



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

2012–2013

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 33

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mrs Dunne) took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.
- 2 **URIARRA VILLAGE—PROPOSED SOLAR FARM—PETITION PRESENTED**
Mr Wall, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:
 - (1) notes:
 - (a) the definitive language used by the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development when awarding licences to two new large scale solar developments on 19 August 2013, “two new solar farms will be developed in Canberra as a result of the Solar Auction process”;
 - (b) a site opposite Uriarra Village at Coree was chosen for a seven megawatt development; and
 - (c) residents of Uriarra were not aware the site opposite the village was being considered for a large scale solar development until after the announcement was made; and
 - (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) consider and acknowledge the overwhelming sentiment of the community of Uriarra Village to relocate the large scale solar project away from the village;
 - (b) ensure the project does not proceed at the current location;
 - (c) consult with the proponent to identify an alternate site that will not significantly impact on a residential area; and



- (d) ensure call-in powers are not used to progress the large scale solar development opposite Uriarra Village.

Petition: Mr Wall, pursuant to standing order 84, presented the following petition:

Mr Wall, from 1128 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development to reject the site proposed by OneSun at Uriarra Village and request that large solar plants not be located in close proximity to residential areas (Pet 2-13).

Mr Corbell (Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute”

“notes:

- (1) the Government’s commitment to securing a sustainable future for our City by reducing its carbon emissions by 40% by 2020 and implementing a 90% renewable energy target;
- (2) that the Solar Auction process is delivering large scale renewable energy generation at an affordable price for consumers, with the three proposed projects capable of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 1.4 million tonnes at a peak cost to households of around 45 cents per week in 2016, dropping down to around 27 cents per week in 2021;
- (3) that the three solar farm projects proposed or approved are projected to deliver economic benefits worth more than \$100 million to the ACT economy and create over 100 jobs in the construction stage; and
- (4) that the concerns raised by residents of Uriarra Village will be fully considered through the development assessment process set out in the Planning and Development Act.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mr Corbell’s proposed amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Mr Rattenbury, by leave, moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes:

- (a) the Government’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions by 40% by 2020 and implementing a 90% renewable energy target;
- (b) that the Solar Auction process is intended to deliver large scale renewable energy generation at an affordable price for consumers, with the three proposed projects capable of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 1.4 million tonnes;
- (c) that residents of Uriarra have expressed a range of concerns about the solar project proposed at Uriarra, including that they were unaware that the site had been chosen prior to the Solar Auction outcome being announced; and
- (d) that the concerns raised by residents of Uriarra Village will be fully considered through the development assessment process set out in the Planning and Development Act; and

- (2) calls on the ACT Government to ensure that the call-in powers are not used in regard to the Development Application submitted by the proponent of the solar farm proposed for Uriarra.”.

Mr Coe moved the following amendment to Mr Rattenbury’s proposed amendment: Omit paragraph (2), substitute:

- “(2) calls on the ACT Government to ensure that the call-in powers are not used to support the Development Application submitted by the proponent of the solar farm proposed for Uriarra.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mr Coe’s amendment to Mr Rattenbury’s proposed amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 9	
Mr Coe	Ms Lawder	Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth	Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Mr Hanson		Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury
Mrs Jones		Mr Corbell	

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mr Rattenbury’s proposed amendment be agreed to—

Ordered—That the question be divided.

Question—That paragraph (1) be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Corbell		Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That paragraph (2) be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 1	NOES, 16	
Mr Rattenbury	Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
	Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
	Dr Bourke	Mr Hanson
	Ms Burch	Mrs Jones
	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
	Mr Corbell	Ms Porter
	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly notes:

- (1) the Government’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions by 40% by 2020 and implementing a 90% renewable energy target;
- (2) that the Solar Auction process is intended to deliver large scale renewable energy generation at an affordable price for consumers, with the three proposed projects capable of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 1.4 million tonnes;
- (3) that residents of Uriarra have expressed a range of concerns about the solar project proposed at Uriarra, including that they were unaware that the site had been chosen prior to the Solar Auction outcome being announced; and
- (4) that the concerns raised by residents of Uriarra Village will be fully considered through the development assessment process set out in the Planning and Development Act.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

3 NICTA—FUNDING AND SUPPORT

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the importance of technology in driving innovation in the ACT economy;
 - (b) that supporting and encouraging technological innovation is essential to growing and diversifying the ACT economy;
 - (c) that the ACT Government is currently seeking Canberrans’ views on how to make Canberra a world leading digital city that will lead to the development of a Digital Canberra Action Plan;
 - (d) that technology supports every sector in our community, including business, health, education, transport, community services and sustainability; and
 - (e) that faster broadband, especially the National Broadband Network, encourages digital literacy and innovation in households and businesses;
- (2) further notes:
 - (a) that NICTA, Australia’s Information Communications Technology (ICT) Research Centre of Excellence, is Australia’s largest organisation dedicated to ICT research and its Canberra Research Laboratory is undertaking world leading and world renowned ICT research activities;
 - (b) the innovative and important work undertaken by NICTA’s Canberra Research Laboratory and its contribution towards shaping an innovative and diverse ACT economy;
 - (c) the ACT Government was a founding member of NICTA, and has provided sustained and significant funding and in-kind support to NICTA;
 - (d) that NICTA has a staff of 55 full-time researchers and 50 PhD students who are working to develop technologies that will meet the current and future needs of Canberra and the nation;

- (e) the close collaboration between NICTA, the ACT Government and local universities, including establishing a number of projects where NICTA's advanced ICT expertise can add value to the issues the ACT Government faces as a service deliverer; and
 - (f) that the proposal to cut \$42 million in funding for NICTA over two years, which was announced by the new Commonwealth Government before the Federal election, will substantially impact NICTA's capacity to continue undertaking research and development; and
- (3) calls on the Assembly to:
- (a) support the ACT Government's continued funding and support for NICTA;
 - (b) lobby the new Commonwealth Government not to implement the proposed funding cuts; and
 - (c) lobby the new Commonwealth Government to maintain and/or increase funding for NICTA.

Debate ensued.

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 74 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

4 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

5 NICTA—FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Gentleman (*see entry 3*)—

Debate resumed.

Ms Burch (Minister for Education and Training) moved the following amendment:
Add new paragraph (4):

“(4) calls on the Leader of the Opposition to adopt a bipartisan position by issuing a public statement which unequivocally condemns the proposed cuts to NICTA as a short-sighted measure likely to slow productivity growth and cost jobs.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Mrs Jones
Dr Bourke	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Rattenbury
Ms Burch	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Smyth
Mr Corbell		Mr Hanson	Mr Wall

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and passed.

6 STRATEGIC BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) section 72(3) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* requires the Minister must make a Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for the ACT after considering a draft plan from the Commissioner;
 - (b) section 74(2)(k) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* states that the plan must have “a statement of resources needed to meet the objectives of the plan”;
 - (c) Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) in the Auditor-General’s Bushfire Preparedness Report No. 5 /2013, identified the Government’s failure to comply with the *Emergencies Act 2004* to explicitly state all resources to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan;
 - (d) the Justice and Community Safety Directorate’s agreement to Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness report;
 - (e) the Minister’s reaffirmation on 8 August 2013 regarding Recommendation 2 (Chapter 3) of the Bushfire Preparedness report that the “Government will not be releasing these papers”; and
 - (f) the Government’s repeated refusal to disclose the Territory’s requirement and capability for bushfire management—citing that such information is “not considered appropriate for public release”—in direct contradiction to the *Emergencies Act 2004*; and
- (2) calls on the Government to release and make explicit all resources needed to meet the objectives of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan as per the *Emergencies Act 2004* by the last sitting day of November 2013.

Debate ensued.

Paper: Mr Rattenbury presented the following paper:

Territory and Municipal Services—Bush Fire Operational Plan—Final full year report—June 2013, dated 1 July 2013.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

7 PLANNING IN THE A.C.T.

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT Government has taken an ad hoc approach to planning;
 - (b) the Territory Plan is excessively complex and is stifling appropriate development, innovation and investment in Canberra;
 - (c) there is a lack of confidence in the planning system by residents, builders, planners and industry groups;
 - (d) Variation 306 has been destructive for the building and property sectors;

- (e) there has been a lack of planning clarity with regard to development in the city such that the city is being drawn in all directions:
 - (i) to the west with City West, New Acton and the ANU Exchange developments;
 - (ii) to the north with redevelopment in Braddon;
 - (iii) to the south with the City to the Lake proposal; and
 - (iv) to the east with Draft Variation 308;
 - (f) funding has been provided through the Commonwealth Government's "Liveable Cities Program" to develop a City Plan yet significant planning decisions have been made in the interim; and
 - (g) the ACT Government failed to sell Denman Prospect and as such, the ACT Government will be developing the site; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) undertake a thorough review of the Territory Plan with a view to simplifying the document and making the Plan more accessible and comprehensible;
 - (b) delay any implementation of Draft Variation 308 until after the City Plan has been completed;
 - (c) undertake a thorough review into the impact of Variation 306 with the intention of rectifying the significant problems the changes have brought about for industry, and subsequently, the ACT economy; and
 - (d) investigate the reasons for the failure to sell Denman Prospect and make any necessary revisions, such as sub-dividing the site and removing the restrictions imposed by Variation 306.

Mr Corbell (Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after "That this Assembly", substitute:

"notes:

- (1) that the ACT Government has established a strategic framework for the long term future of our city as articulated in the ACT Planning Strategy and Transport for Canberra, both adopted and released last year, and guiding growth and development through to 2030;
- (2) that comprehensive shorter and medium term development actions are being developed through a co-ordinated framework of plans and strategies such as the City Plan and City to the Lake;
- (3) that the Government has begun the process of progressing our city towards a sustainable future by undertaking such transformative projects as the Capital Metro light rail;
- (4) that the Government has already undertaken to review the Territory Plan so that it is consistent with our 40% greenhouse gas reduction target; and
- (5) that the redevelopment proposed through DV308 is consistent with the intentions of the ACT Planning Strategy."

Debate continued.

Adjournment negatived: It being 6 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Corbell (Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Corbell		Mrs Jones	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly notes that:

- (1) the ACT Government has established a strategic framework for the long term future of our city as articulated in the ACT Planning Strategy and Transport for Canberra, both adopted and released last year, and guiding growth and development through to 2030;
- (2) comprehensive shorter and medium term development actions are being developed through a co-ordinated framework of plans and strategies such as the City Plan and City to the Lake;
- (3) the Government has begun the process of progressing our city towards a sustainable future by undertaking such transformative projects as the Capital Metro light rail;
- (4) the Government has already undertaken to review the Territory Plan so that it is consistent with our 40% greenhouse gas reduction target; and
- (5) the redevelopment proposed through DV308 is consistent with the intentions of the ACT Planning Strategy.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

8 BOUNDLESS CANBERRA PROJECT

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the importance of ensuring that all children, regardless of the challenges they face, can fully participate in society;

- (b) the development of *Boundless Canberra*, the ACT's first inclusive playground, as a Centenary project driven by the commitment and enthusiasm of ACT Government public sector employees;
 - (c) that many public servants have signed up to workplace-giving schemes to donate a proportion of their salary to the project;
 - (d) that the ACT Government is supporting the project through a \$1 million loan, and that business and construction industry cash and in-kind support is now worth over \$500 000; and
 - (e) that Stage 1 works are expected to be ready to open early in 2014;
- (2) acknowledges the significant leadership of the ACT Government's public sector employees in working to make *Boundless Canberra* a reality; and
- (3) calls on the Government and all Members of the Assembly to promote *Boundless Canberra* at every opportunity and encourage further donations to ensure it can be delivered as a significant Centenary gift to the ACT community.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned (Ms Burch—Minister for Education and Training) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

9 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Burch (Minister for Education and Training) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.47 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly