



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 33

**THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2021**

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- 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**

Mr Hanson moved—That leave of absence be granted to Ms Lee for this sitting due to illness.

Question—put and passed.

- 3 **REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL AMENDMENT BILL 2021**

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.

#### **4 SITTING PATTERN 2022—PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

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

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the 2022 sitting calendar for the Assembly is at an historic low for sitting days at twelve weeks of three days each;
  - (b) this sitting pattern is low compared to previous Assemblies of the ACT, which have met for up to 15 weeks per year, plus additional budget estimates and annual reports hearings;
  - (c) this sitting pattern is low compared to other parliaments, such as New South Wales or Tasmania, which also met for up to 15 weeks per year, plus additional budget estimates and annual reports hearings; and
  - (d) other parliaments have local councils that deal with many matters that in the ACT must be dealt with by the Assembly; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) increase the number of sittings for 2022 to include the following dates:
    - 11 February
    - 25 March
    - 8 April
    - 6 May
    - 3 June
    - 10 June
    - 5 August
    - 23 September
    - 14 October
    - 21 October
    - 25 November
    - 2 December; and
  - (b) that the additional sitting days place emphasis on matters related to local issues such as those raised by Community Councils and Residents Associations as a matter of priority.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7		NOES, 14	
Mr Cain		Mr Braddock	Ms Orr
Ms Castley		Ms Burch	Dr Paterson
Mr Hanson		Ms Cheyne	Mr Pettersson
Mrs Jones		Ms Clay	Mr Rattenbury
Mrs Kikkert		Ms Davidson	Mr Steel
Mr Milligan		Mr Davis	Ms Stephen-Smith
Mr Parton		Mr Gentleman	Ms Vassarotti

And so it was negatived.

## 5 DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY

Order of the day No 2, Assembly business, relating to the proposed establishment of a Select Committee on Estimates 2021-2022, having been called on—

Mr Hanson, pursuant to standing order 152, moved—That the order of the day be discharged from the *Notice Paper*.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

## 6 ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER

Dr Paterson (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity.

*Paper:* Dr Paterson, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper:

Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2021.

## 7 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS—PRECEDENCE

Ordered—That Executive business be called on forthwith.

## 8 APPROPRIATION BILL 2021-2022

The Assembly, according to order, resumed further consideration at the detail stage—

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### *Detail Stage*

Schedule 1—Appropriations—Proposed expenditure—

Consideration resumed on Part 1.9—Superannuation Provision Account—

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Part 1.10—Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate—debated and agreed to.

Part 1.11—Major Projects Canberra—

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 74 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

## **9 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

## **10 PRESENTATION OF PAPER**

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Bill referred to Committee, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended—Bill not inquired into—Public Health Amendment Bill 2021—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing, dated 24 November 2021.

## **11 CORRECTIONS MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021**

Mrs Kikkert, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Corrections Management Act 2007*.

*Paper:* Mrs Kikkert presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Mrs Kikkert moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Gentleman—Minister for Corrections) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## **12 ‘HER WAY’ RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

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

(1) notes that:

- (a) the ACT Government is committed to prioritising the use of public transport and active modes of travel to meet a range of policies, ambitions and commitments related to action on climate change by reducing transport emissions, improving the liveability of our city and promoting mental and physical health and wellbeing;
- (b) construction works for Light Rail Stage 2 have commenced, and will bring significant traffic congestion and disruption for years to come, particularly for southside residents;
- (c) a Disruption Taskforce has been established by the ACT Government to help address this and provide solutions to relieve commuter stress;

- (d) the 2021-22 ACT Budget provided significant investments in active travel infrastructure across the ACT;
- (e) on 20 October this year, the Federal Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, launched Australia's first Cycling Economy Report and noted the importance of cycling as a mode of travel and for the Australian economy;
- (f) Australia's cycling industry sustains more than 34 000 jobs and contributed \$6.3 billion to the economy in 2020;
- (g) research shows that women are around two-thirds less likely to ride a bike than men and have different travel patterns and needs;
- (h) there has never been a more important time to ensure greater uptake of public transport and active travel:
  - (i) we need to take action on climate change;
  - (ii) lack of physical activity is contributing to increased health costs;
  - (iii) petrol prices are rising; and
  - (iv) the COVID-19 lockdown has changed the way many people work, commute and live in their communities:
    - (A) there is an increased awareness of the need for social cohesion, community connectedness and safe, attractive suburbs and neighbourhoods, as well as support for local business; and
    - (B) our daily transport routes and modes is an important consideration as we establish new routines coming out of lockdown. The ACT Government's 2021-22 Budget investment in flexi-hub workplaces is one example of this;
- (i) Dr Paterson launched a discussion paper on 9 August 2021, calling on women in her electorate to comment on whether they would consider making greater use of public transport and active travel, and to outline barriers and constraints;
- (j) over 100 people responded via online survey, email and social media commentary. Some of the key findings are many women want to change their travel behaviour but key considerations and barriers are:
  - (i) time;
  - (ii) safety;
  - (iii) distance;
  - (iv) trip-chaining and household logistics; and
  - (v) quality of life; and

- (k) Dr Paterson's *'Her Way' Recommendation Report*, dated 22 November 2021, responds directly to the comments received with the report outlining a number of initiatives to help reduce reliance on private vehicle use, particularly for southside women who want to switch away from private vehicles to public transport and active travel;
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) note the *'Her Way' Recommendation Report* authored by Dr Paterson, and dated 22 November 2021, including community comments and input; and
  - (b) seek to incorporate the recommendations, where considered appropriate by the ACT Government, in existing and future programs of work, including:
    - (i) initiatives of the Light Rail Stage 2 Disruption Taskforce;
    - (ii) active travel infrastructure, initiatives and behaviour change programs;
    - (iii) public transport design and delivery;
    - (iv) urban planning design and delivery; and
    - (v) incorporating a range of user perspectives in the above; and
- (3) further notes that Dr Paterson welcomes the opportunity to remain involved in considerations by the ACT Government which relate to the purpose, objective and recommendations in the *'Her Way' Recommendation Report*.

*Papers:* Dr Paterson, by leave, presented the following papers:

'Her Way' Recommendation Report (2).

Mr Parton moved the following amendment: After paragraph (1)(k), insert:

- "(l) on balance, Dr Paterson's report is quite damning of the bus network for southside users, containing no less than 180 negative comments and reflections from survey respondents;"

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7

Mr Cain  
Ms Castley  
Mr Hanson  
Mrs Jones  
Mrs Kikkert  
Mr Milligan  
Mr Parton

NOES, 14

Mr Braddock  
Ms Burch  
Ms Cheyne  
Ms Clay  
Ms Davidson  
Mr Davis  
Mr Gentleman  
Ms Orr  
Dr Paterson  
Mr Pettersson  
Mr Rattenbury  
Mr Steel  
Ms Stephen-Smith  
Ms Vassarotti

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and passed.

**13 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER**

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

Question—put and passed.

**14 MOWING SERVICES**

Mr Hanson, by leave, in the absence of the proposer, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) the Bureau of Meteorology predicted a La Nina alert for this summer;
  - (b) Canberra experienced its wettest winter in five years with more than 215 millimetres of rain being recorded at the Canberra Airport;
  - (c) the recent ACT lockdown period delayed the scheduled commencement of the annual mowing program;
  - (d) overgrown grass poses a significant fire hazard, can reduce driver visibility and increases the risk of snake encounters, particularly as Canberra experiences warmer weather;
  - (e) Canberra residents want to take pride in their suburbs and be able to enjoy their neighbourhood parks and grasslands;
  - (f) in the 2019-20 financial year, there were 8177 Fix My Street requests relating to “grass, trees and shrubs” lodged by residents;
  - (g) the ACT Government has told residents for years to be patient and understanding regarding overgrown grass rather than adequately investing in mowing resources; and
  - (h) the City Services crew does a great job, but they need to be better supported by this Government and require an increased mowing fleet; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) provide additional funding this financial year to ensure mowing can be completed in a timely and efficient manner;
  - (b) investigate how to improve the current mowing program so that residents aren’t concerned about overgrown grass in their neighbourhoods each year; and
  - (c) investigate how to better prevent grass clippings from mowing entering stormwater drains and waterways.

Mr Steel (Minister for Transport and City Services) moved the following amendment:  
Omit all text after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes that:
- (a) on 12 October, the Bureau of Meteorology predicted a La Nina alert for this summer which was upgraded on 23 November;

- (b) Canberra experienced its wettest winter in five years with more than 215 millimetres of rain being recorded at the Canberra Airport;
  - (c) the recent ACT lockdown period caused significant disruption to employment and service delivery across all sectors in the ACT, including regular mowing program activities;
  - (d) the spring suburban mowing program commenced on 13 September and is operating at full capacity;
  - (e) overgrown grass poses a significant fire hazard, can reduce driver visibility and increases the risk of snake encounters, particularly as Canberra experiences warmer weather;
  - (f) Canberra residents want to take pride in their suburbs and be able to enjoy their neighbourhood parks and grasslands;
  - (g) in the 2019-20 financial year, there were 8177 Fix My Street requests relating to 'grass, trees and shrubs' lodged by residents;
  - (h) the ACT Government has boosted mowing funding by \$2.1 million to increase the number of mowing staff and mowing equipment, weeding activities, and follow-up amenity maintenance; and
  - (i) the City Services crew does a great job, and will continue to deliver services for Canberrans with additional staff and an increased mowing fleet; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) continue providing high levels of funding to mowing activities across Canberra;
  - (b) continue to mow suburbs and areas of open space every four weeks, and arterial roads every five weeks during mowing season;
  - (c) continually update and modify standard operating procedures to minimise grass clippings from entering stormwater drains and waterways; and
  - (d) investigate how to respond to urban maintenance issues that arise as a result of increased climate variability through considering:
    - (i) mapping native grasses and 'no mow' areas, alongside education and training about grassland biodiversity and management;
    - (ii) continuing to provide resourcing to ensure greater resilience to the impacts of the changing climate;
    - (iii) improving mower hygiene to reduce weed spread; and
    - (iv) options for reducing the need to mow by revegetating areas in accordance with the ACT's Living Infrastructure Plan."

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 14		NOES, 7
Mr Braddock	Ms Orr	Mr Cain
Ms Burch	Dr Paterson	Ms Castley
Ms Cheyne	Mr Pettersson	Mr Hanson
Ms Clay	Mr Rattenbury	Mrs Jones
Ms Davidson	Mr Steel	Mrs Kikkert
Mr Davis	Ms Stephen-Smith	Mr Milligan
Mr Gentleman	Ms Vassarotti	Mr Parton

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) on 12 October, the Bureau of Meteorology predicted a La Nina alert for this summer which was upgraded on 23 November;
  - (b) Canberra experienced its wettest winter in five years with more than 215 millimetres of rain being recorded at the Canberra Airport;
  - (c) the recent ACT lockdown period caused significant disruption to employment and service delivery across all sectors in the ACT, including regular mowing program activities;
  - (d) the spring suburban mowing program commenced on 13 September and is operating at full capacity;
  - (e) overgrown grass poses a significant fire hazard, can reduce driver visibility and increases the risk of snake encounters, particularly as Canberra experiences warmer weather;
  - (f) Canberra residents want to take pride in their suburbs and be able to enjoy their neighbourhood parks and grasslands;
  - (g) in the 2019-20 financial year, there were 8177 Fix My Street requests relating to ‘grass, trees and shrubs’ lodged by residents;
  - (h) the ACT Government has boosted mowing funding by \$2.1 million to increase the number of mowing staff and mowing equipment, weeding activities, and follow-up amenity maintenance; and
  - (i) the City Services crew does a great job, and will continue to deliver services for Canberrans with additional staff and an increased mowing fleet; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) continue providing high levels of funding to mowing activities across Canberra;
  - (b) continue to mow suburbs and areas of open space every four weeks, and arterial roads every five weeks during mowing season;

- (c) continually update and modify standard operating procedures to minimise grass clippings from entering stormwater drains and waterways; and
- (d) investigate how to respond to urban maintenance issues that arise as a result of increased climate variability through considering:
  - (i) mapping native grasses and ‘no mow’ areas, alongside education and training about grassland biodiversity and management;
  - (ii) continuing to provide resourcing to ensure greater resilience to the impacts of the changing climate;
  - (iii) improving mower hygiene to reduce weed spread; and
  - (iv) options for reducing the need to mow by revegetating areas in accordance with the ACT’s Living Infrastructure Plan.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 15 **APPROPRIATION BILL 2021-2022**

The Assembly, according to order, resumed further consideration at the detail stage—

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### *Detail Stage*

Schedule 1—Appropriations—Proposed expenditure—

Consideration resumed on Part 1.11—Major Projects—

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*Suspension of standing orders—Appropriation Bill 2021-2022—Order of consideration of parts:* Mr Rattenbury (Attorney-General) moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would allow Part 1.12—Housing ACT to be debated before Part 1.11—Major Projects Canberra.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

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Part 1.12—Housing ACT—debated and agreed to.

Part 1.11—Major Projects—debated and agreed to.

Part 1.13—Canberra Institute of Technology—debated and agreed to.

Part 1.14—City Renewal Authority—

Debate adjourned (Ms Stephen-Smith—Minister for Health) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next day of sitting.

## 16 **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 5.47 pm, adjourned until Tuesday, 30 November 2021 at 10 am.

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

\*on leave

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**Tom Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly