taxation as a proportion of gross household disposable income in the ACT was 5.9 percent in 2021-2022, compared with 9.6 percent in New South Wales and 10.7 percent in Victoria. Overall, Government taxes, fees and charges are a relatively small proportion of household costs in the ACT;
  - (d) while Canberrans generally enjoy a high standard of living, there are some households in our community who are struggling, with inflation and interest rates continuing to place pressure on household budgets; and

- (e) increases to the cost of living, in particular residential costs, disproportionately affect vulnerable households as a greater proportion of their income is required to meet these costs;
- (2) acknowledges that:
- (a) on 9 February 2023, the Legislative Assembly resolved to establish a Select Committee to inquire into cost-of-living pressures in the ACT, which delivered its report in May 2023; and
  - (b) on 11 May 2023, the Committee tabled its report in the Assembly. The report made 52 recommendations to address the cost-of-living pressures, which informed some of the cost-of-living measures funded in the 2023-2024 ACT Budget;
- (3) notes that in the 2023-2024 ACT Budget, tabled on 27 June 2023, the Government introduced new initiatives, and expanded existing ones, to reduce some of the cost-of-living pressures faced by the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our community, including through:
- (a) energy and water bill relief:
    - (i) extending the utilities concession to Commonwealth Health Care Card holders, benefitting around 12,000 additional low-income and low-wealth households, taking the total number of eligible households to around 43,800;
    - (ii) extending the one-off increase to the utilities concession for a further year – meaning the total rebate in 2023-2024 is \$800; and
    - (iii) partnering with the Commonwealth Government to provide energy bill relief to Canberrans. Eligible low-income households with an average electricity consumption will receive around \$327 in additional energy assistance in 2023-2024;
  - (b) housing affordability measures, in recognition that housing costs are the largest expenditure faced by households in the ACT and Australia, including:
    - (i) creation of a \$60 million Affordable Housing Fund – the first of its kind in the ACT – to significantly grow the number of long-term affordable rental homes;
    - (ii) investing \$233 million in public housing growth, repairs and renewal;
    - (iii) providing \$11 million to support further land release, alongside continued planning reform to enable the private market to deliver as much new housing as possible;
    - (iv) funding for a second large-scale Build-to-Rent project in Gungahlin, following the release of land in Turner for a pilot Build-to-Rent Project – with both projects including an affordable rental component;
    - (v) a one-off \$250 booster payment to households on the priority housing wait list; and

- (vi) establishing and extending a Rental Relief Fund for people facing immediate difficulty in meeting rental payments; and
- (c) other concessions, such as:
  - (i) the Pensioner General Rates and PFESL Rebate, providing around 15,300 households a rebate of up to \$750 per year for general rates and \$98 PFESL rebate per year;
  - (ii) the Conveyance duty concessions – providing 4,800 eligible home buyers up to 100 percent discount on conveyance duty;
  - (iii) spectacle subsidy scheme providing around 10,600 Canberrans with a subsidy of up to \$200 for spectacles;
  - (iv) motor vehicle registration concessions providing 63,900 ACT drivers with up to a 100 percent discount on motor vehicle registration fees;
  - (v) driver licence concessions providing around 6,000 ACT drivers with up to a 100 percent discount on driver licence fees; and
  - (vi) public transport concessions providing reduced or free fares on Transport Canberra bus and light rail services for over 5.9 million trips;
- (4) finally notes that the Commonwealth Government has introduced a number of cost-of-living measures, in partnership with the Territory, or on their own, including:
  - (a) cheaper child-care, with Child Care Subsidy rates up to 90 percent for eligible families;
  - (b) new Paid Parental Leave Scheme, meaning around 180,000 families will be able to receive the payment for up to 20 weeks, and increasing to up to 26 weeks by 2026;
  - (c) cheaper medicines through 60-day dispensing;
  - (d) bulk billing incentives for the most common GP consultations for children under 16 years, pensioners, and other Commonwealth concession card holders;
  - (e) energy rebates with up to \$3 billion of direct bill relief for vulnerable households and small businesses;
  - (f) expanding eligibility for the Single Parenting Payment meaning that around 57,000 eligible single parents will receive an extra \$176.90 per fortnight;
  - (g) increasing the rate for JobSeeker, Austudy and Youth Allowance payments; and
  - (h) providing the largest increase to Commonwealth Rent Assistance in over 30 years, increasing the maximum rates by 15 percent for eligible recipients; and

- (5) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) monitor the reach and effectiveness of its awareness raising campaign to help all eligible Canberrans easily access the concessions and supports they are entitled to, to ease cost of living pressures; and
  - (b) respond to the Select Committee into Cost of Living in the ACT's Final Report on or before 11 September 2023."

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 16		NOES, 9
Mr Barr	Ms Orr	Mr Cain
Ms Berry	Dr Paterson	Ms Castley
Mr Braddock	Mr Pettersson	Mr Cocks
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson
Ms Cheyne	Mr Steel	Mrs Kikkert
Ms Clay	Ms Stephen-Smith	Ms Lawder
Ms Davidson	Ms Vassarotti	Ms Lee
Mr Davis		Mr Milligan
Mr Gentleman		Mr Parton

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

"That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
- (a) the prices of many essential products have increased across Australia in the last two years, and households are needing to spend more to maintain their relative standard of living;
  - (b) the ACT's inflation rate increased by 6.2 percent from March 2022 to March 2023, compared to 7.0 nationally, which is higher than the five-year ACT average annual increase of 3.4 percent;
  - (c) per capita taxation as a proportion of gross household disposable income in the ACT was 5.9 percent in 2021-2022, compared with 9.6 percent in New South Wales and 10.7 percent in Victoria. Overall, Government taxes, fees and charges are a relatively small proportion of household costs in the ACT;
  - (d) while Canberrans generally enjoy a high standard of living, there are some households in our community who are struggling, with inflation and interest rates continuing to place pressure on household budgets; and
  - (e) increases to the cost of living, in particular residential costs, disproportionately affect vulnerable households as a greater proportion of their income is required to meet these costs;

