



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2024–2025–2026

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 63

THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2026

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Hanson) 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 wanggiralidjinyin.

This is Ngunnawal country.

Today we are all meeting on Ngunnawal country.

We always pay respect to Elders, female and male.

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

2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Miss Nuttall moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mr Braddock for this sitting due to caregiving reasons.

Question—put and passed.

3 PETITIONS—PETITIONS NOTED

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

Mr Parton, from 2,634 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to clarify the policy on the wearing of “fun scrubs” noting the contribution they make to patient experiences and workplace wellbeing (e-Pet 043-26).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, this petition stands referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

Mr Steel, from 1,049 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to actively encourage Capital Football to support the inclusion of the Woden Valley Soccer Club girls teams in the National Premier League Girl's competition for the 2027 season (e-Pet 047-26).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, this petition stands referred to the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation.

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

Paper: Mr Steel presented the following paper:

Petition which does not conform with the standing orders—Woden Valley Soccer Club girls teams—2027 National Premier League Girl's competition—Support for inclusion—Mr Steel (130 signatures).

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

4 MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD AND MINISTER FOR HOMES, HOMELESSNESS AND NEW SUBURBS—RESOLUTION OF CENSURE

Mr Parton (Leader of the Opposition) and Ms Clay, by leave, pursuant to standing order 81A, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the release of the independent ACT Public School System Resourcing Review which has revealed a series of deep and systemic failures within the ACT education system, including:
 - (i) a system plagued by confusion, inconsistency and poor communication;
 - (ii) a growing administrative burden pulling teachers away from classrooms;
 - (iii) a central office growing faster than schools themselves;
 - (iv) inequality between schools, with some able to offer enrichment programs, while others struggle to maintain basic staffing;
 - (v) rising occupational safety concerns; and
 - (vi) inadequate provision for supports for students with disabilities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;
 - (b) that despite repeated warning from teachers, learning support assistants, principals, students and parents, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood repeatedly claimed the system was performing strongly and dismissed calls for reform for years;
 - (c) that the Education Directorate's minimal engagement with the substance of the Australian Education Union enterprise bargaining claims for educators and learning support assistants has driven public school workers to strike for the first time in 14 years; and

- (d) the following reports into Housing ACT's programs:
- (i) the July 2023 and March 2026 Ombudsman reports which found Housing ACT did not properly support vulnerable tenants on their Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program, failed to meet its legal obligations as a landlord and detailed serious safety and maintenance concerns;
 - (ii) the May 2024 and April 2025 Auditor-General reports into the Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program which found that Housing ACT had failed to manage risks to tenant wellbeing and failed to manage probity risks;
 - (iii) the January 2026 Supreme Court finding which found the Commissioner for Social Housing breached tenants' human rights in the Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program; and
 - (iv) evidence presented to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration which showed Housing ACT had not properly maintained or managed Specialist Disability Accommodation properties;
- (2) recognises the role that the Assembly plays in holding the Government to account, particularly in the context of the Westminster conventions on ministerial accountability in our system of responsible government; and
- (3) censures Minister Yvette Berry for the ACT Government's performance in the critical areas of education and housing.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 12		NOES, 10	
Chiaka Barry	Elizabeth Lee	Andrew Barr	Rachel Stephen-Smith
Peter Cain	James Milligan	Yvette Berry	Caitlin Tough
Fiona Carrick	Laura Nuttall	Leanne Castley	Taimus Werner-Gibbings
Jo Clay	Mark Parton	Tara Cheyne	
Ed Cocks	Rebecca Vassarotti	Suzanne Orr	
Thomas Emerson		Marisa Paterson	
Jeremy Hanson		Michael Pettersson	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Speaker's ruling—Standing order 118AA(a): The Speaker, pursuant to standing order 118AA(a), determined that an answer to a question without notice from Ms Barry to the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs was not responsive to the question, and directed the Minister to provide a written response to the question and lodge it with the Clerk by 1.45 pm the next business day.

Questions continued.

6 RESPIRE CARE SERVICES—IMPROVEMENT—ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF 26 MARCH 2026—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—BURRANGIRI EXISTING BUILDING ASSESSMENT—STATEMENT BY MINISTER—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health), by leave, made a statement concerning Burrangiri existing building assessment, a paper that was presented yesterday in response to the Assembly resolution of 26 March 2026 relating to improvement to respite care services.

Ms Carrick, by leave, also made a statement in relation to the paper.

7 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business), pursuant to standing order 211, presented the following papers:

Woden Town Centre integrated land use plan—Assembly resolution of 3 February 2026—Government response to (3)(f), dated June 2026.

Woden Town Centre working group—Establishment—Assembly resolution of 20 March 2025—Government response and Woden Town Centre integrated land use plan—Assembly resolution of 3 February 2026—Government response to (3)(b)(ii)—Woden Town Centre Working Group—June 2026 Quarterly Report.

8 ELECTORAL (GAMBLING INDUSTRY) AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Mr Emerson, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Paper: Mr Emerson presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Emerson moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Ms Cheyne—Attorney-General) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

9 SPORTSGROUNDS MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE—IMPROVEMENT

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT is facing a sportsground shortage and sportsground maintenance crisis;
 - (b) there has been an increase in demand for sportsgrounds in Canberra due to:
 - (i) the ACT's growing population;
 - (ii) an increasing sport and recreation participation rate;
 - (iii) extended sporting competitions; and
 - (iv) light improvements on grounds allowing for more usable hours;
 - (c) since 2017, the ACT's population has grown by 75,000 but the Government has only increased irrigated sportsgrounds by six hectares, the equivalent of two sporting fields;

- (d) the resulting increase in demand for existing sportsgrounds has placed greater stress on the turf which has impacted field quality; and
- (e) feedback received at the Canberra Liberals' sportsground roundtable on 4 June 2026 from over 70 individuals representing over 40 different sporting clubs, associations and advocacy groups showed that:
 - (i) increased usage of sportsgrounds is leading to a decline in field quality;
 - (ii) the decline in field quality is making sportsgrounds unsafe, with some clubs already reporting injured players and volunteers;
 - (iii) sportsground maintenance is not meeting the expectations of community members and clubs who pay their ground hire fees; and
 - (iv) the responsiveness of the Government to these concerns has been limited by the poor resourcing of the sportsground management team;
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) during the Millennium drought the ACT Government closed several irrigated sportsgrounds across the Territory to preserve water, transforming them into dryland ovals;
 - (b) the 2023 *Urban Open Space Land Management Plan* outlined a strategic framework for the possible reactivation of 14 of the 32 identified ovals;
 - (c) Higgins 1 was the first dryland oval to be reactivated as an irrigated sportsground with a budget of \$2,600,000 in 2019-2020;
 - (d) Melba District Playing Fields has also been selected for a trial reactivation as one of the 14 identified ovals; and
 - (e) the Government has not committed to a public schedule for the reactivation of the remaining 13 category 1 ovals; and
- (3) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) commit to an accelerated reactivation schedule for the dryland ovals in category 1, including:
 - (i) plans for consultation with sporting associations, clubs and the community for the proposed ovals; and
 - (ii) plans for the appropriation of necessary funds;
 - (b) table this schedule in the Assembly by 17 September 2026; and
 - (c) explore options, where appropriate, to allow for the booking of dryland ovals for training by clubs and junior leagues.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

10 MOLONGLO VALLEY PLAYING FIELDS—DEVELOPMENT

Ms Carrick, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the Molonglo Valley is one of the ACT's fastest growing regions and is projected to reach 79,000 residents by 2065;

- (b) the 2016 Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan proposed four basic sports units and an enclosed oval. Each unit is an oval overlaid with two rectangular fields;
 - (c) Stage 1 of the current Development Application for the Stromlo District Playing Fields delivers one modified synthetic sports unit. Stage 2 would add a grass oval and a grass rectangular field, however this is yet to be funded;
 - (d) District Playing Fields are defined in Cabinet decision 11/090/CAB of 20 August 2012 as “District Playing Fields provide training and competition venues for organised sport at all levels and can be collocated with school facilities. Generally 15 hectares (subject to site specific conditions, a minimum of 10 hectares) to support the provision of six basic sport units. Amenities will typically include public car parking, training lights and one pavilion depending on the size of the complex”; and
 - (e) the reduced field capacity of the Stromlo District Playing Fields no longer meets this definition;
- (2) further notes that:
- (a) there is currently no evidence of planning for centrally-located high-capacity District Playing Fields in the Molonglo Valley. Existing sportsground provision is insufficient to meet current needs, let alone future demand across all sporting codes;
 - (b) high-capacity fields have economies of scale, so can be more cost-effective and better support volunteer-run sporting organisations;
 - (c) without sufficient playing fields, Molonglo residents are forced to join clubs in other districts, particularly in Weston Creek, increasing travel times and difficulty getting to training;
 - (d) different clubs and codes are forced to share facilities, restricting training access, increasing scheduling conflicts during peak periods and placing additional strain on volunteers and club administrators;
 - (e) should Molonglo Valley continue to develop without adequate and accessible sporting infrastructure, this could have far reaching consequences, including:
 - (i) reduced opportunities for physical activity and mental wellbeing;
 - (ii) limited development pathways for juniors, seniors and volunteers;
 - (iii) barriers to club growth and long-term sustainability; and
 - (iv) weakened neighbourhood identity and community connection; and
 - (f) community sporting clubs play a critical role in preventative health, youth engagement and social inclusion; and
- (3) calls on the Government to:
- (a) undertake an analysis of the number of playing fields needed for a population of 79,000 people in the Molonglo Valley;
 - (b) consult the community and identify a range of sites for large district playing fields in the Molonglo Valley;

- (c) consult the community and develop social and economic criteria to assess the site options in the Molonglo Valley;
- (d) determine the preferred sites for large District Playing Fields within the Molonglo Valley, in addition to the already planned Stromlo District Playing Fields Stage 1; and
- (e) report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day in September 2026.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11 PAPERS PRESENTED ON 11 JUNE 2026—PAPERS NOTED

The Speaker, pursuant to standing order 211A, proposed—That the papers presented under standing order 211 during the presentation of papers in the routine of business today be noted.

Question—put and passed.

12 INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) made a ministerial statement concerning the ACT Government's infrastructure investment program and presented the following paper:

The Infrastructure Pipeline—Ministerial statement, 11 June 2026.

Mr Barr moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

13 MISSING MIDDLE HOUSING—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Steel (Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development) made a ministerial statement concerning the missing middle housing reform and presented the following paper:

Missing Middle Housing—Ministerial statement, 11 June 2026.

Mr Steel moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

14 BUDGET INVESTMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Berry (Minister for Education and Early Childhood) presented the following paper:

Budget Investments—Ministerial statement, 11 June 2026—

and moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

15 BUDGET INVESTMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) presented the following paper:

Budget Investments—Ministerial statement, 11 June 2026—

and moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

16 BUDGET INVESTMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Cheyne (Attorney-General) presented the following paper:

Budget Investments—Ministerial statement, 11 June 2026—

and moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

17 LEGAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—INQUIRY—BAIL AMENDMENT BILL 2026—AMENDMENT TO REPORTING DATE

Ms Barry, pursuant to notice, moved—That, notwithstanding standing order 174(d), the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs shall present its report on the Bail Amendment Bill 2026 by 26 August 2026.

Question—put and passed.

18 LEGAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—INQUIRY—CRIMES (COERCIVE CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL 2026—AMENDMENT TO REPORTING DATE

Ms Barry, pursuant to notice, moved—That, notwithstanding standing order 174(d), the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs shall present its report on the Crimes (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2026 by 11 September 2026.

Question—put and passed.

19 A.C.T. PUBLIC SERVICE WORKFORCE REDUNDANCIES—DOCUMENTS—ORDER TO TABLE

Mr Parton (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with standing order 213A, the Assembly orders the Government to provide the Assembly with documents regarding:

- (1) any workforce reduction targets provided to directorates arising from fiscal sustainability measures;
- (2) information pertaining to the expected impact of voluntary redundancies on service delivery and staffing levels within each affected directorate;
- (3) the advice provided to directorates regarding workforce savings associated with Machinery of Government reforms; and
- (4) communication to ACT Public Service staff regarding commitments made to staff pertaining to redundancies during the Machinery of Government process and whether those commitments remain in force.

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for the Public Service) moved the following amendment:

“(5) notwithstanding provisions of standing order 213A, material is to be provided no later than 17 July 2026.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That:

- (1) in accordance with standing order 213A, the Assembly orders the Government to provide the Assembly with documents regarding:
 - (a) any workforce reduction targets provided to directorates arising from fiscal sustainability measures;
 - (b) information pertaining to the expected impact of voluntary redundancies on service delivery and staffing levels within each affected directorate;
 - (c) the advice provided to directorates regarding workforce savings associated with Machinery of Government reforms; and
 - (d) communication to ACT Public Service staff regarding commitments made to staff pertaining to redundancies during the Machinery of Government process and whether those commitments remain in force.
- (2) notwithstanding provisions of standing order 213A, material is to be provided no later than 17 July 2026.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

20 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business) moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Committee business being called on forthwith.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

21 INTEGRITY COMMISSION AND STATUTORY OFFICE HOLDERS—STANDING COMMITTEE—OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND OFFICERS OF THE ASSEMBLY—FUNDING CONSIDERATION—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Ms Lee (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders had resolved to further consider its role in relation to budget proposals for the Office of the Legislative Assembly and Officers of the Assembly.

22 SOCIAL POLICY—STANDING COMMITTEE—EXTREMIST POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AND BELIEF SYSTEMS IN THE A.C.T.—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Emerson (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Policy had resolved not to conduct an inquiry into extremist political ideologies and belief systems in the ACT.

23 STANDING COMMITTEES—MEMBERSHIP

Miss Nuttall, pursuant to standing order 223, moved—That Ms Vassarotti be appointed to the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation and the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs.

Question—put and passed.

24 EMERGENCIES AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Dr Paterson (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Emergencies Act 2004*, and for other purposes.

Paper: Dr Paterson 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.

Dr Paterson moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

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

25 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026

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.

Paper: Ms Cheyne (Attorney-General) presented a revised explanatory statement to the Bill.

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.

26 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Four Members' statements were made.

27 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Cheyne (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.

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

*on leave.

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly