



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Sitting week—29 October to 2 November 2018

Issue 12/2018

Government Business

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

Bills introduced

[City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Amendment Bill 2018](#) *(presented 30 October)*

Summary: This bill will amend the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017* to ensure that former Land Development Agency assets, contracts and liabilities are correctly transferred to either the City Renewal Authority or the Suburban Land Agency.

[Disability Services Amendment Bill 2018](#) *(presented 30 October)*

Summary: This bill will amend the *Disability Services Act 1991* to provide the Official Visitors for Disability Services with improved access to monitor and investigate the welfare of potentially vulnerable persons in disability accommodation.

[Discrimination Amendment Bill 2018](#) *(presented 1 November)*

Summary: This bill will amend the *Discrimination Act 1991* to strengthen protections against discrimination for students and employees/contractors in educational institutions conducted for religious purposes. The bill also provides a limited exception for educational institutions conducted for religious purposes to discriminate against employees, contractors and students on admission, but only on the grounds of religious conviction and not other protected attributes such as sexuality.

[Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#) *(presented 1 November)*

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory statutes to reduce the number of gaming machine authorisations, establish stronger gambling harm protections, and to develop a stronger clubs sector.

[Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2018 \(No 2\)](#) *(presented 1 November)*

Summary: This bill will amend the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* and the *Residential Tenancies Regulation 1998* to provide for an enhanced framework for residential tenancy agreements.

Bills debated

[Sentencing Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005* and the *Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005* to improve the administration of the Intensive Correction Order scheme that commenced in 2016.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 1 November 2018 and received the support of all parties in the Assembly.

The bill was passed without amendment.

[Statute Law Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will make minor and technical amendments to a number of laws to enhance the Territory's statute book.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 30 October with all parties supporting the passage of the bill through the Assembly.

The bill was passed without amendment.

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

Ministerial statements

The **ACT Housing Strategy** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development on 30 October. During the statement the Minister outlined the key objectives of the strategy. At the conclusion of her statement the minister presented the *ACT Housing Strategy* for the information of Members. A number of Members also made statements in relation to the statement.

The Attorney-General made a ministerial statement on 30 October providing a progress report on the **Courts Construction Project**. During his statement the Attorney-General advised the Assembly that Stage 1 of the project had been completed with the expected completion date for Stage 2 being in the third quarter of 2019.

On 30 October the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability provided a ministerial statement concerning his attendance at the **Zero Emission Vehicle Summit** held in the United Kingdom and the **Global Climate Action Summit** held in the United States. Both summits were held in September 2018.

The Government's response to the independent review of the **ACT's Work Safety Compliance Infrastructure, policies and procedures** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety on 30 October 2018.

The following ministerial statements were made on 1 November—

Greyhound Industry Transition made by the Minister for Business and Regulatory Services.

Standing Committee on Economic Development—Report on the Annual and Financial Reports 2015-2016—Government response to Recommendation 2 relating to the street light contract made by the Minister for Roads.

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 debated

[Government Agencies \(Land Acquisition Reporting\) Bill 2018](#)

Summary: The purpose of this bill is to improve integrity in land acquisitions. The bill introduces reporting requirements for all acquisitions undertaken by ACT Government entities, reinforcing due diligence and procurement principles such as value for money.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 1 November in the detail stage. During the debate a number of amendments were moved by both the Opposition and the Government. At the conclusion of the debate appreciation was expressed by all parties for coming together to achieve agreement on this importance piece of legislation.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

Motions debated

The proposed **establishment of a breast milk bank** in the ACT was the subject of a motion moved Ms Cheyne MLA on 31 October. The motion included noting that a decision not to breastfeed was not always a choice and that milk banks facilitate access to donor milk. The motion also called on the Government to investigate the feasibility of establishing an official milk bank in the ACT and/or partnering with neighbouring jurisdictions. During debate both the Opposition and the ACT Greens outlined their reasons for supporting the motion.

The motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

On 31 October Mr Parton MLA moved a motion noting the **contribution made by Mr Val Jeffery to the Tharwa and Canberra communities**. The motion also called on the Government to provide a substantial tribute to Mr Jeffery reflecting a cause that he was passionately committed to and that the tribute take the form of the renaming of the Tharwa Bridge to the Val Jeffery Bridge. During debate amendments were moved by the Government that included noting that the ACT Place Names Committee was currently investigating how to commemorate Mr Jeffery's contribution to the Tharwa community and called on the ACT Place Names Committee to consider a substantial tribute to Mr Val Jeffery. The amendments were agreed to by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

The value of **recreational vehicle (RV) tourism** to the Territory was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Wall MLA on 31 October. The motion included noting that RV tourism provided significant benefits to the economy and called on the Government to work with the Campervan Motorhome Club of Australia to become recognised as an RV friendly town and to develop a strategy for attracting RV tourism to the Territory. During debate an amendment was moved by the Government that included noting that the ACT Government was engaging with member bodies representing the RV sector to initiate practical solutions to better support the needs of the RV market. The ACT Greens then moved an amendment to the Government's amendment that called on the Government to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day in April 2019 on implementation of practical solutions to better support

the needs of the RV market. The ACT Greens amendment was agreed to, with the amended Government amendment being passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then agreed to.

