



Matters of public importance —your Assembly @ work

Non-sitting and sitting weeks—3 April to 12 May 2017

Issue 4/2017

Condolence Motion

On 9 May 2017, the Chief Minister moved a motion of condolence in relation to the recent death of Mr Jayson Hinder, 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 Hinder. 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

Bill introduced

Utilities (Streetlight Network) Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Electricity Safety Act 1971*, the *Electricity Safety Regulation 2004* and the *Utilities Act 2000* to ensure that the streetlight network is clearly defined and that a clear distinction exists between the streetlight network and electricity distribution network. The bill will also facilitate access to streetlighting assets and clarify the technical standards that apply.

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

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will establish a City Renewal Authority and a Suburban Land Agency and outline the role and responsibilities of each entity.

The bill will also make consequential amendments to a number of ACT laws as a result of the establishment of the entities.

Proceedings: On 9 May 2017, the bill was agreed to in principle after a vote of the Assembly. Debate was then adjourned at the detail stage.

When debate resumed on the proposed legislation on 11 May amendments were moved by the Government, Opposition and ACT Greens with a number of the amendments being passed by the Assembly.

The amended bill was agreed to.

Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Duties Act 1999*, the *Land Tax Act 2004* and the *Rates Act 2004*. The amendments will change the method for calculating rates and land tax for residential unit subdivisions, repeal insurance duty legislation and make a technical change to the rebate on rates for pensioners.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 11 May with the Opposition indicating that they would not be supporting the proposed legislation. The ACT Greens outlined their support for the bill prior to it being agreed to in principle.

During the detail stage of the bill the Opposition opposed a number of clauses, however, the clauses were agreed to after a vote of the Assembly. A Government technical amendment was then moved and agreed to.

The amended bill was then passed by the Assembly.

The following bills were also passed by the Assembly on 11 May 2017.

Liquor Amendment Bill 2017 (without amendment)

Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (with amendment)

A full record of the debates will be available from [here](#).

Ministerial statements

The following ministerial statements were made on 9 May 2017.

The Minister for Housing and Suburban Development made a statement providing the Assembly with an update on the **Public Housing Renewal Program**. During the statement the minister outlined the Government's commitment, through Housing ACT and the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce, to replacing and providing new homes for 1,288 households in suburbs across Canberra.

The **Canberra Hospital (TCH) electrical switch incident** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Health. During the statement the minister updated the Assembly on the work underway to upgrade electrical switchboard infrastructure at TCH. The minister presented the statement and moved a motion that the Assembly take note of the paper.

Mrs Dunne MLA also made a statement in relation to matter and moved an Opposition amendment to the motion calling on the Government to provide a chronology of events concerning the switchboard problems and table the AECOM risk assessment report on the performance of infrastructure at TCH. Debate on the motion and the amendment was adjourned. Debate resumed on the matter on 11 May with the Government moving an amendment to the Opposition's amendment that removed the requirement of the Government to provide a copy of the AECOM report. The Government amendment to the Opposition's amendment was agreed to by the Assembly with the Opposition's amended amendment being passed.

The Minister for Disability, Children and Youth made a statement providing the Assembly with an update on the **Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT**, a ten year strategy providing the framework for youth justice reforms, in which the minister highlighted the reduction in the

number of young people engaged with the youth justice system.

The following ministerial statements were made on 11 May 2017.

The Chief Minister made a statement in relation to a recent ministerial **delegation to Singapore**. During the statement the Chief Minister outlined the activities undertaken throughout the visit.

Operations of the **Alexander Maconochie Centre** (AMC) was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Corrections. The statement was in response to a resolution of the Assembly that called on the minister to provide an update on inquiries and audits since the AMC's opening in 2009.

The importance of **volunteering** in the ACT was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion. The statement outlined the benefits of volunteering to the community and to volunteers.

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

Planning and Development (Territory Plan Variations) Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Planning and Development Act 2007* to limit the use of technical amendments to technical and procedural matters where there is public opposition to a variation.

Motions debated

Childcare placement and care plans was the subject of a motion moved by Mrs Kikkert MLA on 10 May 2017. The motion included calling on the ACT Government to recognise the importance of ensuring that decisions regarding a child's placement and care plans be subject to external review. During debate an amendment was moved by the Government that included, among other things, calling on the ACT Government to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day in August 2017 on the

implementation of the six Glanfield Inquiry recommendations that relate to Decision Making, Quality Assurance and Oversight of Child and Youth Protection Services in the ACT. An amendment moved by the ACT Greens to the Government amendment included noting that the ACT Government, in response to the Glanfield inquiry, agreed to a review of the resources of the Public Advocate and Children and Young People's Commissioner to perform oversight functions and a review of the Community Services Directorate's resources to respond to oversight bodies after the Human Rights Commission has been operating for a year. The ACT Greens' amendment was agreed to with the Government's amended amendment also being agreed to.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

Mr Steel MLA moved a motion concerning **household waste management** on 10 May. The motion included calling on the ACT Government to continue the rollout of the green bins pilot program throughout the ACT following an evaluation and the outcomes of the Weston Creek and Kambah pilot. An amendment moved by the ACT Greens included calling on the Government to continue to work towards the zero waste target in the ACT, including looking at household disposal of food waste. The amendment was passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then agreed to by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 10 May 2017 related to:

Community Facility Zone land—Ms Lawder MLA

Impact on the ACT of the relocation of Federal public servants—Ms Cheyne MLA

Bushfire Abatement Zone—Mrs Jones MLA

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

Executive Members' business

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

Motion debated

A motion concerning problem gambling in the ACT was moved by Mr Rattenbury MLA on 11 May. The motion sought to highlight the risk associated with problem gambling and called on the Government to, among other things, increase the transparency of the social impact assessment process to allow easy access to relevant documents and enable all Canberrans to contribute to decisions regarding the presence of poker machines in their local communities. During debate an amendment was moved by the Opposition that included acknowledging the measures clubs have recently taken to restrict EFTPOS transaction limits. The Government indicated their support for the motion but stated they would not be supporting the amendment moved by the Opposition. The amendment was not agreed to by the Assembly.

The motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Matters of public importance

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

The important contribution volunteers make in delivering community services in Canberra—Mr Coe MLA

The importance of an active lifestyle to the health of the ACT community—Mr Parton MLA

Papers presented

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

ACT Auditor-General—Report 3/2017—2015-16 Financial Audits—Computer Information Systems (*presented by the Speaker on 9 May*)

ACT Children and Young People Death Review Committee—Annual Report 2016 covering the period July 2015 to December 2016 (*presented by the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth on 11 May*)

Canberra Institute of Technology Annual Report 2016 (*presented by the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research on 9 May*)

Health data issues—Miscellaneous documents
(presented by the Clerk on 9 May pursuant to standing order 213A and the resolution of the Assembly of 28 March 2017)

Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme—Update on the ACT Government response—Quarterly report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2017 (presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 11 May)

Schedule of Leases Granted for the period 1 January to 31 March 2017 (presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 9 May)

University of Canberra Annual Report 2016
(presented by the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research on 9 May)

Petitions and petition response

On 9 May the following petition and e-petition in relation to the same matter were lodged—

Arts funding—lodged by Ms Cheyne MLA and referred to the Minister for the Arts and Community Events

The petition and e-petition were also referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism for consideration.

On 10 May the following petitions and e-petition were lodged—

Public housing development—Wright—lodged by Mr Hanson MLA and referred to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development.

Public housing development—Mawson—lodged by Mr Hanson MLA and referred to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development.

Public housing development—Holder—lodged by Mr Hanson MLA and referred to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development.

Public housing development—Darwinia Community Park, Chapman—lodged by Mr Hanson MLA and referred to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development.

Revenge porn—Criminalisation—lodged by Ms Le Couteur MLA and referred to the Attorney-General.

The petitions in relation to public housing in Holder and Chapman were referred to the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal for consideration with the petition

relating to criminalising the non-consensual disclosure of a sexual image being referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety.

A copy of the terms of the petitions can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

On 11 May the following petition was lodged—

Funding for design and landscaping of Giralang Park and support for the development and revitalisation of the Giralang Community Precinct—lodged by Ms Orr MLA and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

On 9 May 2017 the following ministerial response to a petition was lodged—

Intersection of Tillyard Drive and Ginninderra Drive—Upgrade of existing traffic control measures

A copy of the response can be found here.

Committee activities

Committee reports presented

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

The following reports of the committee were presented by the Speaker on 11 May:

- Report 2—Omnibus Bills
- Report 3—Commissioner for Standards Referral Process
- Report 4—Code of Conduct for All Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory—Review.

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee

On 11 May the chair of the committee presented its report into its inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2015-16. The committee made 21 recommendations, primarily related to the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate's annual report.

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

On 11 May 2017 the chair of the committee presented Report 1 – *Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2015-2016*.

The report presented a summary of the committee's inquiry into the 2015-2016 annual reports of the Chief Minister, Treasury and

Economic Development Directorate, the Environment and Planning Directorate, the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate and the Capital Metro Agency, as referred by the Assembly on 16 February 2017. The committee made 25 recommendations in relation to issues raised at the two public hearings held in relation to the inquiry. A copy of the report can be accessed from the Assembly's website at www.parliament.act.gov.au.

The following committees also presented reports into annual and financial reports 2015-2016 on 11 May 2017—

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs— Standing Committee

Health, Ageing and Community Services— Standing Committee

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Report 5 (presented 9 May)

This report contained the committee's comments on nine bills, 12 pieces of subordinate legislation and two government responses.

Committee statements

2016 ACT Election and the Electoral Act—Select Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement informing the Assembly that the committee had published a discussion paper in connection with its inquiry into the 2016 ACT election and the Electoral Act.

Environment and Transport and City Services— Standing Committee

On 9 May 2017 the chair of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services informed the Assembly that the committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into **road maintenance in the ACT**. A copy of the terms of reference can be accessed from the Assembly's website at www.parliament.act.gov.au.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement informing the Assembly that the committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into policy

approaches and responses to domestic and family violence.

Committee inquiry

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee

Inquiry into a new convention centre for Canberra

On 11 May the committee authorised nine submissions for publication. The submissions include substantial documents analysing the potential costs, benefits and risks of constructing a new convention centre.

The committee intends to hold public hearings for this inquiry on 23 and 30 May.

Education activities

The second term of the 2017 school year has commenced and a variety of sessions have been conducted as part of school visits programs. School students have participated in role plays on the opening of a sitting, debating an MPI and the passage of legislation through the Assembly. A regular weekly tour continues to be conducted every Wednesday at 1.30pm for interested members of the community. On sitting days tour participants have the option of staying to observe question time.

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 Dospot (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, 6 June 2017.

***This document is produced by the Office of the
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