- (2) acknowledges that:
- (a) on 9 February 2023, the Legislative Assembly resolved to establish a Select Committee to inquire into cost-of-living pressures in the ACT, which delivered its report in May 2023; and
  - (b) on 11 May 2023, the Committee tabled its report in the Assembly. The report made 52 recommendations to address the cost-of-living pressures, which informed some of the cost-of-living measures funded in the 2023-2024 ACT Budget;
- (3) notes that in the 2023-2024 ACT Budget, tabled on 27 June 2023, the Government introduced new initiatives, and expanded existing ones, to reduce some of the cost-of-living pressures faced by the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our community, including through:
- (a) energy and water bill relief:
    - (i) extending the utilities concession to Commonwealth Health Care Card holders, benefitting around 12,000 additional low-income and low-wealth households, taking the total number of eligible households to around 43,800;
    - (ii) extending the one-off increase to the utilities concession for a further year – meaning the total rebate in 2023-2024 is \$800; and
    - (iii) partnering with the Commonwealth Government to provide energy bill relief to Canberrans. Eligible low-income households with an average electricity consumption will receive around \$327 in additional energy assistance in 2023-2024;
  - (b) housing affordability measures, in recognition that housing costs are the largest expenditure faced by households in the ACT and Australia, including:
    - (i) creation of a \$60 million Affordable Housing Fund – the first of its kind in the ACT – to significantly grow the number of long-term affordable rental homes;
    - (ii) investing \$233 million in public housing growth, repairs and renewal;
    - (iii) providing \$11 million to support further land release, alongside continued planning reform to enable the private market to deliver as much new housing as possible;
    - (iv) funding for a second large-scale Build-to-Rent project in Gungahlin, following the release of land in Turner for a pilot Build-to-Rent Project – with both projects including an affordable rental component;
    - (v) a one-off \$250 booster payment to households on the priority housing wait list; and
    - (vi) establishing and extending a Rental Relief Fund for people facing immediate difficulty in meeting rental payments; and

- (c) other concessions, such as:
  - (i) the Pensioner General Rates and PFESL Rebate, providing around 15,300 households a rebate of up to \$750 per year for general rates and \$98 PFESL rebate per year;
  - (ii) the Conveyance duty concessions – providing 4,800 eligible home buyers up to 100 percent discount on conveyance duty;
  - (iii) spectacle subsidy scheme providing around 10,600 Canberrans with a subsidy of up to \$200 for spectacles;
  - (iv) motor vehicle registration concessions providing 63,900 ACT drivers with up to a 100 percent discount on motor vehicle registration fees;
  - (v) driver licence concessions providing around 6,000 ACT drivers with up to a 100 percent discount on driver licence fees; and
  - (vi) public transport concessions providing reduced or free fares on Transport Canberra bus and light rail services for over 5.9 million trips;
- (4) finally notes that the Commonwealth Government has introduced a number of cost-of-living measures, in partnership with the Territory, or on their own, including:
  - (a) cheaper child-care, with Child Care Subsidy rates up to 90 percent for eligible families;
  - (b) new Paid Parental Leave Scheme, meaning around 180,000 families will be able to receive the payment for up to 20 weeks, and increasing to up to 26 weeks by 2026;
  - (c) cheaper medicines through 60-day dispensing;
  - (d) bulk billing incentives for the most common GP consultations for children under 16 years, pensioners, and other Commonwealth concession card holders;
  - (e) energy rebates with up to \$3 billion of direct bill relief for vulnerable households and small businesses;
  - (f) expanding eligibility for the Single Parenting Payment meaning that around 57,000 eligible single parents will receive an extra \$176.90 per fortnight;
  - (g) increasing the rate for JobSeeker, Austudy and Youth Allowance payments; and
  - (h) providing the largest increase to Commonwealth Rent Assistance in over 30 years, increasing the maximum rates by 15 percent for eligible recipients; and
- (5) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) monitor the reach and effectiveness of its awareness raising campaign to help all eligible Canberrans easily access the concessions and supports they are entitled to, to ease cost of living pressures; and



- (b) respond to the Select Committee into Cost of Living in the ACT's Final Report on or before 11 September 2023."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

### **33 CLIMATE IMPACT ANALYSIS—BILLS**

Mr Barr (Minister for Climate Action), by leave, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) agrees, in principle, that all Members of the Assembly be encouraged to undertake a Climate Impact Analysis when developing Bills that will likely have a material impact on climate change;
- (2) notes that:
  - (a) the ACT Government has committed to introduce a Climate Impact Analysis on all proposed legislation with a material impact on climate change, including Private Members Bills. The Climate Impact Analysis for Private Members Bills will take the form of a voluntary, qualitative self-assessment;
  - (b) this work is an Agreed Administrative Reform in the Tenth Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the ACT, which seeks to examine options to ensure '... all MLAs have access to climate impact analyses of proposed legislation, where relevant';
  - (c) officials will provide Private Members with guidance material outlining how to conduct a climate impact analysis of their Bill;
  - (d) the identification of climate-related impacts from Bills will enable Members in the Assembly to more effectively consider the associated risks and benefits of proposed Bills and develop more climate-friendly legislation; and
  - (e) this approach does not seek a change to the standing orders and will be undertaken as a trial for the remainder of the Tenth Assembly.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

### **34 CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—

Debate resumed.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—put and passed.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to—put and passed.

### **35 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 6.13 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

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

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**Tom Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly