



# Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Sitting of 2 April 2020

Issue 3/2020

## Government Business

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

### ***Bills introduced***

#### [COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will introduce changes to the Territory's legislative framework to enable the Government and the community to deal with the current COVID-19 public health emergency and will give also effect to Commonwealth agreements.

#### [Public Health \(Emergencies\) Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Public Health Act 1997* to allow an extension, or further extensions, of a declared public health emergency to remain in force for a period of up to 90 days when it relates to a declaration made due to the COVID-19 emergency. The bill will also give the chief health officer and authorised persons certainty as to the lawful exercise of emergency powers, under the Act, and will allow the Government to communicate with certainty about emergency arrangements with more notice to the community.

### ***Bills debated***

#### [Appropriation Bill 2019-20 \(No 2\)](#)

*Summary:* This bill will appropriate additional money for the purposes of the Territory for the financial year 2019-2020.

*Proceedings:* Debate on this bill resumed with all parties in the Assembly indicated support for the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

During the detail stage amendments proposed by the Government were passed.

The amended bill was agreed to by the Assembly.

#### [COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will introduce changes to the Territory's legislative framework to enable the Government and the community to deal with the current COVID-19 public health emergency and will give also effect to Commonwealth agreements.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on the bill following its presentation to the Assembly earlier in the day. The Opposition outlined its concerns in relation to the perceived lack of oversight provisions in the bill and highlighted it would be proposing an amendment during the detail stage of the bill to address this issue. The ACT Greens stated they would be supporting the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle

During the detail stage the Opposition moved an amendment to require a monthly report to be provided to the Assembly by the relevant minister on measures introduced in response to COVID-19. A minor amendment to the Opposition's amendment was moved by the Government and agreed to by the Assembly. The Opposition's amendment was then passed. A further amendment was moved by the Opposition in relation to proposed changes in the bill to the *Supreme Court Act 1993* concerning trials by judge alone in criminal proceedings during the COVID-19 emergency period. The proposed amendment was negated following a vote of the Assembly.

The amended bill was then agreed to.

#### [Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* and the *Gaming Machine Regulation 2004* to implement the findings and conclusions of the *Gaming Machine Tax Rebate Statutory Review Report* and continue the gaming machine tax scheme with some additional measures for small and medium clubs or club groups. The bill also makes changes to the rebate to improve its operation and effectiveness.

*Proceedings:* Both the Opposition and the ACT Greens indicated support for the bill when debate resumed and the bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

#### [Public Health \(Emergencies\) Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Public Health Act 1997* to allow an extension, or further extensions, of a declared public health emergency to remain in force for a period of up to 90 days when it relates to a declaration made due to the COVID-19 emergency. The bill will also give the chief health officer and authorised persons certainty as to the lawful exercise of emergency powers, under the Act, and will allow the Government to communicate with certainty about emergency arrangements with more notice to the community.

*Proceedings:* Following introduction of this proposed legislation earlier in the day, both the Opposition and ACT Greens outlined reasons for supporting the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

#### [Rates Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Rates Act 2004* by lengthening the period used to calculate the average unimproved value of parcels of land in the Territory from three years to five years. The bill will also amend the Act to require the commissioner to redetermine the unimproved value of a parcel of land as soon as practicable after a lease is varied.

*Proceedings:* Debate on this bill resumed with all parties in the Assembly indicating support for the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

This bill was passed without amendment.

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

## Assembly Business

*Includes any business relating to the establishment or membership of a committee or the proposed referral of a matter to a committee. It also includes business which proposes to amend, disallow, disapprove or declare void any instruments which are made under specific Acts agreed to by the Assembly. Assembly business also includes any notice or order of the day which deals with the administration of the Assembly or how the Assembly conducts its proceedings*

### *Motions debated*

On 2 April a motion proposing amendments to the **2020 sitting pattern** was moved and agreed to. The Assembly is now scheduled to meet on the following days prior to the 2020 election:

- 7 May 2020
- 18 June 2020
- 13 August 2020
- 27 August 2020.

A **Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic** was appointed by the Assembly on 2 April. The committee is to consider and report to the Assembly on any matter relating to the ACT Government's health and financial response and any other matter relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic as it relates to the ACT. The committee is composed of five members with an Opposition member, Mr Coe MLA, being elected chair at the committee's first meeting on 3 April 2020. Other members of the committee include Ms Cheyne MLA, Mrs Dunne MLA, Ms Le Couteur MLA and Mr Pettersson MLA.

A motion was agreed to rescinding two resolutions of the Assembly of 20 February 2020 that established the **Select Committee on Estimates 2020-2021** and appointed Members to that committee.

A further motion was agreed to in relation to the **use of audio visual and audio links** when a public or deliberative meetings of an Assembly committee is conducted.

The full terms of the above motions can be found in the [Minutes of Proceedings](#).

## Papers Presented

The following are papers of interest that were presented by the Chief Minister, Speaker or the Manager of Government Business on 2 April 2020:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028—Annual Report for 2019
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body—Report on outcomes of the ATSIEB Hearings 2019—Government response to the Ninth report to the ACT Government
- ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2018-19
- ACT's Women's Plan 2016-2026—Second Action Plan 2020-22
- A Step Up for Our Kids—Snapshot Report—April 2020

- Auditor-General Report 1/2020—Shared Services delivery of HR and Finance Services
- Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Ministerial Appointment 2020 (No 1)
- Mental health in the ACT—Statement providing update on the policy directions
- Notice amending the 2020 sitting pattern of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory—Gazettal notice
- Occupational Violence Strategy 2020-22
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—ACT Government Second Annual Progress Report responding to recommendations
- Women and girls in the ACT—Annual statement on status

## Petitions

The following paper petitions were lodged—

- Chifley Place car parking—lodged by Ms Cody MLA
- Street lighting and parking at Narrabundah shops—lodged by Ms Lee MLA

The following ministerial responses to petitions were lodged—

- Active travel (*Minister for Transport*)
- Chifley Place car parking (*Minister for City Services*)
- The Canberra Hospital Precinct—Traffic conditions (*Minister for Health*)

A copy of the petitions and ministerial responses can be found on the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

## Committee Activities

### *Committee reports presented*

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

Report 8—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2018-2019](#)

#### **Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report 8—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2018-2019](#)

#### **Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee**

Report 11—[Inquiry into the supply of water to the Tharwa community](#)

Report 12—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2018-2019](#)

#### **Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee**

Report 8—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2018-2019](#)

Report 9—[Interim Report on Child and Youth Protection Services \(Part 1\)](#)

#### **Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee**

Report 7—[Report on Inquiry into the Human Rights \(Workers Rights\) Amendment Bill 2019](#)

Report 8—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2018-2019](#)

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

Report 11—[Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2018-2019](#)

## **Public Accounts—Standing Committee**

Report 9—[Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2018-2019](#)

Report 10—[Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 \(No. 2\)](#)

## **Scrutiny Committee**

[Scrutiny Report 40](#)

This report contained the committee's comments on 15 bills, seven pieces of subordinate legislation, three national regulations and two government responses.

## ***Committee statements***

### **Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee**

A statement made by the chair of the committee informed the Assembly that the committee had resolved to undertake a review of the current committee structure.

### **Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee**

Consideration of statutory appointments for the period 1 July to 31 December 2019 was the subject of a statement made by the chair of the committee.

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

The chair of the committee made a statement in relation to an extension to the reporting date of the committee's inquiry into the SPIRE project. The committee will now report before the end of the Ninth Assembly.

## ***Responses to committee reports***

### **Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report 7—Cessation of the Music for Colleges course—Government response (*presented 2 April*)

### **Public Accounts—Standing Committee**

Report 7—Inquiry into Auditor-General's Report No 7 of 2016: Certain Land Development Agency acquisitions—Revised Government response (*presented 2 April*)

## 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)  
Mr Deepak Gupta (Australian Labor Party)  
Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)  
Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)  
Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

## Next Sitting

Thursday, 7 May 2020.

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