



# Matters of public importance —your Assembly @ work

*Non-sitting and sitting weeks—14 to 18 August 2017*

Issue 7/2017

## Government business

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

### Bill introduced

#### Holidays (Reconciliation Day) Amendment Bill 2017

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Holidays Act 1958* to make 27 May a reconciliation Day public holiday in the Australian Capital Territory or, if that day is not a Monday, the following Monday; and omit Family and Community Day and its definition.

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](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au).

### Bills debated

#### Appropriation Bill 2017-2018—

*Summary:* This bill will appropriate money for the purposes of the Territory for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2017.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 15 August and continued on 17 August.

#### Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018—

*Summary:* This bill will appropriate money for expenditure in relation to the Office of the Legislative Assembly and officers of the Assembly for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2017.

*Proceedings:* This bill was debated cognately with the Appropriation Bill 2017-2018.

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

### Motion debated

**Supporting marriage equality** was the subject of a motion moved by the Government on 17 August. The motion noted the Federal Government's instruction to the Australian Bureau of Statistics to conduct a voluntary postal survey on whether the law should be changed to allow same sex couples to marry. The motion called on the Assembly to support the ACT Government in actively joining the campaign to achieve marriage equality and also to reaffirm its commitment that all Australians should be treated equally under the law, including being able to marry the person they love.

During debate the Opposition moved an amendment noting the diversity of opinion in the community, supporting the view that the debate should be respectful regardless of a person's views and calling on the Government not to provide ACT taxpayer resources to either the "yes" or "no" case. The amendment was voted on in the Assembly however it did not pass.

The motion was then passed by the Assembly.

### Ministerial statements

The following ministerial statements were made on 15 August 2017.

The Minister for Transport and City Services made a statement concerning a recent ministerial delegation to North America undertaken in May 2017. During the statement the Minister outlined the purpose of the delegation which included fostering global contacts in the transport industry and obtaining information about the experiences and successes of countries and cities on **transport technologies and infrastructure**.

**Social Inclusion in the Arts 2017 Plan** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for the Arts and Community Events. The minister stated that the Plan shows the strength of the Canberra arts sector and tells some of the stories of the power that the arts have to improve quality of life. During the statement the minister presented a copy of the Plan to the Assembly.

The following ministerial statements were made on 17 August 2017.

The Attorney General made a ministerial statement on the progress in implementing the Government's commitment to **preventing and minimising gambling harm**. The Attorney-General outlined the measures in place to regulate the gambling industry, the work the Government is undertaking to evaluate and build on the existing measures and the importance of focusing on further harm minimisation strategies. During the statement the Attorney-General presented the following paper:

Implementing the Government Commitment to Reduce Gaming Machine Authorisations—Options for Consultation.

The Minister for Disability, Children and Youth made a ministerial statement concerning **child care placement and care plans**. The Minister reported on the progress made in implementing the six recommendations of the Glanfield Inquiry—*Review into the system level responses to family violence in the ACT*. The inquiry recommendations related to decision making, quality assurance and oversight of the child protection system.

Other ministerial statements made on 17 August 2017 related to:

ACT Government Response to Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs—Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Centenary Hospital—Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Update on the Aluminium Cladding Working Group—Minister for Planning and Land Management

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 debated

#### Crimes (Intimate Image Abuse) Amendment Bill 2017

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to create a new offence for people who distribute an intimate image of another person without consent.

*Proceedings:* The bill was agreed to in principle after debate. During the detail stage a number of amendments were moved by the Government which received the support of all parties.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

### Motions debated

Mr Steel MLA moved a motion concerning an **integrated transport network** on 16 August. The motion noted the Government's commitment to building a transport network in the ACT that included roads, park and ride facilities, on and off-road cycle paths, buses and light rail. The motion called on the ACT Government to deliver Stage 2 of the city-wide light rail network to Woden and for all Members of the Assembly to support a city-wide light rail network for Canberra.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

**Education** was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Orr MLA on 16 August. The motion included calling on the ACT Government to deliver on its education commitments made during the 2016 election campaign period and in the Parliamentary Agreement and to continue to implement and advocate for needs based school funding in line with the National Education Reform Agreement.

The Opposition moved an amendment during debate calling on the ACT Government to ensure Canberra families have a range of education choices and to table Education Directorate information on the ACT's academic performance when compared to similar schools in other jurisdictions. The amendment was not passed by the Assembly.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Ms Lee MLA moved a motion concerning **mobility permits** on 16 August. The motion called on the ACT Government to review mobility permits including eligibility criteria for mobility permits, surveillance and enforcement of illegal parking in disability spaces and the if the number of spaces available is sufficient for the number of permits holders.

During debate the Government moved an amendment which was passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 17 August 2017 related to:

Alexander Maconochie Centre—  
Accommodation Pressures—Mr Wall MLA

Governance of the Territory—Ms Lawder MLA

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

### Papers presented

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

Auditor-General's Report—4/2017—  
Performance information in ACT public schools—Government response (*presented by the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development on 15 August*)

Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme—Update on the ACT Government response—Quarterly report—1 April to 30 June 2017 (*presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 15 August*)

Report of Coroner—Death of Paul Hennessy and the Executive response (*presented by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on 17 August*)

### Petitions and petition responses

On 17 August 2017 the following petition was lodged—

Higgins—Upgrade of playgrounds—lodged by Mrs Kikkert MLA and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

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

On 17 August 2017 the following ministerial response to a petition was lodged—

Giralang community precinct—Revitalisation

A copy of the response can be found [here](#).

### Committee activities

#### Committee report presented

##### Scrutiny Committee

###### Scrutiny Report 8 (*presented 15 August*)

This report contained the committee's comments on three bills, 147 pieces of subordinate legislation and one government response.

#### Committee statements

##### Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee

The chair made a statement on the committee's consideration of statutory appointments for the period 1 January to 30 June 2017.

##### Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee informed the Assembly that the committee had developed a Guidance Document in relation to its Inquiry into Housing to assist the community in understanding the terms of reference and provide information on current practices, processes and legislative requirements relating to housing. A copy of the Guidance Document can be found [here](#).

The chair of the committee also made a statement on the committee's consideration of statutory appointments and presented the following schedule of statutory appointments:

- . Period 1 January to 30 June 2016 and Period 1 July to 31 December 2016

#### Government response and Speaker's response to committee report presented

##### Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee

**Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018** (*presented 15 August by Treasurer*)

## **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 Doszpot (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, 22 August 2017.**

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