Other motions debated on 31 October related to:

- Commercial rates and taxes—Mr Coe MLA
- Management of the mental health system—Mrs Dunne MLA
- Single-use plastics—Ms Orr MLA

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

Matters of public importance

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

The importance of freedom of speech in Canberra’s workplaces—Ms Cheyne MLA

The importance of supporting local primary producers in the ACT—Ms Cheyne MLA

Papers Presented

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

- ACT Language Services Policy (*presented 30 October by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs*)
- Annual reports 2017-18—
 - ACT Coroners Court (*presented 1 November by the Attorney-General*)
 - ACT Policing’s Confiscation of Criminal Assets (*presented 30 October by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services*)
 - Mental Health Official Visitors (*presented 30 October by the Minister for Mental Health*)
 - Official Visitor (Homelessness Services) (*presented 30 October by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development*)
 - Official Visitors for Disability Services (*presented 30 October by the Minister for Disability*)
 - Official Visitor (Children and Young People) (*presented 30 October by the Minister for Children, Youth and Families*)
- Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—Bimberi Headline Indicators—Reports
 - March 2018—Updated October 2018
 - 2017-18
- Domestic Animals (Dangerous Dogs) Amendment Bill 2018—Exposure draft (*presented 31 October by Ms Lawder*)

Petition response

The following ministerial response to a petition was lodged on 1 November—

- Sunday and public holiday bus timetables

A copy of this response can be found on the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

Committee Activities

Committee reports presented

Independent Integrity Commission 2018—Select Committee

Report—[Inquiry into the establishment of an integrity commission for the ACT](#) (presented 31 October)

The report contained 54 recommendations on a process to amend and pass legislation establishing an independent integrity commission before the end of 2018.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

Report 3—[Report on inquiry into the Crimes \(Consent\) Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 31 October)

In examining the bill, the committee had regard to comments made by the Scrutiny Committee, discussions held with Ms Le Couteur MLA and the ACT Bar Association, and to the submissions received by the committee and to evidence taken at hearings in late September and early October.

The committee's 10 recommendations call for several matters:

- As foreshadowed in comments to the committee by Ms Le Couteur MLA, the bill should not proceed in its present form due to provisions which has a risk of potentially altering the burden of proof in sexual offences – an element which the committee believes must remain with the Prosecution.
- The committee believes the intention and scheme in the bill, which would allow consideration for a positive definition of consent in legislation, is timely.
- The committee supports – as did all submissions – that there is a need to provide and support education programs regarding the importance and need for sexual relations to be treated with care and that consent must be clear and clearly understood by the parties in a relationship.
- The committee has accepted an assurance from the Attorney-General that the bill's proposals will be considered following the publication of a report on Consent in Relation to Sexual Offences currently the subject of a major inquiry and report by the NSW Law Reform Commission. The Committee supports this approach.

Scrutiny Committee

[Scrutiny Report 23](#) (presented 30 October)

This report contained the committee's comments on 27 pieces of subordinate legislation, one government response and one regulatory impact statement.

Committee Referrals

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

On 1 November a motion was agreed to by the Assembly that the committee inquire into and report on the scope of the ACT Register of Lobbyists to cover in-house government relations staff, industry associations and project management liaison officers and companies. The committee is to report by 29 November 2018.

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee

A motion was moved on 1 November to refer to the committee, for inquiry and report, the issue of drone delivery systems in the ACT. During debate amendments were moved by the Government to have the committee consider an inquiry but not necessarily be required to report, however, these were negated after debate. Further amendments were moved by the ACT Greens which sought to include the impact of drone delivery technology on greenhouse gas emissions and also that the issue of information privacy be considered. The ACT Greens amendments were agreed to.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly with the committee to report by the last sitting week in 2019.

Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Standing Committee

A motion was moved on 30 October seeking to amend the reporting date for the committee's inquiry into the exposure draft of the Motor Accident Injuries Bill and accompanying explanatory statement from 1 November 2018 to 27 November 2018. During debate an amendment was moved to amend the reporting date to 14 December 2018. The amendment was agreed to by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

Committee statement

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 30 October informing the Assembly that the committee would not be inquiring further into Report 5/2018 of the Auditor-General entitled *ACT clubs' community contributions* due to the fact that the matters covered in the report had been, or were being, covered in other reports, inquiries and processes.

Government response

Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism's

Report on annual and financial reports 2015-2016—Recommendation 2 relating to the street light network.

Committee membership

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

Ms Lee MLA appointed in place of Mr Wall MLA

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

Mrs Jones MLA appointed in place of Ms Lee MLA

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, 27 November 2018.

This document is produced by the Office of the Legislative Assembly for information.