



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2016–2017–2018–2019

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 97

WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2019

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. A quorum of Members not being present, the Speaker (Ms J. Burch) ordered the bells to be rung. A quorum having been formed, the Speaker took the Chair and made a formal recognition that the Assembly was meeting on the lands of the traditional custodians. The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

- 2 **PETITION, E-PETITION AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSE—PETITIONS AND RESPONSE NOTED**

Petitions

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

Mrs Kikkert, from 591 and 589 residents respectively, requesting that the Assembly call upon the ACT Government to restore Xpresso bus services, dedicated school bus services, and route 40 in Belconnen or provide an equivalent or better alternative (Pet 12-19 and e-Pet 9-19).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, these petitions stand referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services.

Ministerial response

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

Ms Fitzharris (Minister for Health and Wellbeing), dated 14 May 2019—Response to petition No 2-19, lodged by Ms J. Burch on 12 February 2019, concerning increased support for resources and infrastructure improvements at the Canberra Sexual Health Centre.



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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS

Mr Wall moved—That leave of absence be granted to Ms Lee and Mr Hanson for today's sitting for medical and family reasons, respectively.

Question—put and passed.

4 SEXUAL HEALTH OUTREACH

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

- (1) recognises that sexual health is a vital component of a person's overall health and wellbeing;
- (2) recognises that sexual health encompasses many inter-related areas, including reproductive health, relationships, identity, sexually transmissible infections (STI) and blood borne viruses (BBV), safety, education, prevention, testing and treatment;
- (3) notes with concern the prevalence and rise of STIs and BBVs across Australia, including in the ACT, with:
 - (a) ACT notifications of infectious syphilis significantly increasing in 2017, with 33 notifications that calendar year compared with 13 in 2016 and 14 in 2015;
 - (b) chlamydia remaining one of the most common infectious diseases in the ACT and notifications steadily increasing since 2007, with 1457 cases reported in 2017 and 1576 cases in 2018;
 - (c) ACT notifications of gonorrhoea increasing each year since 2015, with the rate of gonococcal disease increasing from 36 per 100 000 population in 2015 to 78 per 100 000 population in 2018;
 - (d) 171 notifications for hepatitis B between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2016, one newly-acquired and 84 unspecified notifications in 2017, and in 2018 there were 81 notifications of hepatitis B of unspecified duration;
 - (e) the notification of 29 newly-acquired and 343 unspecified cases of hepatitis C in the ACT between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2016, nine newly-acquired and 129 unspecified cases in 2017, and seven newly-acquired and 132 unspecified cases in 2018; and
 - (f) the notification of 43 HIV cases in the ACT between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2016, of which 24 were newly diagnosed, plus 13 new infections in 2017 and eight new infections in 2018;
- (4) recognises that community-based outreach provides further opportunities to build sexual health literacy and awareness and increase rates of testing, particularly with at-risk communities and communities which might not otherwise be engaged;

- (5) notes the sexual health promotion, testing and support services currently available in the ACT and the impact of these, including but not limited to:
 - (a) the Canberra Sexual Health Centre, Canberra Health Services, in Garran, which provides free STI and BBV testing, related sexual health concerns and HIV outpatient care, and outreach activities providing education, STI and BBV testing in a range of settings across the ACT, some of which are delivered with sexual health sector partner organisations;
 - (b) services provided by AIDS Action Council including health promotion, counselling, peer support programs for impacted communities, and advice on measures to prevent HIV;
 - (c) reproductive and sexual health clinical care and counselling, including STI testing and treatment, and sexual health and relationships education provided by Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT; and
 - (d) Hepatitis ACT which provides prevention, health promotion, and peer education programs, and treatment support for people affected by hepatitis;
- (6) encourages the ACT Government to work with stakeholder groups and sector leaders to establish a framework for a collaborative community-based sexual health outreach model which:
 - (a) aims to further increase the sector's collective impact; and
 - (b) could include an annual Sexual Health Week to increase rates of awareness and highlight the ongoing availability of location-based and outreach services; and
- (7) requests the ACT Government to report back on this work to the Assembly in March 2020.

Debate ensued.

Ms Fitzharris (Minister for Health and Wellbeing), who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

5 HYDROTHERAPY SERVICES IN SOUTH CANBERRA

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) hydrotherapy is an important health and rehabilitative treatment for those suffering injury, arthritis, chronic pain, sports injury and other health issues;
 - (b) hydrotherapy is proven to be able to save the public health system significant cost;
 - (c) the ACT Government intends to close the hydrotherapy pool at The Canberra Hospital in, or about, June 2019;

- (d) the Government has no plans for a replacement pool in Canberra's south, thus limiting the availability of suitable hydrotherapy facilities in the south;
 - (e) there is a high and growing demand for hydrotherapy treatment services;
 - (f) the hydrotherapy pool at the University of Canberra Public Hospital is unable to satisfy the demand for hydrotherapy treatment services other than for patients of the hospital; and
 - (g) there is an opportunity to include a hydrotherapy pool in the planning and design of the Stromlo Aquatic Centre; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) keep The Canberra Hospital's hydrotherapy pool open and operational until a dedicated replacement, with appropriate specifications, and with relevant associated access, equipment and change facilities, is provided in Canberra's south;
 - (b) begin planning for a new hydrotherapy pool as part of the Stromlo Aquatic Centre; and
 - (c) report to the Assembly on the status of the plans and design work for a Southside hydrotherapy pool, by the last sitting day in August 2019.

Ms Fitzharris (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after "That this Assembly", substitute:

- "(1) notes:
- (a) the importance of hydrotherapy services to the community;
 - (b) there is a demand for access to hydrotherapy and warm water facilities;
 - (c) the ACT Government is currently working with stakeholders to determine the current demand and usage of hydrotherapy and warm water facilities across the ACT;
 - (d) the ACT Government acknowledges The Canberra Hospital pool is coming to the end of its usable and safe life and has advised stakeholders it intends to close the pool by 30 June 2019;
 - (e) the purpose-built hydrotherapy pool at the University of Canberra Hospital opened in 2018 and has enhanced features compared to the facility at The Canberra Hospital;
 - (f) the Stromlo Leisure Centre program pool, like the Lakeside Leisure Centre on Canberra's southside, will be heated to approximately 31 to 32 degrees Celsius and be available for use by the community, including for some types of warm water therapy;
 - (g) construction of the new Stromlo Leisure Centre is progressing with completion expected in the second quarter of 2020;

- (h) the ACT Government initially committed \$33 million for the project to include a 50 metre lap and competition pool, a program pool, a reception, kiosk, administration offices and change rooms; and
 - (i) after extensive consultation with the community, the Government allocated an additional \$3.6 million to provide funding for a gym, leisure pool, toddlers' pool, splash park, crèche and more seating throughout the centre; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) agree not to close The Canberra Hospital pool until an appropriate level of access at other suitable locations, readily accessible for those on Canberra's southside can be continued;
 - (b) continue to work collaboratively with local stakeholders to include their input in the work that is currently underway to determine the current demand and usage of hydrotherapy and warm water facilities across the ACT; and
 - (c) report to the Assembly on these matters by the last sitting day in August 2019."

Debate continued.

Mrs Dunne moved the following amendment to Ms Fitzharris' proposed amendment: In paragraph (1)(b), add "operating in the temperature range of 34 to 36 degrees Celsius".

Debate continued.

Amendment to amendment agreed to.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Question—The the motion, as amended, viz:

"That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) the importance of hydrotherapy services to the community;
 - (b) there is a demand for access to hydrotherapy and warm water facilities operating in the temperature range of 34 to 36 degrees Celsius;
 - (c) the ACT Government is currently working with stakeholders to determine the current demand and usage of hydrotherapy and warm water facilities across the ACT;
 - (d) the ACT Government acknowledges The Canberra Hospital pool is coming to the end of its usable and safe life and has advised stakeholders it intends to close the pool by 30 June 2019;
 - (e) the purpose-built hydrotherapy pool at the University of Canberra Hospital opened in 2018 and has enhanced features compared to the facility at The Canberra Hospital;

- (f) the Stromlo Leisure Centre program pool, like the Lakeside Leisure Centre on Canberra's southside, will be heated to approximately 31 to 32 degrees Celsius and be available for use by the community, including for some types of warm water therapy;
 - (g) construction of the new Stromlo Leisure Centre is progressing with completion expected in the second quarter of 2020;
 - (h) the ACT Government initially committed \$33 million for the project to include a 50 metre lap and competition pool, a program pool, a reception, kiosk, administration offices and change rooms; and
 - (i) after extensive consultation with the community, the Government allocated an additional \$3.6 million to provide funding for a gym, leisure pool, toddlers' pool, splash park, crèche and more seating throughout the centre; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) agree not to close The Canberra Hospital pool until an appropriate level of access at other suitable locations, readily accessible for those on Canberra's southside can be continued;
 - (b) continue to work collaboratively with local stakeholders to include their input in the work that is currently underway to determine the current demand and usage of hydrotherapy and warm water facilities across the ACT; and
 - (c) report to the Assembly on these matters by the last sitting day in August 2019."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

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

- (1) notes the importance to the ACT of having a Commonwealth Government that is a good economic manager;
- (2) notes the lack of affordable accommodation in Canberra, for both home owners and renters;
- (3) notes the challenges facing the residential property sector in Canberra, including:
 - (a) rates;
 - (b) land taxes;
 - (c) ACT Revenue Office valuations;
 - (d) bank valuations;
 - (e) bank lending criteria;

- (f) cost of land; and
 - (g) delays, complexity and certificate of occupancy issues in the planning system;
- (4) further notes the risk of Labor’s negative gearing changes; and
- (5) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) publish all modelling undertaken about the future of the property sector in Canberra; and
 - (b) detail the known impact of Labor’s proposed housing policies.

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That”, substitute:

“this Assembly:

- (1) notes the importance to the ACT of having a Commonwealth Government that is a good economic manager;
- (2) notes that housing affordability is an issue for many Canberrans; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to work with whomever forms government after the next Federal election to secure the best possible outcomes for all Canberrans.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 11		NOES, 8	
Mr Barr	Mr Pettersson	Miss C. Burch	Mr Milligan
Ms J. Burch	Mr Ramsay	Mr Coe	Mr Parton
Ms Cody	Mr Rattenbury	Mrs Dunne	
Ms Fitzharris	Mr Steel	Mrs Jones	
Ms Le Couteur	Ms Stephen-Smith	Mrs Kikkert	
Ms Orr		Ms Lawder	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the importance to the ACT of having a Commonwealth Government that is a good economic manager;
- (2) notes that housing affordability is an issue for many Canberrans; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to work with whomever forms government after the next Federal election to secure the best possible outcomes for all Canberrans.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

8 RESUABLE COFFEE CUP ZONE TRIAL

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) it is estimated that as many as one billion disposable coffee cups are sold each year in Australia and that the majority of these end up in landfill;
 - (b) while in the ACT we do accept coffee cups to be disposed of in recycling bins, it is better to avoid single use items;
 - (c) the German cities of Freiburg, Berlin and Munich have supported the reduction of disposable coffee cup waste by establishing reusable coffee cup zones; and
 - (d) the positive experience of going disposable coffee cup free by Frankies at Forde demonstrates a willingness by Canberrans and businesses to support and adopt environmentally friendly practices; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) develop an implementation strategy for a reusable coffee cup zone trial within the Gungahlin region, in conjunction with local businesses and organisations, by the end of 2019; and
 - (b) commence the reusable coffee cup zone trial within the next 12 months.

Mr Rattenbury moved the following amendment: Add new paragraph (2)(c):

“(c) report back to the Assembly on progress in November 2019.”.

Amendment agreed to.

Ms Lawder, by leave, moved the following amendments to the motion, as amended, together:

- (1) Insert new paragraphs (1)(e) and (f):
 - “(e) Canberrans are amongst the most conscientious consumers when it comes to being environmentally responsible; and
 - (f) there exist commercial operators who are able to provide cafes, restaurants and coffee vendors a reusable cup that can be exchanged at multiple coffee retailers;”.
- (2) Omit paragraph (2), substitute:
 - “(a) supports a consumer’s and a business’s choice to engage in the use of reusable beverage containers; and
 - (b) encourages local businesses to assess the viability in engaging in a reusable beverage container scheme.”.

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) it is estimated that as many as one billion disposable coffee cups are sold each year in Australia and that the majority of these end up in landfill;
 - (b) while in the ACT we do accept coffee cups to be disposed of in recycling bins, it is better to avoid single use items;
 - (c) the German cities of Freiburg, Berlin and Munich have supported the reduction of disposable coffee cup waste by establishing reusable coffee cup zones; and
 - (d) the positive experience of going disposable coffee cup free by Frankies at Forde demonstrates a willingness by Canberrans and businesses to support and adopt environmentally friendly practices; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) develop an implementation strategy for a reusable coffee cup zone trial within the Gungahlin region, in conjunction with local businesses and organisations, by the end of 2019;
 - (b) commence the reusable coffee cup zone trial within the next 12 months; and
 - (c) report back to the Assembly on progress in November 2019.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

9 NETWORK19—IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Miss C. Burch, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) since Network19 launched, feedback received with regards to experiences using the new network have been overwhelmingly negative;
 - (b) cuts to dedicated school services under the new network have left parents and school children at a loss with how to get to and from school, with some parents unwilling to have their children travel through interchanges unsupervised;
 - (c) the unnecessary strain placed on the public network by the cuts to dedicated school services has meant that buses are at capacity early on in their journeys, preventing commuters from using the same services;
 - (d) the Minister for Transport’s claims of record-breaking patronage statistics are based on total boarding figures, not unique passengers, and are therefore not an accurate measure of the new network’s success; and
 - (e) the concerns regarding the safety of school children, and the inconvenience caused by the new network that were raised over the 2018 consultation periods remain a significant concern for Canberrans to date; and

- (2) calls on the Minister for Transport to release detailed data:
 - (a) assessing the impact of the changes to the dedicated school bus network, specifically to:
 - (i) primary school;
 - (ii) high school; and
 - (iii) college students;
 - (b) examining the impact of the cuts on:
 - (i) patronage;
 - (ii) journey times; and
 - (iii) safety for students broken down as above;
 - (c) exclude any data collected from the first month of free travel; and
 - (d) report back to the Assembly by the last sitting week in August 2019.

Ms Fitzharris (Minister for Transport) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes that:
- (a) on 29 April 2019, the new integrated public transport network began operations;
 - (b) the new network offers 10 rapid routes, including light rail, new local routes and more buses servicing schools across the ACT;
 - (c) the new network underwent significant consultation during 2018 and, as a result, a number of changes were made to the final network;
 - (d) community consultation identified that people wanted more direct routes, more frequent and reliable services and increased services during on and off-peak times;
 - (e) the ACT Government acknowledges that the new network is a big change for some people, particularly where individual journeys are different, and is taking feedback about the new network on board;
 - (f) to support the transition to the new network an additional 18 Customer Service Assistants have been deployed to interchanges;
 - (g) Transport Canberra is carefully monitoring performance of the network and giving priority to school-related travel issues, and making adjustments to services, including:
 - (i) putting on bigger buses for certain services;
 - (ii) adding additional services past schools where there is high demand;
 - (iii) adjusting bus stops near schools; and
 - (iv) adding more light rail services, particularly where some services have proven to be more popular than anticipated;

- (h) Transport Canberra continues to talk to schools regularly to ensure families have the information they need to navigate the new network; and
 - (i) safety across the network continues to be monitored through CCTV cameras on every bus and at all major interchanges, school crossing supervisors at 25 schools, improvements to infrastructure around schools and the additional Customer Service Officers at interchanges;
- (2) further notes:
- (a) this is the biggest investment the ACT Government has ever made in public transport and delivers light rail and a seven day a week bus network, and includes an additional investment of almost \$50 million over four years in running the new bus system, an additional \$2.65 million invested in the rollout of the new network, as well as \$43 million for 80 new buses added to Canberra’s bus network;
 - (b) since the start of the new network, we have seen a record number of boardings as well as individual journeys and MyWay cards in use; and
 - (c) in the first two weeks of the new public transport network, there were over one million boardings recorded on bus and light rail services in Canberra, and over 740 000 journeys which is more than 10 percent higher than over the same period in 2018; and
- (3) calls on the Minister for Transport to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting week in September 2019, including:
- (a) the performance of the network since commencement, including capacity of bus fleet;
 - (b) MyWay patronage data broken down by month and across ticket categories (including school student categories), including both the free travel period and subsequent standard-fare months;
 - (c) MyWay patronage data broken down by boardings, individual journeys and MyWay cards in use; and
 - (d) patronage data as it relates to school student travel.”.

Ms Fitzharris, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 10		NOES, 8	
Ms J. Burch	Ms Le Couteur	Miss C. Burch	Ms Lawder
Ms Cheyne	Ms Orr	Mr Coe	Mr Milligan
Ms Cody	Mr Pettersson	Mrs Dunne	Mr Parton
Ms Fitzharris	Mr Ramsay	Mrs Jones	
Mr Gentleman	Ms Stephen-Smith	Mrs Kikkert	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

“(1) notes that:

- (a) on 29 April 2019, the new integrated public transport network began operations;
- (b) the new network offers 10 rapid routes, including light rail, new local routes and more buses servicing schools across the ACT;
- (c) the new network underwent significant consultation during 2018 and, as a result, a number of changes were made to the final network;
- (d) community consultation identified that people wanted more direct routes, more frequent and reliable services and increased services during on and off-peak times;
- (e) the ACT Government acknowledges that the new network is a big change for some people, particularly where individual journeys are different, and is taking feedback about the new network on board;
- (f) to support the transition to the new network an additional 18 Customer Service Assistants have been deployed to interchanges;
- (g) Transport Canberra is carefully monitoring performance of the network and giving priority to school-related travel issues, and making adjustments to services, including:
 - (i) putting on bigger buses for certain services;
 - (ii) adding additional services past schools where there is high demand;
 - (iii) adjusting bus stops near schools; and
 - (iv) adding more light rail services, particularly where some services have proven to be more popular than anticipated;
- (h) Transport Canberra continues to talk to schools regularly to ensure families have the information they need to navigate the new network; and
- (i) safety across the network continues to be monitored through CCTV cameras on every bus and at all major interchanges, school crossing supervisors at 25 schools, improvements to infrastructure around schools and the additional Customer Service Officers at interchanges;

(2) further notes:

- (a) this is the biggest investment the ACT Government has ever made in public transport and delivers light rail and a seven day a week bus network, and includes an additional investment of almost \$50 million over four years in running the new bus system, an additional \$2.65 million invested in the rollout of the new network, as well as \$43 million for 80 new buses added to Canberra’s bus network;

- (b) since the start of the new network, we have seen a record number of boardings as well as individual journeys and MyWay cards in use; and
 - (c) in the first two weeks of the new public transport network, there were over one million boardings recorded on bus and light rail services in Canberra, and over 740 000 journeys which is more than 10 percent higher than over the same period in 2018; and
- (3) calls on the Minister for Transport to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting week in September 2019, including:
- (a) the performance of the network since commencement, including capacity of bus fleet;
 - (b) MyWay patronage data broken down by month and across ticket categories (including school student categories), including both the free travel period and subsequent standard-fare months;
 - (c) MyWay patronage data broken down by boardings, individual journeys and MyWay cards in use; and
 - (d) patronage data as it relates to school student travel.” —

be agreed to—put and passed.

10 NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CODE

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

- (1) notes the:
- (a) critical importance of government compliance with current building regulations and rules, including the National Construction Code;
 - (b) need to prepare for building code updates and building regulation reforms within required implementation dates;
 - (c) necessity for effective stakeholder relationships and consultation to ensure government regulators and industry bodies responsible for applying regulation are harmonised to guarantee proper implementation;
 - (d) most recent National Construction Code amendments were adopted by all other states and the Northern Territory on the recognised due date of 1 May 2019;
 - (e) the Minister for Building Quality Improvement approved a delay in adopting the recent National Construction Code amendments to 1 September 2019 arguing that industry needed more time to adjust for the substantial changes;
 - (f) the Minister is reported to have said the Government had considered industry feedback before deciding on the delay;
 - (g) conduct of further talks with industry over the weekend of 4 to 5 May revealed industry practitioners did not require further time to adjust for most of the changes;

- (h) the Minister then decided to adopt a majority of the changes on 1 June 2019;
 - (i) doubts this raises over the Minister's ability to consult effectively with industry and stakeholders; and
 - (j) the Minister still has a significant number of ACT Government building regulation reforms outstanding despite a firm commitment to have all 43 in place by the end of 2017-18; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) review the adequacy of governance resources for the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate to ensure its capacity to liaise with industry and assess its capacity to implement updates of construction standards and other building regulation reforms;
 - (b) expedite implementation of outstanding elements of the National Construction Code update; and
 - (c) as a matter of urgency, complete implementation of the Government's own building regulation reforms.

Mr Ramsay (Minister for Building Quality Improvement) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after "That this Assembly", substitute:

- "(1) notes the:
- (a) importance of harmonised building codes across jurisdictions;
 - (b) need to prepare for building code updates and building regulation reforms within required implementation dates;
 - (c) necessity for effective stakeholder relationships and consultation to ensure government regulators and industry bodies responsible for applying regulation are harmonised to guarantee proper implementation; and
 - (d) most recent National Construction Code amendments were adopted by all other states and the Northern Territory on the recognised due date of 1 May 2019 and that:
 - (i) Western Australia allows the previous code to be used for a period of up to 12 months after a new code is adopted;
 - (ii) Victoria, Queensland, the Northern Territory and Tasmania have provisions in their law that allow a certifier to disapply the new version in circumstances where substantial progress has been made on the design of the building before the new provisions are adopted;
 - (iii) in New South Wales and South Australia, if an application for approval is made before the adoption date, it can be assessed against the version of the code in force at the time of the application; and

- (iv) in the ACT, an application for building approval must be assessed against the code as adopted on date of approval, rather than the date the application was made, with no other transition provisions available;
 - (e) Minister for Building Quality Improvement approved a delay in adopting the recent National Construction Code amendments to 1 September 2019 after hearing from a number of individual licensees on the change;
 - (f) further talks conducted with industry representative groups over the weekend of 4 to 5 May which indicated many practitioners did not require further time to adjust for most of the changes;
 - (g) Minister then decided to adopt a majority of the changes on 1 June 2019;
 - (h) rollout of building reforms has been delayed and the Government is continuing to actively roll out its building regulation reforms as a matter of priority; and
 - (i) team within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate responsible for this has been augmented since the beginning of 2019 to include an additional qualified building surveyor, a qualified structural engineer, as well as experts in policy development, regulation and design, raising the team from three FTE to eight FTE; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) ensure adequate consultation with industry on building regulation reforms;
 - (b) expedite implementation of outstanding elements of the National Construction Code update; and
 - (c) as a matter of urgency, complete implementation of the Government's own building regulation reforms."

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

"That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the:
- (a) importance of harmonised building codes across jurisdictions;
 - (b) need to prepare for building code updates and building regulation reforms within required implementation dates;
 - (c) necessity for effective stakeholder relationships and consultation to ensure government regulators and industry bodies responsible for applying regulation are harmonised to guarantee proper implementation; and

- (d) most recent National Construction Code amendments were adopted by all other states and the Northern Territory on the recognised due date of 1 May 2019 and that:
 - (i) Western Australia allows the previous code to be used for a period of up to 12 months after a new code is adopted;
 - (ii) Victoria, Queensland, the Northern Territory and Tasmania have provisions in their law that allow a certifier to disapply the new version in circumstances where substantial progress has been made on the design of the building before the new provisions are adopted;
 - (iii) in New South Wales and South Australia, if an application for approval is made before the adoption date, it can be assessed against the version of the code in force at the time of the application; and
 - (iv) in the ACT, an application for building approval must be assessed against the code as adopted on date of approval, rather than the date the application was made, with no other transition provisions available;
 - (e) Minister for Building Quality Improvement approved a delay in adopting the recent National Construction Code amendments to 1 September 2019 after hearing from a number of individual licensees on the change;
 - (f) further talks conducted with industry representative groups over the weekend of 4 to 5 May which indicated many practitioners did not require further time to adjust for most of the changes;
 - (g) Minister then decided to adopt a majority of the changes on 1 June 2019;
 - (h) rollout of building reforms has been delayed and the Government is continuing to actively roll out its building regulation reforms as a matter of priority; and
 - (i) team within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate responsible for this has been augmented since the beginning of 2019 to include an additional qualified building surveyor, a qualified structural engineer, as well as experts in policy development, regulation and design, raising the team from three FTE to eight FTE; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) ensure adequate consultation with industry on building regulation reforms;
 - (b) expedite implementation of outstanding elements of the National Construction Code update; and
 - (c) as a matter of urgency, complete implementation of the Government's own building regulation reforms."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

11 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.21 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Ms Lee* and Mr Hanson*.

*on leave

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly