



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2012–2013–2014–2015

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 92

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2015

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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 DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Mr Hanson (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) about 130 000 women around Australia have suffered violence in one form or another from their current or former partner in the past 12 months alone;
  - (b) the recent tragic death in the ACT has seen a spike in calls for support to the ACT's Domestic Violence Crisis Service, which is already struggling with a 40 per cent increase in total contacts in five years and a near doubling of crisis visits in two years; and
  - (c) the system's future will be shaped in a crucial Council of Australian Governments meeting in July that will look at a national domestic violence order scheme, better and more-integrated support for women, and stronger ways to target the perpetrator;
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to establish a roundtable supporting a bi-partisan approach to tackling domestic and family violence in the ACT; and
- (3) notes that the roundtable would:
  - (a) bring together the Domestic Violence Prevention Council, police experts, support workers, section leaders, and government;



- (b) allow victims to speak directly or through written submissions about their experiences; and
- (c) inform the Government in preparation for COAG.

Mr Corbell (Attorney-General), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

- (1) Omit paragraph (1)(a), substitute:
  - “(a) 1 in 6 Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner;
  - (aa) 1 in 4 Australian women have experienced emotional abuse from a current or former partner; and
  - (ab) 1 in 3 Australian women have experienced physical violence.”.
- (2) Omit all words after “calls on the ACT Government to”, substitute:
  - “work with the Domestic Violence Prevention Council to convene an extraordinary meeting in April, prior to the next COAG meeting, noting:
    - (a) the extraordinary meeting will be augmented by domestic violence experts in the community;
    - (b) the meeting will include organisations that represent people who have experienced domestic and family violence; and
    - (c) Members of the Legislative Assembly will be invited to attend the meeting.”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) 1 in 6 Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner;
  - (b) 1 in 4 Australian women have experienced emotional abuse from a current or former partner;
  - (c) 1 in 3 Australian women have experienced physical violence;
  - (d) the recent tragic death in the ACT has seen a spike in calls for support to the ACT’s Domestic Violence Crisis Service, which is already struggling with a 40 per cent increase in total contacts in five years and a near doubling of crisis visits in two years; and
  - (e) the system’s future will be shaped in a crucial Council of Australian Governments meeting in July that will look at a national domestic violence order scheme, better and more-integrated support for women, and stronger ways to target the perpetrator; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to work with the Domestic Violence Prevention Council to convene an extraordinary meeting in April, prior to the next COAG meeting, noting:

- (a) the extraordinary meeting will be augmented by domestic violence experts in the community;
- (b) the meeting will include organisations that represent people who have experienced domestic and family violence; and
- (c) Members of the Legislative Assembly will be invited to attend the meeting.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

### **3 OAKS ESTATE—MASTER PLAN**

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

- (1) notes:
  - (a) that Oaks Estate is a 40 hectare village on the ACT border near Queanbeyan. First settled in 1836, the village has been part of the ACT since 1911;
  - (b) that a draft Policy Plan for Oaks Estate was developed by the former NCDC in 1983; in 1994 a Territory Planning Study was undertaken; in 2001 an Oaks Estate Planning Study was commissioned and in 2012 the ACT Government started community engagement on a master plan to identify issues of concern to local residents;
  - (c) that in addition, two heritage assessments were conducted in 2002 and 2013, both of which recommended the Village be heritage listed as a “place of historic and social significance in the ACT”;
  - (d) that despite all these attempts at community engagement and government interest, Oaks Estate was described in the 2006 census as one of two most disadvantaged suburbs in Canberra;
  - (e) that despite pleas and submissions to various Ministers in the current and previous ACT Government, the area remains seriously neglected with rising levels of crime, increasing social disadvantage due to changing demographics and increasing isolation due to no public transport, no safe pathways and no support services; and
  - (f) the residents’ request to halt the Master planning process to allow the Heritage Council to finalise the nomination and heritage guidelines for Oaks Estate; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
  - (a) address the residents’ immediate concerns, particularly in respect of public housing;
  - (b) work more closely with the Oaks Estate Progress Association to address their concerns about increased rates of crime including providing a more visible police presence;
  - (c) deliver amenity improvements such as safe footpaths, safer intersections, better street lighting and hazard reduction;
  - (d) consider providing an ACTION bus route schedule to ensure, at a minimum, an efficient and affordable direct route for school children to schools and commuters to work; and

