



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021–2022

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 47

WEDNESDAY, 4 MAY 2022

- 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 **PETITIONS—MINISTERIAL RESPONSES—RESPONSES NOTED**

The Clerk announced that the following responses to petitions had been lodged:

Mr Steel (Minister for Transport and City Services), dated 2 May 2022—Response to petition No 49-21, lodged by Mr Braddock on 10 February 2022, concerning removal of the Moncrieff drying pad.

Mr Steel (Minister for Transport and City Services), dated 2 May 2022—Response to petition No 51-21, lodged by Mr Braddock on 10 February 2021, concerning refurbishment of the Gungahlin skate park.

Mr Steel (Minister for Transport and City Services), dated 2 May 2022—Response to petition No 1-22, lodged by Mr Davis on 8 February 2022, concerning the installation of speed limit signs on Bateman St in Kambah.

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

Question—put and passed.

3 RECOGNISING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) made a ministerial statement concerning recognition of first responders and presented the following paper:

Recognising our first responders—Ministerial statement, 4 May 2022.

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

Question—put and passed.

4 WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK AND WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety) made a ministerial statement concerning World Day for Safety and Health at Work and Workers' Memorial Day and presented the following paper:

World Day for Safety and Health at Work and Workers' Memorial Day—Ministerial statement, 4 May 2022.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

5 WORKPLACE CULTURE WITHIN A.C.T. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES—INDEPENDENT REVIEW—BIANNUAL UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINAL REPORT—UPDATE TO RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health), in response to the resolution of the Assembly of 13 May 2021, made a ministerial statement to update the Assembly on work place culture in the ACT Public Health Services and on the biannual update on the implementation of recommendations of the final report, and presented the following paper:

Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services—Independent Review—Biannual update on the implementation of the recommendations of the final report—Update to Assembly resolution of 13 May 2021—Ministerial statement, 4 May 2022.

Ms Stephen-Smith moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

6 SKILLED TO SUCCEED—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED

Mr Steel (Minister for Skills) made a ministerial statement concerning the skills and workforce agenda for the ACT and presented the following papers:

Skilled to Succeed—

Ministerial statement, 4 May 2022.

Skills and workforce agenda for the ACT.

Mr Steel moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question—put and passed.

**7 WORLD BEE DAY AND THE A.C.T.'S CAPITAL FOOD AND FIBRE STRATEGY—
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED**

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for the Environment) made a ministerial statement concerning World Bee Day and the ACT's Capital Food and Fibre Strategy and presented the following paper:

World Bee Day and the ACT's Capital Food and Fibre Strategy—Ministerial statement, 4 May 2022.

Ms Vassarotti moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**8 MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE DISORDERS—TREATMENT
SERVICES—UPDATE TO RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—
PAPER NOTED**

Ms Davidson (Minister for Mental Health), pursuant to the Assembly resolution of 2 December 2021, made a ministerial statement concerning mental health, alcohol and other drug use disorders treatment services, and presented the following paper:

Mental health, alcohol and other drug use disorders—Treatment services—Update to resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2021—Ministerial statement, 4 May 2021.

Ms Davidson moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

**9 MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGEING WORK PLAN—MINISTERIAL
STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED**

Ms Davidson (Minister for Veterans and Seniors) made a ministerial statement concerning the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing Work Plan and presented the following papers:

Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing Work Plan—

Ministerial statement, Wednesday, 4 May 2022.

Work Plan Summary 2021-2024, dated May 2022.

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

Question—put and passed.

10 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation about health, 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.

11 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Ms Lawder moved—That leave of absence be granted to Ms Lee for today due to illness.

Question—put and passed.

12 CORRECTION OF RECORD—STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Ms Davidson (Minister for Veterans and Seniors), by leave, made a statement correcting a statement she made in her earlier ministerial statement.

13 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) informed the Assembly of the absence of Minister Rattenbury, and advised the Assembly that questions without notice normally directed to the Attorney-General and the Minister for Consumer Affairs could be directed to Minister Cheyne, and that questions without notice normally directed to the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction and the Minister for Gaming could be directed to Mr Barr.

14 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

15 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Braddock moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mr Rattenbury for today due to his attending ministerial duties.

Question—put and passed.

16 DEFENCE INDUSTRY ROLE IN CANBERRA

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

(1) notes:

- (a) the importance of defence industry to the Canberra economy and local jobs;
- (b) the importance of the defence industry to the security of Australia; and

- (c) the important role of western military equipment, including Australian equipment, in the defence of the Ukrainian people;
- (2) further notes:
 - (a) the recent attack on the defence industry by the Greens in this Assembly;
 - (b) the attack on the defence supplier that is providing vital support to Ukraine; and
 - (c) that the defence supplier in question has its Australian headquarters in Canberra;
 - (d) affirm its support for Canberra’s defence industry sector; and
- (3) support the Australian Federal Government and others in their provision of equipment to enable Ukraine to defend their people.

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after “That this Assembly” and substitute:

- “(1) notes:
- (a) the defence industry is a major employer in Canberra;
 - (b) the importance of the defence industry to the security of Australia, alongside diplomacy, international partnerships, strategic context, intelligence, and soft power and influence;
 - (c) the Australian Government has committed \$191.5 million of military equipment to the democratically elected Ukrainian government to assist in the defence of the Ukrainian people and nation; and
 - (d) climate change is one of the biggest threats to Australia’s security and that dependency on fossil fuels diminishes nations’ energy security;
- (2) condemns Vladimir Putin’s military aggression in Ukraine and the consequential suffering of ordinary people bearing the costs of war;
 - (3) acknowledges the right of the people of Ukraine to sovereignty and territorial integrity;
 - (4) acknowledges the contribution of Canberrans in supporting Australian security through their work in diplomacy, international partnerships, climate change, soft power and influence, intelligence and defence;
 - (5) recognises the compassion and generosity of many Canberrans in their support of the Ukrainian nation, by contributing to aid organisations helping displaced, injured and traumatised Ukrainians;
 - (6) encourages the Australian Government to support investment in diplomacy, aid, trade, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, commensurate to defence spending;
 - (7) affirms its support for Canberra’s defence industry sector; and
 - (8) affirms its support of the Australian Federal Government and other nations in their provision of equipment to enable Ukraine to defend its people.”

Debate ensued.

The question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 14		NOES, 5
Mr Barr	Ms Orr	Mr Braddock
Ms Burch	Mr Parton	Ms Clay
Mr Cain	Dr Paterson	Ms Davidson
Ms Castley	Mr Pettersson	Mr Davis
Ms Cheyne	Mr Steel	Ms Vassarotti
Mr Hanson	Ms Stephen-Smith	
Mrs Kikkert		
Ms Lawder		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Braddock, by leave, moved the following amendment to the motion, as amended:
Omit all words after “Assembly” and substitute:

“(1) notes:

- (a) this year, the climate crisis was described as the biggest threat to Australia’s security by former Australian defence leaders;
- (b) these military leaders further said “The first duty of government is the safety and protection of the people, but Australia has failed when it comes to climate change threats. Australia currently has no credible climate policy, leaving our nation unprepared for increasingly harsh impacts”; and
- (c) there are no jobs on a dead planet;

(2) further notes:

- (a) the relative investments made by governments of all levels sends a strong message about the priorities and values of Australians;
- (b) Defence spending has increased by more than 300 percent over the last decade, and now stands at around nine times the total spent on diplomacy, aid and trade. Investment in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and along with it, Australia’s international aid program has hit all-time lows of 1.3 percent of the Federal budget; and
- (c) genuine peace rests on international cooperation and development, and respect for human rights. A country as wealthy and as fortunate as Australia should be an international champion of multilateral moves towards peace;

(3) calls on this Assembly to:

- (a) condemn all military aggression in the strongest possible way;
- (b) acknowledge the contribution of Canberrans in supporting Australian security through their work in diplomacy, international partnerships, climate change, soft power and influence, intelligence and defence;

- (c) recognise the suffering of ordinary people bearing the costs of war and the compassion and generosity of many Canberrans in their support of displaced, injured and traumatised people affected by war, particularly during the current conflict in Ukraine;
- (d) acknowledge that current events in Ukraine can be particularly hard for veterans and their families, and also recognise the impact that the conflict is having on the ACT's Ukrainian community; and
- (e) affirm its staunch support:
 - (i) for all industries in Canberra that contribute to local, international and national security;
 - (ii) for commensurate investment in diplomacy, aid, trade and climate change mitigation and adaptation to levels of defence and military spending;
 - (iii) to tackle the Climate Emergency in order to create the conditions for peace and security for Australia and the region; and
 - (iv) to use the most effective means through which Australia can assist the efforts for peace in Ukraine and other conflict zones, noting particularly the critical role of supplies, sanctions and humanitarian efforts."

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the defence industry is a major employer in Canberra;
 - (b) the importance of the defence industry to the security of Australia, alongside diplomacy, international partnerships, strategic context, intelligence, and soft power and influence;
 - (c) the Australian Government has committed \$191.5 million of military equipment to the democratically elected Ukrainian government to assist in the defence of the Ukrainian people and nation; and
 - (d) climate change is one of the biggest threats to Australia's security and that dependency on fossil fuels diminishes nations' energy security;
- (2) condemns Vladimir Putin's military aggression in Ukraine and the consequential suffering of ordinary people bearing the costs of war;
- (3) acknowledges the right of the people of Ukraine to sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- (4) acknowledges the contribution of Canberrans in supporting Australian security through their work in diplomacy, international partnerships, climate change, soft power and influence, intelligence and defence;

- (5) recognises the compassion and generosity of many Canberrans in their support of the Ukrainian nation, by contributing to aid organisations helping displaced, injured and traumatised Ukrainians;
- (6) encourages the Australian Government to support investment in diplomacy, aid, trade, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, commensurate to defence spending;
- (7) affirms its support for Canberra’s defence industry sector; and
- (8) affirms its support of the Australian Federal Government and other nations in their provision of equipment to enable Ukraine to defend its people.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

17 PUBLIC TRANSPORT WORKFORCE AND TIMETABLES

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) 62 percent of the ACT’s tracked climate emissions come from transport, primarily cars. Cars also contribute to congestion and poor air quality;
 - (b) not enough people in Canberra currently use public transport. Only 4.6 percent of all journeys were taken by bus according to the ACT and Queanbeyan-Palerang Household Travel Survey 2017;
 - (c) service frequency and reliability, particularly on weekends, are barriers to bus use for some Canberrans; and
 - (d) Transport Canberra has fewer woman bus drivers than the national average (around 11 percent in the ACT compared to 13 percent nationally);
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) Transport Canberra is operating an interim timetable due to COVID-related staff absences;
 - (b) weekend services are only available two hourly for most services after 12 pm on a Saturday and all day Sunday;
 - (c) Victoria has a detailed Women in Transport program and strategy which includes a target of 10 percent increase every year in women drivers;
 - (d) Transport Canberra’s enterprise agreement does not support workplace flexibility. It reflects historic work patterns of Monday to Friday work for full-time permanent bus drivers. A full-time bus driver who wants to work on weekends must either become a casual employee or increase their working week to six or more days. This does not provide modern workforce flexibility, does not match government commitments to flexible working arrangements, does not allow parents and carers to make permanent care arrangements around work and does not support hourly weekend services or weekend reliability; and
 - (e) around Australia, other public transport operators and service sector employers provide a range of alternative working structures which enable flexible working hours, such as:

- (i) a work roster that includes permanent part-time positions involving fewer than five working days such as Tuesday to Thursday; and
 - (ii) a permanent position that involves a five day work week, or a short work week, which may include weekend days as part of the standard roster, such as Tuesday to Saturday (five days) or Sunday to Wednesday (four days); and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) expand Transport Canberra’s workforce to provide enough drivers to return to the regular timetable as soon as possible this year;
 - (b) pursue an outcome through the current enterprise bargaining processes which can achieve the Government’s previous commitment for hourly route bus services all weekend, from 2023;
 - (c) develop a Women in Transport Program and target to increase the percentage of women across Transport Canberra in driver roles;
 - (d) work with the Transport Worker’s Union as an employee representative, and Transport Canberra staff directly, to give new and existing drivers the option to work full or part-time without having to work a Monday to Friday work week; and
 - (e) update the Assembly by the first sitting day in 2023 on this motion.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

18 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Steel (Minister for Transport and City Services) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 4.53 pm adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

MEMBERS’ ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except for Mrs Jones*, Ms Lee*, and Mr Rattenbury.*

*on leave.

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly