



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021–2022–2023–2024

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 113

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024

- 1** The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms Burch) took the Chair and made the following acknowledgement of country in the Ngunnawal language:

Dhawura nguna, dhawura Ngunnawal.

Yanggu ngalawiri, dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari.

Nginggada Dindi dhawura Ngunnaawalbun yindjumaralidjinyin.

This is Ngunnawal Country.

Today we are gathering on Ngunnawal country.

We always pay respect to Elders, female and male, and Ngunnawal country.

The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER—PAPER

The Speaker informed the Assembly that, pursuant to standing order 22, secondary care giver leave has been granted to Mr Steel (Minister for Planning), commencing 18 March 2024, and presented the following paper:

Mr Steel—Leave of absence—Letter to the Speaker from Mr Steel notifying his period of secondary care giver leave, dated 30 November 2023.

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Ms Cheyne (Minister for Human Rights) moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mr Gentleman (Minister for Business) for this sitting week due to personal reasons.

Question—put and passed.

4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Ms Lawder moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mr Cocks for this sitting week due to personal reasons.

Question—put and passed.

5 PETITIONS AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSE—PETITIONS AND RESPONSE NOTED

Petitions

The Clerk announced that the following Members had lodged petitions for presentation:

Ms Lee, from 920 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to exempt general medical practices from the additional payroll tax as it applies to contractor/tenant GPs (e-Pet 024-23).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, this petition stands referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Dr Paterson, from 646 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to review current licensing arrangements for snake handlers and consider providing salaried positions for snake removal and handling experts to improve public safety and conservation (e-Pet 005-24).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, this petition stands referred to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Ms Lee, from 96 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to reverse the timetable change at Telopea Park School, adequately consult with parents and carers to hear, in open and constructive dialogue, alternative solutions to the challenges faced by the school (e-Pet 004-24).

Dr Paterson, from 332 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to provide toilet facilities at Ruth Park Playground in Coombs (e-Pet 001-24).

Ministerial response

The Clerk announced that the following response to a petition had been lodged:

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Crime Prevention), dated 14 February 2024—Response to e-petition No 021-23, lodged by Mr Cain on 28 November 2023, concerning police presence at Kippax shops.

The Speaker proposed—That the petitions and responses so lodged be noted.

Debate ensued.

Paper: Ms Clay, by leave, presented the following paper:

Petition which does not conform with the standing orders—Green Shed—Objection to closure—Ms Clay (7,298 signatures).

Debate continued.

Paper: Ms Lee, by leave, presented the following paper:

Petition which does not conform with the standing orders—Telopea Park School—Timetable changes—Reverse—Ms Lee (248 signatures).

Ms Lee, who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

6 PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS POLICIES—POST-IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW—ASSEMBLY UPDATE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED

Ms Berry (Minister for Education and Youth Affairs) made a ministerial statement concerning post-implementation review of the Physical Activities and Excursions Policies and presented the following papers:

Physical Activities and Excursions Policies—Post-Implementation Review—

Summary Report—ACT Education Directorate, dated January 2024.

Assembly Update—Ministerial statement, 19 March 2024.

Ms Berry moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question—put and passed.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NEIL GAUGHAN APM—CHIEF POLICE OFFICER FOR THE A.C.T.—RETIREMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Barr (Acting Minister for Police and Crime Prevention) made a ministerial statement concerning the retirement of Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM, the Chief Police Officer for the ACT and presented the following paper:

Retirement of Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM—Chief Police Officer for the ACT—Ministerial statement, 19 March 2024.

Mr Barr moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

8 ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 9—INQUIRY INTO A.C.T.'S HERITAGE ARRANGEMENTS—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for Heritage) made a ministerial statement concerning the Government's response to the report of the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity on its inquiry into ACT's heritage arrangements and presented the following papers:

Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity—Standing Committee—Report 9—Inquiry into ACT's heritage arrangements—

Government response, dated February 2024.

Government response—Ministerial statement, 19 March 2024.

Ms Vassarotti moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question—put and passed.

9 VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL 2023—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—INQUIRY INTO THE VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL 2023—REPORT NOTED

Ms Orr, by leave, pursuant to order, presented the following report:

Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2023—Select Committee—Report—*Inquiry into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2023*, dated 29 February 2024, including additional comments (*Mr Braddock*), dissenting reports (*Dr Paterson, Ms Castley and Mr Cocks*) and a corrigendum, together with a copy of the minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

10 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 23—INQUIRY INTO THE CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023—REPORT NOTED

Mr Cain (Chair), pursuant to order, presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 23—*Inquiry into the Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*, dated 13 March 2024, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

11 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 24—INQUIRY INTO THE PARENTAGE (SURROGACY) AMENDMENT BILL 2023—REPORT NOTED

Mr Cain (Chair), pursuant to order, presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 24—*Inquiry into the Parentage (Surrogacy) Amendment Bill 2023*, dated 13 March 2024, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

12 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 25—INQUIRY INTO SEXUAL, FAMILY AND PERSONAL VIOLENCE AMENDMENT BILL 2023—REPORT NOTED

Mr Cain (Chair), pursuant to order, presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 25—*Inquiry into Sexual, Family and Personal Violence Amendment Bill 2023*, dated 13 March 2024, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

13 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 22—INQUIRY INTO APPROPRIATION BILL 2023-2024 (NO 2) AND APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2023-2024 (NO 2)—REPORT NOTED

Mr Pettersson (Deputy Chair), pursuant to order, presented the following report:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 22—*Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024 (No 2)*, dated 7 March 2024, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

14 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE (LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY ROLE)—SCRUTINY REPORT 39—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Cain (Chair) presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Scrutiny Report 39, dated 12 March 2024, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the report.

15 ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 10—INQUIRY INTO ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2022-23—REPORT NOTED

Mr Milligan (Chair) presented the following report:

Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee—Report 10—*Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-23*, dated 6 March 2024, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

16 HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 11—REPORT OF THE INQUIRY INTO A RECOVERY PLAN FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY WORKERS—REPORT NOTED

Ms Clay (Chair) presented the following report:

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee—Report 11—*Report of the Inquiry into a recovery plan for nursing and midwifery workers*, dated 13 February 2024, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

17 PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 16—INQUIRY INTO THE TERRITORY PLAN AND OTHER ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS—REPORT NOTED

Ms Clay (Chair) presented the following report:

Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Report 16—*Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents*, dated 7 March 2024, including additional comments (*Mr Parton*), together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

18 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 21—INQUIRY INTO ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2022-23—REPORT NOTED

Mr Pettersson (Deputy Chair) presented the following report:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 21—*Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-23*, dated 7 March 2024, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

19 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER

Mr Cain (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety.

Paper: Mr Cain, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 July to 31 December 2023.

20 HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING—STANDING COMMITTEE—INQUIRY—RAISING CHILDREN IN THE A.C.T.—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Ms Clay (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing had resolved to conduct an inquiry into and report on raising children in the ACT.

21 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—STANDING ORDERS 174 AND 175—APPLICATION—ROAD SAFETY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Cain (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that, having contemplated a self-referred inquiry into the Road Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety had resolved not to conduct an inquiry into the Bill and shared its experience relating to bill referral process under standing orders 174 and 175 for the benefit of other committees.

22 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORTABLE CONTRACTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Pettersson (Deputy Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, made a statement concerning the reporting of reportable contracts, which are provided by agencies to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts under section 39 of the *Government Procurement Act 2001*, and, by leave, presented the following papers:

Reportable contracts—Agencies reporting reportable contracts for the—

Period of 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

23 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AMENDMENT BILL 2024 (NO 2)

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Children, Youth and Family Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Children and Young People Act 2008* and the *Children and Young People Regulation 2009*, and for other purposes.

Paper: Ms Stephen-Smith presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Stephen-Smith moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Ms Castley) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

24 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (CHILD SAFE STANDARDS) AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Children, Youth and Family Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005* and the *Human Rights Commission Regulation 2023*, and for other purposes.

Paper: Ms Stephen-Smith presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Stephen-Smith moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Ms Castley) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

25 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) informed the Assembly of the absence of Minister Gentleman and Minister Steel, and advised the Assembly that questions without notice normally directed to the Minister for Police and Crime Prevention and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services could be directed to Mr Barr, while questions without notice normally directed to the Minister for Skills and Training could be directed to Ms Berry (Deputy Chief Minister).

Mr Barr further advised that questions without notice normally directed to the Special Minister of State, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and the Minister for Planning could be directed to Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health), and those normally directed to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, the Minister for Business and the Minister for Transport could be directed to Ms Cheyne (Minister for City Services).

26 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

27 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 17(5)—Report No 1/2024—Urban Tree Management, dated 23 February 2024.

Bills, referred to Committees, pursuant to standing order 174—Correspondence—

Bills—Inquiries—

Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024 (No 2)—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, dated 14 February 2024.

Disability Inclusion Bill 2024—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion, dated 14 February 2024.

Environment Protection (Fossil Fuel Company Advertising) Amendment Bill 2024—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, dated 14 February 2024.

Bills—Not inquired into—

Biosecurity Legislation Amendment Bill 2024—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, dated 14 February 2024.

Civil Law (Wrongs) Amendment Bill 2024—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 14 February 2024.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Membership) Amendment Bill 2024—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, dated 14 February 2024.

Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2024—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 14 February 2024.

Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2024—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality, dated 21 February 2024.

Road Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2023—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services, dated 16 February 2024.

Workplace Legislation Amendment Bill 2024—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality, dated 21 February 2024.

Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act, pursuant to section 20—Independent Reviewer—Report for the period 1 July to 31 December 2023, dated 18 February 2024, prepared by Bill Campbell AO KC.

Memorandum of understanding between Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT and the ACT Work Health and Safety Commissioner, dated 13 and 23 February 2024.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 21—*Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-23*—Speaker’s response to Recommendations 2 and 3, dated 15 March 2024.

Standing orders—

99B—Petitions—Referral advice—Correspondence—

e-petition 019-23 Japanese domestic market style number plates—Introduction—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services, dated 15 February 2024.

e-petition 022-23—Scullin and other areas—Tree hollows—Protection—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services, dated 15 February 2024.

e-petition 023-23—Belconnen—Public transport outcomes—Improvements—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services, dated 15 February 2024.

e-petition 027-23—*Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005*—Sentencing procedure of child sexual abuse cases—Amendment to remove good character references—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 14 February 2024.

191—Amendments to:

Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2023, dated 13 and 14 February 2024.

Government Procurement Amendment Bill 2023, dated 13 and 14 February 2024.

28 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Ms Cheyne (Acting Manager of Government Business), pursuant to standing order 211, presented the following papers:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to section 21—Auditor-General’s Reports—No 9/2023—2022-23 Financial Audits—Overview and No 11/2023—Financial Results and Audit Findings Report—Government response, dated 18 March 2024.

Budget 2023-2024—Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 10—Supplementary Budget Papers—Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate—Corrigendum, dated 19 March 2024, together with a statement.

Crimes (Sentencing) Act, pursuant to section 61E—Statutory Review—Part 4.6 of the *Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005*, dated March 2024.

Crimes Act, pursuant to section 35AB—Statutory Review—Sections 35A(2) and (3) and 35AAA of the *Crimes Act 1900*, dated March 2024.

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 26—Consolidated Financial Report for the financial quarter ending—

30 June 2023—Amended, together with a statement.

31 December 2023.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Report 20—Inquiry into penalties for minor offences and vulnerable people—Government response, dated February 2024.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 20—Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports July – December 2022—Government response, dated March 2024.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 22—Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 (No 2), and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024 (No 2)—Government response, dated March 2024, together with a statement.

Public Sector Management Standards 2016, pursuant to section 56—Engagements for Long-term ACT Public Service Senior Executives—1 September 2023 to 29 February 2024.

Subordinate legislation (including explanatory statements unless otherwise stated)

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64—

Animal Welfare Act—Animal Welfare (Welfare of Horses in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-11 (LR, 18 January 2024).

City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act—City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (Authority Board Member) Appointment 2024 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-18 (LR, 5 February 2024).

Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act—Construction Occupations (Licensing) Building Energy Efficiency Assessment Sale and Lease of Residential Premises Code of Practice 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-7 (LR, 12 January 2024).

Financial Management Act—Financial Management (Insourcing Framework) Determination 2024 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-10 (LR, 18 January 2024).

Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Act—

Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Members' Salary Cap Determination 2024 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-3 (LR, 9 January 2024).

Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Speaker's Salary Cap Determination 2024 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-4 (LR, 9 January 2024).

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Act—

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Building and Construction Industry Employer Levy Determination 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-12 (LR, 29 January 2024).

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Community Sector Industry Employer Levy Determination 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-16 (LR, 5 February 2024).

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Security Industry Employer Levy Determination 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-15 (LR, 5 February 2024).

Major Events Act—

Major Events (Freestyle Kings Live Show) Notice 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-6 (LR, 15 January 2024).

Major Events (Men’s One Day International - Australia v West Indies) Notice 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-5 (LR, 15 January 2024).

Major Events (Women’s International T20 Australia v South Africa) Notice 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-2 (LR, 15 January 2024).

Nature Conservation Act—Nature Conservation (Canberra Spider Orchid) Action Plan Revocation 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-1 (LR, 8 January 2024).

Public Place Names Act—

Public Place Names (Denman Prospect) Determination 2024 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-14 (LR, 29 January 2024).

Public Place Names (Whitlam) Determination 2024 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-17 (LR, 5 February 2024).

Road Transport (General) Act—

Road Transport (General) Application of Road Transport Legislation (National Multicultural Festival) Declaration 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-13 (LR, 25 January 2024).

Road Transport (General) Concession Determination 2024 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-20 (LR, 8 February 2024).

Urban Forest Act—Urban Forest (Transitional Provisions) Regulation 2024—Subordinate Law SL2024-1 (LR, 15 January 2024).

Water Resources Act—

Water Resources (Fees) Determination 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-9 (LR, 18 January 2024).

Water Resources (Water Available from Areas) Determination 2024—Disallowable Instrument DI2024-8 (LR, 18 January 2024).

29 MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM—INVESTMENT—TRANSPARENCY

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the ACT Government has committed, through its infrastructure plan and other announcements, to build over the next 15 years, Light Rail Stage 2B, a new Northside Hospital, a new Bruce stadium, a new Canberra Theatre Expansion, a new Convention Centre, as well as other major infrastructure projects estimated to cost more than \$8.5 billion;
 - (b) the Chief Minister has indicated that he plans to pay for these projects through 50/50 funding agreements with the Federal Labor Government;
 - (c) there have been no business cases, estimated completion dates, or detailed funding released to Canberrans as a part of these announcements; and

- (d) during construction of Light Rail Stage 1, the Chief Minister cut projects in health and housing to ensure funds were reallocated to build the tram from Gungahlin to the City;
- (2) further notes:
- (a) more than half of new Capital Works Projects commenced by major directorates in the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 budgets have been delayed;
 - (b) Capital Works Program expenditure reports for the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 financial years show that the ACT Government has failed to spend over \$500 million of allocated funds on Capital Works Projects across major directorates;
 - (c) to fund these projects, the ACT Government will reach borrowings of at least \$18.5 billion with an interest bill worth more than double what the ACT Government currently spends on housing; and
 - (d) the Chief Minister revealed in Budget Review hearings that to fund his spiralling debt costs and to avoid a further credit rating downgrade, revenue can be increased through own-source revenue; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) commit to publicly releasing the business case for all projects listed in the ACT's infrastructure plan, and report to the Assembly by the last sitting in June 2024 whether the Federal Government has agreed to 50/50 funding; and
 - (b) publish a full list of delayed projects for each region in the next edition of the Our Canberra newsletter.

Mr Barr (Treasurer) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after "That this Assembly", substitute:

- "(1) notes:
- (a) the ACT Infrastructure Investment Program is forecast to be \$8.5 billion over the five years to 2027-28 to cater for our growing population;
 - (b) the Government is updating the 2019 Infrastructure Plan by portfolio area, to provide the Canberra community, businesses, and the construction sector a clear indication of the pipeline of major infrastructure work planned in the ACT over the next 15 years;
 - (c) the ACT population is anticipated to reach half a million by 2026-27, making investment in infrastructure necessary to maintain our world class living standards and wellbeing outcomes;
 - (d) the updated Plans outline the Government's infrastructure priorities over the short, medium and long-term and provide information on the indicative costs of future works where possible;

- (e) the Government has committed, through its updated plans, to build over the medium-term, a new Northside Hospital, new schools and school expansions, Light Rail Stages 2A and 2B, a new Canberra Theatre Expansion, a new Convention Centre, a new Stadium as well as other major infrastructure projects such as the Molonglo River Bridge, and arterial road upgrades and active travel routes, that are necessary for the fastest growing jurisdiction in the country;
 - (f) delivering major infrastructure projects requires long-term planning; and
 - (g) financing of the Infrastructure Investment Program over the coming decade will be through a combination of operating cash surpluses, asset sales, significant Commonwealth co-contributions, market borrowings and leasing arrangements;
- (2) further notes:
- (a) approximately \$7.5 billion in important infrastructure has been delivered for the people of Canberra since 2014, including Light Rail Stage 1 from Gungahlin to the City, University of Canberra Public Hospital, five new schools across Canberra growth areas, new Nurse-led Walk-in Centres, ensuring we continue to lead the nation on a per capita share of public housing, and major community sporting and recreation facilities; and
 - (b) there are major projects currently underway and nearing completion, including: the Canberra Hospital Expansion, due for completion mid this year, Woden CIT, and Raising London Circuit, to connect the CBD to New Acton and facilitate Light Rail Stage 2 to Woden;
- (3) also notes that the Canberra Liberals have committed to oppose Light Rail to Woden;
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to continue to:
- (a) invest in infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing city;
 - (b) release business cases for major projects at appropriate times, to ensure transparency and provide accurate information to the community regarding the economic, productivity and community considerations informing Government decision-making, while protecting the commercial interests of the Territory and ensuring that value for money outcomes are not compromised; and
 - (c) work with the Commonwealth Government through the National Capital Investment Framework to ensure fair Commonwealth funding is provided to deliver essential infrastructure as it is required, and to update the Assembly on progress by June 2024; and
- (5) calls on the Canberra Liberals leader to provide a detailed breakdown in her Budget Reply as to what projects, alongside Light Rail Stage 2B to Woden, a Canberra Liberals Government would cut from the forward Infrastructure Investment Program, to better inform the Canberra community ahead of the October election.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 14		NOES, 7
Andrew Barr	Suzanne Orr	Peter Cain
Yvette Berry	Marisa Paterson	Leanne Castley
Andrew Braddock	Michael Pettersson	Elizabeth Kikkert
Joy Burch	Shane Rattenbury	Nicole Lawder
Tara Cheyne	Rachel Stephen-Smith	Elizabeth Lee
Jo Clay	Rebecca Vassarotti	James Milligan
Emma Davidson		Mark Parton
Laura Nuttall		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the ACT Infrastructure Investment Program is forecast to be \$8.5 billion over the five years to 2027-28 to cater for our growing population;
 - (b) the Government is updating the 2019 Infrastructure Plan by portfolio area, to provide the Canberra community, businesses, and the construction sector a clear indication of the pipeline of major infrastructure work planned in the ACT over the next 15 years;
 - (c) the ACT population is anticipated to reach half a million by 2026-27, making investment in infrastructure necessary to maintain our world class living standards and wellbeing outcomes;
 - (d) the updated Plans outline the Government’s infrastructure priorities over the short, medium and long-term and provide information on the indicative costs of future works where possible;
 - (e) the Government has committed, through its updated plans, to build over the medium-term, a new Northside Hospital, new schools and school expansions, Light Rail Stages 2A and 2B, a new Canberra Theatre Expansion, a new Convention Centre, a new Stadium as well as other major infrastructure projects such as the Molonglo River Bridge, and arterial road upgrades and active travel routes, that are necessary for the fastest growing jurisdiction in the country;
 - (f) delivering major infrastructure projects requires long-term planning; and
 - (g) financing of the Infrastructure Investment Program over the coming decade will be through a combination of operating cash surpluses, asset sales, significant Commonwealth co-contributions, market borrowings and leasing arrangements;

- (2) further notes:
- (a) approximately \$7.5 billion in important infrastructure has been delivered for the people of Canberra since 2014, including Light Rail Stage 1 from Gungahlin to the City, University of Canberra Public Hospital, five new schools across Canberra growth areas, new Nurse-led Walk-in Centres, ensuring we continue to lead the nation on a per capita share of public housing, and major community sporting and recreation facilities; and
 - (b) there are major projects currently underway and nearing completion, including: the Canberra Hospital Expansion, due for completion mid this year, Woden CIT, and Raising London Circuit, to connect the CBD to New Acton and facilitate Light Rail Stage 2 to Woden;
- (3) also notes that the Canberra Liberals have committed to oppose Light Rail to Woden;
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to continue to:
- (a) invest in infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing city;
 - (b) release business cases for major projects at appropriate times, to ensure transparency and provide accurate information to the community regarding the economic, productivity and community considerations informing Government decision-making, while protecting the commercial interests of the Territory and ensuring that value for money outcomes are not compromised; and
 - (c) work with the Commonwealth Government through the National Capital Investment Framework to ensure fair Commonwealth funding is provided to deliver essential infrastructure as it is required, and to update the Assembly on progress by June 2024; and
- (5) calls on the Canberra Liberals leader to provide a detailed breakdown in her Budget Reply as to what projects, alongside Light Rail Stage 2B to Woden, a Canberra Liberals Government would cut from the forward Infrastructure Investment Program, to better inform the Canberra community ahead of the October election.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

30 MENSTRUATION AND MENOPAUSE SUPPORT

Ms Orr, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that the ACT Government:
- (a) is actively working to ensure women and people who menstruate are supported to ensure their full participation in society;
 - (b) has recently started to address period poverty by ensuring period products are provided free at accessible locations across the Territory; and
 - (c) is developing a menstruation and menopause policy for the ACT Public Service; and

- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) develop an education and awareness package that the private sector can access and implement within their workplace, to better support employees who menstruate and experience menopause;
 - (b) in developing this package, consult with community leaders who have expertise in this policy area;
 - (c) work with industry to raise awareness of the availability of this resource; and
 - (d) report back to the Assembly by 27 June 2024.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

31 PAPERS PRESENTED ON 19 MARCH 2024—PAPERS NOTED

The Speaker, pursuant to standing order 211A, proposed—That the papers presented under standing order 211 during the presentation of papers in the routine of business today be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

32 LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL 2023

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—

Debate resumed.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—put and passed.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to—put and passed.

33 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

34 STANDING ORDER 118A—APPLICATION—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker made a statement to clarify the application of standing order 118A in relation to answers to questions taken on notice.

35 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Cheyne (Minister for Human Rights) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 5.36 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mr Cocks*, Mr Gentleman* and Mr Steel*.

*on leave.

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly