



Matters of public importance —your Assembly @ work

Non-sitting and sitting weeks—13 June to 4 August 2017

Issue 6/2017

Condolence Motion

On 1 August 2017, the Chief Minister moved a motion of condolence in relation to the recent death of Mr Valentine Jeffery OAM, a former Member of the Legislative Assembly. A number of other Members also spoke to the motion and at its conclusion all Members of the Assembly stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Jeffery. As a further mark of respect, the Assembly suspended for a short period of time.

Government business

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

Bills introduced

Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* to improve the community's access to Social Impact Assessments and to provide support to small and medium clubs and club groups through a gaming machine taxation rebate and reduced administrative burden.

Gaming Machine (Cash Facilities) Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* and the *Gaming Machine Regulation 2004* to limit clubs in the Territory to one EFTPOS facility where a person can withdraw cash at the premises. The bill will also limit the amount of cash able to be withdrawn from an EFTPOS facility to \$200 and sets rules in relation to staff operating the EFTPOS facility.

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

Bills debated

Road Transport Reform (Light Rail) Legislation Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will make a number of amendments to Territory laws relating to road transport legislation to support the operation of light rail within the ACT.

Proceedings: The bill was agreed to in principle after debate. During the detail stage several amendments were moved by the Government which received the support of all parties.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

A full record of the debates will be available from here.

Ministerial statements

The following ministerial statements were made on 1 August 2017.

The Chief Minister made a statement outlining the **Government's priorities for Spring 2017**. The Chief Minister presented the following paper:

Government priorities—Spring 2017—
Ministerial Statement

Public housing on community facility-zoned land was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. The statement was in response to a resolution of the Assembly of 7 June 2017. During the statement the minister outlined a number of key objectives of community facility-zoning and outlined the community engagement processes being undertaken.

The Minister for Disability, Children and Youth made a ministerial statement concerning **youth justice in the ACT**. The minister outlined areas of focus for a new taskforce of key youth justice stakeholders that the minister will establish.

The following ministerial statements were made on 3 August 2017.

The Chief Minister made a statement to report on a trade delegation that he led to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan from 22-30 June 2017.

The Deputy Chief Minister made a ministerial statement concerning a delegation to Singapore and Finland. The minister outlined areas of focus for the delegation included programs related to her portfolios areas of education, domestic violence and housing.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—accommodation for female detainees was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Corrections. The statement was in response to a resolution of the Assembly of 15 February 2017. During the statement the minister outlined the government's response to the increasing number of female detainees at the prison.

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

Private Members' business

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

Bill introduced

Crimes (Invasion of Privacy) Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to address a number of criminal justice legislation matters that have arisen in the ACT through advancements in technology and associated cultural changes.

Motions debated

Dog attacks—compensation for victims was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Doszpot MLA on 2 August. The motion included calling on the ACT Government to reconsider its decision not to provide an ex gratia payment to a boy seriously injured in a dog attack and show what actions they have taken to address the suggestions made by the court in relation to dangerous dogs and dog attacks in the ACT.

The Government moved an amendment during debate noting that the ACT has some of the strongest laws in Australia for managing dog attacks and the minister would report back to

the Assembly in September on any further improvements in relation to animal management in the Territory. The following paper was also tabled outlining the framework used in the consideration of ex gratia payments:

Act of Grace payments—assessment framework.

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

Mrs Dunne MLA moved a motion concerning **The Canberra Hospital—identified infrastructure risks** on 2 August. The motion included calling on the ACT Government to report on the progress of work to fix the risks identified in the *ACT Health Infrastructure Asset Condition Report and Minor Works Priorities* prepared by AECOM by the first sitting day in September 2017.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Ms Orr MLA moved a motion concerning **gender equity in sport** on 2 August. The motion included calling on the ACT Government to continue working with local sporting organisations to implement gender equity initiatives, support the development of new strategies and report back on work done in this area through the annual ministerial statement on the status of women.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 2 August 2017 related to:

Rights and interests of women and girls—Ms Cheyne MLA

Workplace safety training in government schools—Mr Wall MLA

Icon Water and ActewAGL service agreements—transparency—Mr Coe MLA

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

Censure motion

On 3 August Mr Coe MLA moved a censure motion against the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth concerning her responsibilities for the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. The motion was debated by Members however it was not passed by the Assembly.

The full debate on the above motion 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

Motions debated

A motion concerning the **Independent Legal Arbiter reports in relation to the release of documents** be authorised for publication was agreed to by the Assembly on 3 August.

Debate resumed on the motion, and the amendment moved by Ms Cheyne MLA, that report 4 of the Standing Committee for Administration and Procedure—Code of Conduct for all Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory be adopted.

The amendment was agreed to and the amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

The motion **Code of Conduct—Reaffirmation by Members** was the passed by the Assembly.

Debate resumed on the motion that report 3 of the Standing Committee for Administration and Procedure—Commissioner for Standards Referral Process be adopted. The motion was passed by the Assembly.

Executive Members' business

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

Motion debated

A motion concerning **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People—reconciliation and constitutional reform** was moved by Mr Rattenbury MLA on 3 August. The motion included calling on the ACT Government to write to both the Prime Minister and Minister for Indigenous Affairs expressing the Assembly's support for prioritising the national conversation on reconciliation and constitutional reform with First Australians.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

Matters of public importance

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

The importance of an open and consultative democracy—Mrs Kikkert MLA

The importance of supporting single parents in the Canberra community—Mr Steel MLA

Papers presented

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

Auditor-General's Reports—

5/2017—Maintenance of Selected Road Infrastructure Assets

6/2017—Mental Health Services

7/2017—Public Housing Renewal Program

Ethics and Integrity Adviser—Report for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

(The above papers were presented by the Speaker on 1 August)

Independent Legal Arbiter—

ACT Health Infrastructure Asset Condition Report and Minor Works Priorities (AECOM report)

Agenda papers of the Public Housing Renewal Steering Committee

(The above papers were presented by the Speaker on 3 August)

ACT Health Infrastructure Asset Condition Report and Minor Works Priorities *(presented by the Clerk, pursuant to resolution of the Assembly, on 1 August)*

Auditor-General's Report—6/2016—Management and Administration of Credit Cards by ACT Government Entities—Progress of the implementation of the accepted or partially accepted recommendations in the Government response *(presented by the Treasurer on 3 August)*

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—

6/2017—Final Report—Standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers from 1 July 2017 *(presented by the Treasurer on 3 August)*

7/2017—Price Direction—Standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020 (presented by the Treasurer on 3 August)

Providing Affordable Housing to Students—An ACT Government review of housing built by the University of Canberra under the National Rental Affordability Scheme (presented by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development on 1 August)

Report of Coroner—Death of River Parry and the Executive response (presented by the Acting Minister for Planning and Land Management on 3 August)

Petitions and petition responses

On 1 August 2017 the following petitions and e-petition were lodged—

ACTION bus services between Deakin, Kingston and Manuka—lodged by Ms Lee and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services

Billboard advertising in the ACT—Enforcement of rules—lodged by Ms Lee MLA and referred to the Minister for Planning and Land Management

Farrer—Strategic plan to enhance community facilities—lodged by Mr Steel MLA and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services

Petitions relating to this matter were referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services for inquiry and report.

On 1 August 2017 the following ministerial response to petitions were lodged—

Arts funding

Criminalisation of revenge porn

KFC restaurant—O’Hanlon Place, Gold Creek Village

Public housing developments—Wright, Mawson, Holder, Chapman

A copy of the responses can be found on the website under e-petitions and paper petitions.

Committee activities

Committee reports presented

Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee

Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 (presented 1 August)

Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Report 7 (presented 6 June)

This report contained the committee’s comments on five bills, 20 pieces of subordinate legislation and three government responses.

Committee statements

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

On 3 August 2017 the chair of the committee informed the Assembly that the committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into **the management of ACT cemeteries**. A copy of the terms of reference can be accessed from the Assembly’s website.

The chair also made a statement on the committee’s consideration of statutory appointments for the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee informed the Assembly that the committee had released a discussion paper in relation to its inquiry into domestic and family violence as it relates to policy approaches and responses. A copy of the discussion paper can be found [here](#).

The chair of the committee also made a statement on the committee’s consideration of statutory appointments and presented the following schedule of statutory appointments:

- . 8th Assembly – Period 1 July to 31 December 2016
- . 9th Assembly – Period 1 January to 30 June 2017.

Other statements were also made on 3 August 2017 by the chairs of the:

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

Electorate of Brindabella

Ms Joy Burch (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Mick Gentleman (Australian Labor Party)
Ms Nicole Lawder (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Mark Parton (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Andrew Wall (Canberra Liberals)

Electorate of Ginninderra

Ms Yvette Berry (Australian Labor Party)
Ms Tara Cheyne (Australian Labor Party)
Mrs Vicki Dunne (Canberra Liberals)
Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Gordon Ramsay (Australian Labor Party)

Electorate of Kurrajong

Mr Andrew Barr (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Steve Doszpot (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Elizabeth Lee (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Shane Rattenbury (ACT Greens)
Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (Australian Labor Party)

Electorate of Murrumbidgee

Ms Bec Cody (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC (Canberra Liberals)
Mrs Giulia Jones (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Caroline Le Couteur (ACT Greens)
Mr Chris Steel (Australian Labor Party)

Electorate of Yerrabi

Mr Alistair Coe (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Meegan Fitzharris (Australian Labor Party)
Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

Next sitting

Tuesday, 15 August 2017.

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