- (e) acknowledge concerns raised during the community engagement process and protect the vital heritage nature of this unique Canberra village to improve the quality of life for these Canberra families.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after paragraph (1)(c), substitute:

- “(d) the need to work with local residents on a range of concerns, and that the ACT Government is working towards the advancement and renewal of Oaks Estate;
  - (e) that the ACT Government has recently published the Oaks Estate Master Plan which will guide the growth of Oaks Estate and promote better traffic movement, increased pedestrian and cycle connectivity, increased recreation and environmental opportunities and improvements to the public domain;
  - (f) that the Heritage Council is currently undertaking investigations into the heritage value of Oaks Estate and that the implementation of the Oaks Estate Master Plan will not impede on this process;
  - (g) that the ACT Government provides community based support in Oaks Estate through St Vincent de Paul;
  - (h) that ACTION and Qcity buses have a fare-sharing arrangement whereby Oaks Estate residents can catch a Qcity bus and pay ACTION fares and transfer to other ACTION services for free; and
  - (i) the ACT Government is committed to supporting crime and safety management in Oaks Estate and ACT policing directs additional resources aimed at detecting, disrupting and preventing anti-social and criminal behaviour; and
- (2) calls on the Government to continue to work with residents, including the Oaks Estate Progress Association on the implementation of the Oaks Estate Master Plan and continue to work with the community to address issues of social disadvantage.”.

Debate continued.

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 OAKS ESTATE—MASTER PLAN**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Doszpot, and on the amendment moved by Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning) (*see entry 3*)—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

## AYES, 8

Ms Berry  
 Dr Bourke  
 Ms Burch  
 Mr Corbell

Ms Fitzharris  
 Mr Gentleman  
 Ms Porter  
 Mr Rattenbury

## NOES, 7

Mr Coe  
 Mr Doszpot  
 Mrs Dunne  
 Mr Hanson

Ms Lawder  
 Mr Smyth  
 Mr Wall

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services), who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) that Oaks Estate is a 40 hectare village on the ACT border near Queanbeyan. First settled in 1836, the village has been part of the ACT since 1911;
- (b) that a draft Policy Plan for Oaks Estate was developed by the former NCDC in 1983; in 1994 a Territory Planning Study was undertaken; in 2001 an Oaks Estate Planning Study was commissioned and in 2012 the ACT Government started community engagement on a master plan to identify issues of concern to local residents;
- (c) that in addition, two heritage assessments were conducted in 2002 and 2013, both of which recommended the Village be heritage listed as a “place of historic and social significance in the ACT”;
- (d) the need to work with local residents on a range of concerns, and that the ACT Government is working towards the advancement and renewal of Oaks Estate;
- (e) that the ACT Government has recently published the Oaks Estate Master Plan which will guide the growth of Oaks Estate and promote better traffic movement, increased pedestrian and cycle connectivity, increased recreation and environmental opportunities and improvements to the public domain;
- (f) that the Heritage Council is currently undertaking investigations into the heritage value of Oaks Estate and that the implementation of the Oaks Estate Master Plan will not impede on this process;
- (g) that the ACT Government provides community based support in Oaks Estate through St Vincent de Paul;
- (h) that ACTION and Qcity buses have a fare-sharing arrangement whereby Oaks Estate residents can catch a Qcity bus and pay ACTION fares and transfer to other ACTION services for free; and
- (i) the ACT Government is committed to supporting crime and safety management in Oaks Estate and ACT policing directs additional resources aimed at detecting, disrupting and preventing anti-social and criminal behaviour; and

- (2) calls on the Government to continue to work with residents, including the Oaks Estate Progress Association on the implementation of the Oaks Estate Master Plan and continue to work with the community to address issues of social disadvantage.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 6 SOCIAL INCLUSION

Dr Bourke, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) that Canberra is an inclusive city with diverse social cultures and communities;
  - (b) that successive Labor governments have invested in quality infrastructure and services which have been central to shaping our inclusive culture;
  - (c) that any Canberran might need help to be better able to participate in our community at some point in their life; and
  - (d) that every Canberran can help in building inclusive communities;
- (2) further notes the Government’s commitment to social inclusion through:
- (a) investment in inclusive infrastructure including quality social housing and public transport;
  - (b) services that support Canberrans to live better lives, including:
    - (i) the *Better Services Blueprint* and the *One Human Services Gateway*;
    - (ii) high quality hospitals and community health services; and
    - (iii) nation leading public education and training programs;
  - (c) support for organisations that help Canberrans connect with their communities through life-long learning, arts and sport;
  - (d) commitment to the National Disability Insurance Scheme which provides the choice and control needed for people with disabilities to better participate in the life of our community; and
  - (e) support for diversity in our community through events and programs that help Canberrans celebrate their communities and cultures; and
- (3) calls on the Minister Assisting the Chief Minister for Social Inclusion to deliver a progress statement on the Government’s Social Inclusion agenda no later than the second sitting week in May.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

## 7 A.C.T. AMBULANCE SERVICE

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

- (1) notes the:
- (a) toxic management culture of the ACT Ambulance Service;

- (b) year-long battle to get the former Minister for Police and Emergency Services to agree to a review;
  - (c) eight months taken to determine the terms of reference;
  - (d) initial completion date of August 2014;
  - (e) amended completion date of December 2014; and
  - (f) review is yet to be made public; and
- (2) calls on the Minister to table the complete review by the close of business today.

Ms Burch (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) addressing the Assembly—

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

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

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Debate continued.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes that:
- (a) the ACT Emergency Services Agency is undergoing a process of reform and this has been underpinned by a number of reviews of the organisation;
  - (b) the Lennox Review showed that ACTAS is one of the best ambulance services in Australia;
  - (c) the ACT Government commissioned O2C Solutions to conduct a review of organisational behavioural aspects of the ACT Ambulance Service;
  - (d) the O2C review was progressed involving the Transport Workers’ Union;
  - (e) the O2C report makes a range of key findings and recommendations;
  - (f) the Minister has received a blueprint document from the ESA Commissioner outlining the future directions for ACTAS, and that this blueprint document wholly captures the key findings and recommendations for the O2C report;
  - (g) the Minister has released this blueprint document today; and
  - (h) the Minister’s commitment to implement the recommendations of the O2C report and the blueprint; and
- (2) calls on the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to:
- (a) deliver regular updates to the Assembly on progress in implementing these actions; and
  - (b) continue to work with the TWU and other stakeholders to ensure ACTAS continues to deliver its high-quality services to the ACT community.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 7	
Ms Berry	Ms Fitzharris	Mr Coe	Ms Lawder
Dr Bourke	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Ms Burch	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Mr Corbell	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) the ACT Emergency Services Agency is undergoing a process of reform and this has been underpinned by a number of reviews of the organisation;
  - (b) the Lennox Review showed that ACTAS is one of the best ambulance services in Australia;
  - (c) the ACT Government commissioned O2C Solutions to conduct a review of organisational behavioural aspects of the ACT Ambulance Service;
  - (d) the O2C review was progressed involving the Transport Workers’ Union;
  - (e) the O2C report makes a range of key findings and recommendations;
  - (f) the Minister has received a blueprint document from the ESA Commissioner outlining the future directions for ACTAS, and that this blueprint document wholly captures the key findings and recommendations for the O2C report;
  - (g) the Minister has released this blueprint document today; and
  - (h) the Minister’s commitment to implement the recommendations of the O2C report and the blueprint; and
- (2) calls on the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to:
  - (a) deliver regular updates to the Assembly on progress in implementing these actions; and
  - (b) continue to work with the TWU and other stakeholders to ensure ACTAS continues to deliver its high-quality services to the ACT community.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 8 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Burch (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.54 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE:** All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mrs Jones\*.

\*on leave

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**Tom Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly