



Matters of public importance —your Assembly @ work

Sitting week—19-23 February 2018

Issue 2/2018

Condolence Motion

On 20 February 2018 a condolence motion was moved by the Chief Minister in relation to the death of Dr Joe Baker AO OBE, the inaugural Environment Commissioner for the Territory.

A number of other Members spoke to the motion and at its conclusion all Members of the Assembly stood in silence as a mark of respect.

Government business

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

Bill introduced

Courts and Other Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Summary: This bill will amend a number of ACT statutes by facilitating access to justice by introducing efficiency measures to reduce time required and red tape for people involved in litigation. The bill will introduce measures to assist courts to better administer their procedures and cases to ensure fair outcomes and will also introduce changes to how oaths and affirmations are administered.

Bills debated

Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004* by expanding the information sharing provisions about public safety to non-Territory agencies. The bill also amends the *Electricity Safety Act 1971* and the *Electricity Safety Regulation 2004* to create a concept of the electrical wiring rules which provides for incorporating provisions and requirements not included in the relevant Australian and New Zealand standard.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 20 February with all parties supporting the passage of the proposed legislation.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (No 2)—

Summary: This bill will amend a number of the Territory's criminal laws to implement recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The bill will also allow circle sentencing to occur in the Childrens' Court, amend the offence of incitement and provide that an offender cannot be concurrently subject to a good behaviour order and a parole order.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 20 February with the Opposition indicating, while supporting the bill in principle, they had concerns that a number of proposed amendments to be moved by the Government do not address all of their concerns. The ACT Greens signified their support for the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle. During the detail stage a number of Government amendments were moved and debated with the Opposition not supporting one amended clause as they stated it did not address the issues significantly.

The bill, as amended, was passed by the Assembly.

Crimes (Fortification Removal) Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to introduce a fortification removal scheme in the ACT. The bill also prohibits the establishment of fortifications on certain premises.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 20 February. During debate both the Opposition and ACT Greens indicated support for the proposed legislation.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Lakes Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Lakes Act 1976* by updating and modernising the provisions relating to navigation and safety on ACT lakes.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 22 February with both the Opposition and ACT Greens stating they would support the bill. The proposed legislation was agreed to in principle. During the detail stage the Government moved a number of amendments that received the support of all parties in the Assembly.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

Work Health and Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will adopt the national model Work Health and Safety Regulation that governs the use, storage and handling of hazardous chemicals.

Proceedings: The bill received tri partisan support when debate resumed on 22 February.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

A full record of the debates can be accessed at www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard.

Ministerial statements

On 20 February the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development made a statement concerning the **future of education** conversations. During the statement the minister outlined the outcomes of her engagement with a broad range of people in the community including teachers, students, parents, educators, community organisations and educational leaders.

The Minister for Corrections made a statement on 20 February concerning **implementation of recommendations made in the Moss Review**. During the statement the minister outlined changes that have occurred over the past year to improve the care and treatment of all detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. The following paper was tabled by the Minister:

. *Moss Review Annual Report, February 2018*.

The Minister for Health and Wellbeing, on 22 February, made a ministerial statement in relation to the fourth quarterly update on the **ACT Health system-wide data review**. During her statement the Minister outlined some of the outcomes of the review that have occurred since the third update.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed at www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard.

Private Members' business

Includes all items presented to the Assembly by all non-Executive Members, including bills and motions

Motions debated

A motion moved by Mr Pettersson on 21 February included noting the recent economic data highlighting the strong performance of the **ACT economy** and also called on the Assembly to support Canberra's diverse growth industries. During debate the Opposition stated it supported the motion's call to support Canberra's diverse growth industry but noted that this needs to be based on careful and comprehensive analysis of what is occurring. While outlining some misgivings they have about the indicators used to measure growth, the ACT Greens stated its support for the motion.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Working hours in the **ACT Ambulance Service** (ACTAS) was the subject of a motion moved by Mrs Jones on 21 February. The motion highlighted the hours of overtime worked by ACTAS qualified ambulance officers in 2016-17 and called on the Government to, among other things, explain why ACTAS emergency ambulance shifts fell below the minimum crewing level of 41.5 percent of all shifts, despite 35 923 hours of overtime being worked. During debate the Minister for Police and Emergency Services indicated that the Government would not be supporting the motion and outlined the reasons for not doing so. The ACT Greens also stated the reasons why they would not be supporting the motion.

The motion was negated after a vote of the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 21 February related to:

Green waste collection services—Mr Wall MLA

Policy and governance issues at the Alexander Maconochie Centre—Mrs Jones MLA

Strengthening procurement and employment practices in the ACT—Ms Cody MLA

Traffic control measures at the intersection of Tillyard and Ginninderra Drives—Mrs Kikkert MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard.

Matters of public importance

The following matters of public importance were discussed in the Assembly this week—

The importance of broad engagement with the ACT community, particularly innovative measures to engage with younger Canberrans—Mr Steel MLA

The importance of fixing the ongoing problems with the ACT public health system—Mrs Dunne MLA

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

Motion debated

A motion was moved by the Opposition on 22 February proposing that the processes relating to the **Citizens' Jury on Compulsory Third Party Insurance** be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety. The motion included outlining that the committee should hold public hearings and explore the effectiveness of citizens' juries.

During debate an amendment was moved by the ACT Greens that included noting that the ACT Government is in the process of rolling out a new approach to community engagement and called on the Assembly to support a referral for a committee inquiry into the Government's use of deliberative democratic processes no later than the 2019 Autumn sittings. The Government indicated their support for the amendment which was agreed to by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then passed.

The full terms of the above motion can be found at

https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1168583/MoP049.pdf

Papers presented

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

ACT Government's Climate Change Policy—Government response to the implementation status report *(presented by the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability on 22 February)*

Auditor-General's Reports—3/2018—Tender for the sale of Block 30 (formerly Block 20) Section 34 Dickson *(presented by the Speaker on 22 February)*

Capital Works Program—2017-18 *(presented by the Treasurer on 20 February)*

Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill

Exposure Draft

Explanatory Statement

Consent in Sexual Violence Laws—ACT Greens Discussion Paper *(presented by Ms Le Couteur MLA on 21 February)*

Gungahlin Strategic Assessment—

Independent Audit

Responses to the Corrective Action Requests *(presented by the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability on 22 February)*

Road Safety Report Card 2018 *(presented by the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety)*

Statements of Intent—

City Renewal Authority

Suburban Land Agency *(presented by the Treasurer on 20 February)*

Petitions and petition response

The following e-petition and petitions were lodged on 20 and 22 February—

Request for the provision of sun shade at the playground at Mortimer Lewis Drive, Greenway—lodged by Ms Lawder and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

Downer community centre lease arrangements—lodged by Ms Le Couteur and referred to the Treasurer. The petition was also referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism.

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

The following ministerial response to a petition was lodged on 20 February—

Request to delay the approval of Draft Variation No 344 to the Territory Plan.

A copy of the response can be found at <https://epetitions.act.gov.au/PaperPetitions.aspx>

Committee activities

Committee reports presented

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

Report 6—*Models for Estimates inquiries (presented on 22 February)*

A copy of the report can be accessed at

https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1168345/Report-6-Models-for-Estimates-inquiries.pdf

Scrutiny Report 14 (presented 20 February)

This report contained the committee's comments on 70 pieces of subordinate legislation, one government response, one national regulation, four regulatory impact statements and proposed amendments to one government bill.

A copy of the report can be accessed at

https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1165841/Report-14.pdf

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee (presented on 20 February)

Report 4—*Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No 329: Weston Group Centre and Surrounding Community and Leisure and Accommodation Lands: Zone changes and amendments to the Weston Precinct map and code*

A copy of the report can be accessed at

https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1165872/9th-PUR-04-DV329.pdf

Committee statements

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

The chair of the Assembly informed the Assembly on 22 February that the committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into and report on the operation of standing orders and continuing resolutions of the Assembly.

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 20 February on the committee's consideration of **statutory appointments** and presented the following schedule of statutory appointments:

9th Assembly – Period 1 July to 31 December 2017

On 22 February the chair of the committee informed the Assembly that, due to the extent of evidence before it, the committee had resolved to report on its inquiry into the extent, nature and consequence of insecure work in the ACT by the last sitting day in April 2018.

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

On 22 February the chair of the committee made a statement informing the Assembly that the committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into and report on the role of, and opportunities for, the natural environment in Canberra as an urbanising city.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 20 February on the committee's consideration of statutory appointments and presented the following schedule of statutory appointments:

9th Assembly – Period 1 July to 31 December 2017

Government responses

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Report 1—Draft Lower Catchment Reserve Management Plan 2017 (*presented 20 February*)

Report 2—Planning, management and delivery of road maintenance in the ACT (*presented 22 February*)

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

Report 2—Inquiry into billboards (*presented 22 February*)

Education Activities

Information on our various program offerings are available on the Assembly's website.

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)

Ms Meegan Fitzharris (Australian Labor Party)

Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

Next sitting

Tuesday, 20 March 2018.

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