



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Non-sitting and sitting weeks—14 May to 8 June 2018

Issue 6/2018

Government Business

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

Bills introduced

[Animal Diseases Amendment Bill 2018](#) *(presented 7 June)*

Summary: This bill will make a number of amendments to the *Animal Diseases Act 2005* and the *Animal Diseases Regulation 2006*. This bill will extend the use of the National Livestock Identification System to include owners of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, which will improve biosecurity in the ACT.

[Appropriation \(Office of the Legislative Assembly\) Bill 2018-2019](#) *(presented 5 June)*

Summary: This bill will appropriate money for expenditure in relation to the Office of the Legislative Assembly and officers of the Assembly for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2018.

[Appropriation Bill 2018-2019](#) *(presented 5 June)*

Summary: This bill will appropriate money for the purposes of the Territory for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2018.

[Prostitution Amendment Bill 2018](#) *(presented 7 June)*

Summary: This bill will make a number of amendments to the *Prostitution Act 1992* to address issues of ongoing stigma, safety issues and discrimination. It will also better protect children from sexual exploitation and align the Act with other legislation governing professions in the ACT to better recognise sex work as a legitimate profession.

[Senior Practitioner Bill 2018](#) *(presented 7 June)*

Summary: This bill will facilitate the creation of a senior practitioner role to enable vulnerable people in the ACT to achieve a better quality of life, free of unnecessary interventions that limit their human rights. This bill will also provide a framework for the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices in the ACT.

[Stock Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 7 June)

Summary: This bill will make limited amendments to the *Stock Act 2005*, and provides the Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate with more flexible options when dealing with impounded stock and also updates provisions relating to permits for moving stock on foot.

[Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 7 June)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Work Safety Regulation 2011* to improve safety in the construction industry by enhancing consultation and collaboration. This bill will also mandate consultation with workers and their representatives in the establishment of workgroups, mandate the election and training of Health and Safety Representatives and mandate the election of Health and Safety Committees as well as training for its members.

Bills debated

[Casino and Other Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory laws to create a high level of transparency in decisions relating to the Casino including the establishment of a Casino Advisory Panel, a new regulation to set out requirements for social impact assessments, and a new gaming machine licence condition to ensure harm minimisation measures applicable to casino gaming machines cannot be circumvented.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 5 June with the Opposition indicating they would be opposing the proposed legislation. The ACT Greens indicated its support for the bill and the bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Medicines, Poisons and therapeutic Goods Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008* and the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008* to establish a regulatory framework that would allow for authorised people to remotely access, use and disclose information on the ACT's monitored medicines database as a public health and clinical support tool. This bill will also establish administrative functions relating to the use of the database information, and introduce several new offence provisions to limit the bill's impact on personal privacy.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 7 June with tri-partisan support given to its passage through the Assembly and was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will expand the scope of the Reportable Conduct Scheme to include institutions that provide spiritual care and pastoral activities.

Proceedings: This bill received tri-partisan support when debate resumed on 7 June and was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 to provide an improved framework for residential tenancy agreements, including clarification of provisions which affect vulnerable tenants, including social housing tenants.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 5 June with the Opposition outlining the reasons why they would not be supporting the proposed legislation. The ACT Greens indicated its support for the bill and the bill was agreed to in principle after a vote of the Assembly.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

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

Ministerial statements

On 5 June the Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence made a second annual **Safer Families** statement. During the statement the Minister highlighted several initiatives that have taken place across the ACT community during the past 12 months to address domestic and family violence.

On 5 June the Minister for Health and Wellbeing made a statement responding to a resolution of the Assembly relating to **ACT Health Accreditation**. The Minister updated the Assembly on the progress ACT Health is making as it works towards re-accreditation of The Canberra Hospital and Health Services.

On 7 June the Minister for Higher Education Training and Research made a statement responding to **recommendation 10 of the Standing Committee on Public Account's Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017**. The Minister outlined how the Government is increasing and supporting apprenticeships and traineeships in the ACT.

On 7 June the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion made a statement relating to the **ACT Volunteering Statement Action Plan 2018-2021**. The Minister highlighted the importance of volunteering for the people of the ACT and tabled the recently released Volunteering Statement Action Plan 2018-2021.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](#) site

Private Members' Business

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

Bill introduced

[Anti-corruption and Integrity Commission Bill 2018](#) (presented on 6 June)

Summary: The purpose of this bill is to establish an ACT-specific integrity body, the Anti-corruption and Integrity Commission (the Commission). The Commission's functions will be to investigate corruption issues, matters referred to the Commission by the Legislative Assembly, and matters involving serious or systemic corruption.

Motions debated

On 6 June Mr Milligan MLA moved a motion relating to the **impact on businesses of light rail stage 1**. The motion included noting that despite the Government's Environment Impact Study assessing the risk to local business, businesses are suffering. The motion also called on the Government to provide a report on the assessed impact of stage 1 light rail construction to businesses, with options for financial remedies to the Assembly by 31 July 2018.

During debate, the Government moved an amendment noting that the light rail is the biggest infrastructure project the Territory has ever undertaken and highlighted ways in which the Government is supporting the businesses in the affected areas of construction. The ACT Greens indicated they would support the amendment to the motion.

The amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

Investment in education was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Steel MLA on 6 June. The motion noted the ACT Government's history of investment to improve access to quality education for all Canberrans. The motion also noted the new education measures announced in the ACT budget for 2018-19 which includes \$5.2 million to establish a future skills academy, \$7.3 million for 15 additional schools psychologists and \$47 million for a new government primary school in the Molonglo Valley and planning for a 7-10 campus.

During debate the Government moved an amendment to the motion which specified the amounts and areas the budget for 2018-19 would provide for. While the Opposition did not oppose the motion, they did express their concerns with the delivery of the services in the areas the budget seeks to deliver on. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the motion and noted the important investment in the future of education in Canberra.

The amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 6 June related to:

- Delivery of municipal services—Ms Cheyne MLA
- Street sweeping timetables—Ms Lee MLA
- Proposed chief engineer for the ACT—Ms Lawder MLA
- Filling of a casual vacancy in the Australian Senate—Mrs Dunne MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](#) site.

Assembly Business

Includes any business relating to the establishment or membership of a committee or the proposed referral of a matter to a committee. It also includes business which proposes to amend, disallow, disapprove or declare void any instruments which are made under specific Acts agreed to by the Assembly. Assembly business also includes any notice or order of the day which deals with the administration of the Assembly or how the Assembly conducts its proceedings

Motions debated

On 6 June the Chief Minister moved a motion to establish a **Select Committee on an Independent Integrity Commission 2018** to further inquire into the establishment of an integrity commission for the ACT, through examination of a draft Government Bill and the Anti-corruption and Integrity Commission Bill 2018, and other related matters. The motion was agreed to by the Assembly and the committee is to report by 31 October 2018.

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

On 7 June Mrs Dunne MLA moved a motion that the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services inquire into and report on the delivery of **high quality maternity services**.

Debate on the motion was adjourned.

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

Papers Presented

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

- Budget 2018-2019—*(presented by the Treasurer on 5 June)*
 - Budget Speech (Budget Paper No 1)
 - Budget in Brief (Budget Paper No 2)
 - Budget Outlook (Budget Paper No 3)
 - Budget Statements for—
 - A—ACT Executive, Auditor-General, Electoral Commissioner, Office of the Legislative Assembly
 - B—Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, together with associated agencies
 - C—Health Directorate, ACT Hospital Network

- D—Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Legal Aid Commission (ACT), Public Trustee for the ACT and Guardian
- E—Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, City Renewal Authority, Suburban Land Agency
- F—Education Directorate
- G—Community Services Directorate, ACT Housing
- H—Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, ACTION, ACT Public Cemeteries Authority.
- Statements of Intent 2018-2019—
 - ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority, dated 18, 24 and 25 May 2018
 - ACT Long Service Leave Authority (*presented by the Treasurer on 5 June*)
- Auditor-General’s Report No 6/2018—Physical Security; (*presented by the Speaker on 5 June*)
- Budget 2018-2019—Recommended appropriations—Copy of letter from the Speaker to the Treasurer regarding the—
 - ACT Audit Office, dated 26 February 2018
 - Electoral Commissioner, dated 25 May 2018 (*presented by the Speaker on 7 June*)
- Approval of Variation No 358 to the Territory Plan—Changes to Wright precinct map and code—Wright Section 29 Block 3—Restrictions on residential use, dated 29 May 2018, including associated documents (*presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 7 June*)
- Auditor-General’s Report No 3/2018—Tender for the sale of Block 30 (formerly Block 20) Section 34 Dickson—Government response (*presented by the Minister for Urban Renewal on 7 June*)

Committee Activities

Committee reports presented

Scrutiny Committee

[Scrutiny Report 18](#) (*presented on 5 June*)

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

Committee inquiries

Independent Integrity Commission 2018—Select Committee

On 6 June a motion was agreed to by the Assembly for the Select Committee on an Independent Integrity Commission to inquire into the establishment of an integrity commission for the ACT and to report by 31 October 2018.

Committee statements

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 5 June informing the Assembly that the committee has resolved to extend the closing date for submissions to its inquiry into engagement with development application processes in the ACT.

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 7 June relating to petition 25-17, ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools.

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 7 June relating to the inquiry into a proposed mammal emblem for the ACT. An [online poll](#) will be open from 12 June to 26 June 2018 to enable the ACT community to provide feedback on which animal they believe would best represent the Territory as the emblem. The options of animal to vote for in the online poll are either the Eastern Bettong, or the Brush-Tailed Rock-Wallaby.

The chair also made a statement on 7 June relating to the inquiry into nature in our city.

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 7 June relating to the inquiry into the implementation, performance and governance of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the ACT.

Government responses

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee—Report 2—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017 (presented 6 June)

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee—Report 2—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017 (presented 6 June)

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Report 5—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017 (presented 6 June)

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee—Report 3—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017 (presented 6 June)

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 2—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017 (presented 6 June)

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee—Report 5—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017 (presented 6 June)

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee—Report 4—Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No 329 Weston Group Centre: Zone Changes and Amendments to the Weston Precinct Map and Code (presented 6 June)

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 2—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017 (presented 6 June)

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 2—Recommendation 11—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017 (presented 6 June)

Education Activities

Information on our various program offerings are available on the Assembly's [website](#).

Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

Electorate of Brindabella

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

Electorate of Ginninderra

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

Electorate of Kurrajong

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

Electorate of Murrumbidgee

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

Electorate of Yerrabi

Mr Alistair Coe (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Meegan Fitzharris (Australian Labor Party)
Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

Next Sitting

Tuesday, 31 July 2018.

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