



Matters of public importance —your Assembly @ work

Sitting and non sitting weeks—25 September to 27 October 2017

Issue 11/2017

Retirement of Member

On 24 October 2017, Mr Doszpot MLA made a statement informing the Assembly of his intention to retire on 5 December 2017.

At the conclusion of his statement 13 Members of the Assembly also made statements in relation to Mr Doszpot's retirement.

The full text of the statements made can be found in Hansard.

Government business

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

Bills introduced

Education Amendment Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will amend the *Education Act 2004* to provide a one step process for home education registration. The bill also proposes that information required to support an application for registration, or renewal, may be prescribed by Regulation. Further, the bill includes provisions to make it clear that the Act does not intend to allow for home education registration of children who do not live in the ACT.

Inspector of Correctional Services Bill 2017

Summary: This bill will establish an independent Inspector of Correctional Services for the Territory and includes providing a broad and flexible operational structure for the Inspector.

Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (No 2)

Summary: This bill will make a number of minor policy and technical amendments to Territory laws to improve administration and operation

of the ACT tax system for the benefit of taxpayers and administrators.

Copies of bills presented to the Assembly and associated explanatory statements can be accessed from the ACT Legislation Register at www.legislation.act.gov.au.

Bills debated

Electricity Feed-in (Large-Scale Renewable Energy Generation) Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Act 2011* and the *Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Regulation 2017* to prescribe matters the Minister must consider when confirming an FIT entitlement surrender. The bill will also provide for the Minister to oversee the amount(s) that the ACT electricity distributor passes on to ACT electricity retailers as compensation for the FIT support payments. In addition, the bill will enable the Minister to require the electricity distributor to commission an audit of the FIT support payment information provided by the distributor.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 26 October with the Opposition supporting the bill in principle but flagging that they would be moving a number of amendments during the detail stage. The bill was agreed to in principle.

During the detail stage the Opposition moved four amendments which sought to remove the express right of the distributor to pass on costs to retailers while preserving the framework in determining reasonable costs. The amendments were negated after a vote of the Assembly.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* to improve consumer protections for tenants and lessors entering into a commercial guarantee or indemnity contract.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 24 October with all parties confirming their support for the legislation.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Utilities Legislation Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Utilities Act 2000*, the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014* and the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Regulation 2017* by inserting general regulation-making power into each law to enable classes of services to be removed from the regulatory schemes if certain conditions are met. The bill will also provide for the first use of the exemption power in relation to embedded electricity networks.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on 24 October with all parties supporting the passage of the bill through the Assembly.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Utilities (Technical Regulation) Amendment Bill 2017—

Summary: This bill will amend the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014* to address ongoing issues in relation to the risks caused by trees touching live powerlines in order to increase public safety. The bill will also address important actions under the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan 2014-2019.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on 24 October with the Opposition indicating they would not be supporting the passing of the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle after a vote of the Assembly.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly without amendment.

A full record of the debates can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

Ministerial statements

The following ministerial statements were made on 24 October—

Delivering the better Canberra we promised

was the title of a ministerial statement made by the Chief Minister. During the statement the Chief Minister provided a report on the Government's policy and legislative achievements since its re-election in October 2016.

The Deputy Chief Minister made a statement providing an update to the Assembly on the **Government's key priorities** over the last 12 months in her areas of portfolio responsibility.

The following ministerial statements were made on 26 October—

The Minister for Health and Wellbeing made a statement on the **delivery of services** in her portfolio responsibility areas over the last year.

Achievements over the last year in his areas of portfolio responsibility was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

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 Coe MLA on 25 October called on the Assembly to not support the Government's recent changes to the **methodology for calculating general rates paid by units**. During debate an amendment was moved by the Government that included noting the Government is monitoring the impact of the changes as they are rolled out, particularly on the cost of living for Canberrans and property owners who are on low or fixed incomes. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the amendment. The amendment was agreed to following a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

On 25 October 2017 Ms Cody moved a motion outlining **services provided to the community** by the ACT Government since the October 2016 election. During debate the Opposition stated they believed that many of the points in the motion were contentious and went on to explain

their reasoning behind this statement. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the motion, however, stated that they would prefer that the motion called on the Government to go further and do more.

The motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Protection of tree canopy was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Le Couteur on 25 October. The motion included calling on the Government to report back to the Assembly over the next three years on the delivery of measures to protect tree canopy in the Territory. During debate the Opposition outlined its response to the motion. An amendment moved by the Government which provided a number of different details on timeframes for action was agreed to.

The amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 25 October related to:

Red Hill Open Space area and environs—
Ms Lawder MLA

Data collection on youth recidivism—
Mrs Kikkert MLA

Renewable energy programs and initiatives—
Mr Steel MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly *Hansard* site.

Matter of public importance

The following matter of public importance was discussed in the Assembly this week—

The importance of having good public transport for all areas of Canberra—
Mr Parton MLA

Executive Members' business

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

Motion debated

Lease Variation Charges (LVC) was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Rattenbury on 26 October. The motion included calling on the Government to review the full suite of LVC and remissions that apply to residential and mixed-used development. During debate the Government indicated they would support the

motion, however, the Opposition voted against its passing at the conclusion of the debate.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

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

Motions debated

A motion amending the Assembly's resolution of 13 December 2016 relating to areas of responsibility for committees was agreed to on 26 October.

Annual and financial reports for the financial year 2016-2017 and calendar year 2016 were referred to the relevant standing committees of the Assembly on 26 October for inquiry and report by March 2018.

The sitting pattern for 2018 was agreed to by the Assembly on 26 October.

Details on the above motions can be found here.

Papers presented

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

2016-2017 Annual Reports—Government directorates, public sector bodies and Territory Authorities (*presented by responsible ministers on 24 October*)

ACT Judicial Council 2016-2017 annual report (*presented by Attorney-General on 26 October*)

Aluminium composite cladding on government buildings—Government response to resolution of the Assembly (*presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 26 October*)

Auditor-General's Report 5/2017—Maintenance of Selected Road Infrastructure Assets—Government response (*presented by the Minister for Transport and City Services on 24 October*)

Auditor-General's Report 6/2017—Mental Health Services—Transition from Acute Care—

Government response (*presented by the Minister for Mental Health on 24 October*)

Auditor-General's Report 7/2017—Public Housing Renewal Program—Government response (*presented by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development on 24 October*)

Auditor-General's Report No 8/2017—Selected ACT Government agencies' management of public art (*presented by the Speaker on 24 October*)

Implementation status report on ACT Government's Climate Change Policy (*presented by the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability on 26 October*)

Legislative Review of the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011* (*presented by the Minister for Community Services on 26 October*)

Office of the Legislative Assembly—Annual Report 2016-2017 (*presented by the Speaker on 24 October*)

Suburban Land Agency—Quarterly Report on land acquisitions—1 July to 30 September 2017 (*presented by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development on 26 October*)

Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Container Deposit Scheme) Endorsement Notice 2017 (No 1) (*presented by the Chief Minister on 24 October*)

Mutual Recognition (Container Deposit Scheme) Notice 2017 (No 1) (*presented by the Chief Minister on 24 October*)

Petitions and petition responses

The following petitions were lodged during the sitting week—

ACTION bus services between Deakin, Kingston and Manuka—lodged by Ms Lee MLA.

Antisocial and dangerous driving in Gordon—lodged by Mr Wall MLA.

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

The following ministerial responses to petitions were lodged during the sitting week—

Strategic plan to enhance community facilities in Farrer.

Upgrades to playgrounds in Higgins.

A copy of the response can be found here.

Committee activities

Committee reports presented

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee presented the committee's report entitled Report 2—*Planning, management and delivery of road maintenance in the ACT* on 26 October.

A copy of the report can be accessed here.

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

Report 2 entitled *Inquiry into Billboards* was presented by the chair of the committee on 26 November.

A copy of the report can be accessed here.

Scrutiny Report 10 (*presented 24 October*)

This report contained the committee's comments on 10 bills, 30 pieces of subordinate legislation, one national law and two government responses.

A copy of the report can be accessed here.

Committee inquiries

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

On 12 and 19 October 2017, the Committee held additional public hearings for its inquiry into the extent, nature and consequence of insecure work in the ACT.

Witnesses who appeared before the Committee included:

- . Master Builders Association of the ACT
- . Enabled Employment;
- . Community and Public Sector Union;
- . Legal Aid ACT;
- . National Tertiary Education Union;
- . Mr Robert Easterbrook;
- . Housing Industry Association;
- . Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia;
- . Construction, Forestry and Mining and Energy Union;
- . Australian Industry Group;
- . Canberra Business Chamber;
- . Association of Professional Staffing Companies in Australia; and

- Recruitment and Consulting Services Association.

On 26 October the deputy chair of the committee made a statement informing the Assembly that the committee had amended its reporting date for its inquiry into the extent, nature and consequence of insecure work in the ACT from 31 October 2017 to 22 February 2018.

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)
- Mr Steve Doszpot (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, 31 October 2017.

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