



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2016–2017–2018–2019

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 90

**WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2019**

---

**1** The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms J. Burch) 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 REFERENCE TO MEMBERS—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**

The Speaker made a statement concerning how Members should be referred to in the Chamber.

**3 CRIMES (ANTI-CONSORTING) AMENDMENT BILL 2019**

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—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 11

Miss C. Burch	Ms Lee
Mr Coe	Mr Milligan
Mrs Dunne	Mr Parton
Mr Hanson	Mr Wall
Mrs Jones	
Mrs Kikkert	
Ms Lawder	

NOES, 14

Mr Barr	Ms Le Couteur
Ms Berry	Ms Orr
Ms J. Burch	Mr Pettersson
Ms Cheyne	Mr Ramsay
Ms Cody	Mr Rattenbury
Ms Fitzharris	Mr Steel
Mr Gentleman	Ms Stephen-Smith

And so it was negated.



**4 CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY—SUPPORT**

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

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) more needs to be done to ensure that Canberrans from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background living with a disability can better access disability services in the ACT;
  - (b) disability can affect people of all ages, socioeconomic positions, and cultural backgrounds;
  - (c) seniors from a CALD background living with a disability are particularly vulnerable when it comes to accessing disability services in the ACT;
  - (d) disability advocacy groups in the ACT perform a vital function of providing outreach, understanding and engagement for those within the disability community in the ACT but are limited in what they can specifically offer to the CALD community due to a lack of ACT Government support; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to establish, by June 2019, a grant programme for disability advocacy groups in the ACT to specifically fund:
  - (a) a CALD advocate; and
  - (b) appropriate programmes to better meet the needs of Canberrans from a CALD background living with a disability.

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Disability) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “calls on the ACT Government”, substitute:

“ensure that disability advocacy, inclusion and multicultural participation grants are able to support the needs of Canberrans from a CALD background living with a disability.”

Debate continued.

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.

**5 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**6 CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY—SUPPORT**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Lee, and on the amendment moved by Ms Stephen-Smith ([see entry 4](#))—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

## AYES, 13

Mr Barr  
 Ms J. Burch  
 Ms Cheyne  
 Ms Cody  
 Ms Fitzharris  
 Mr Gentleman  
 Ms Le Couteur

Ms Orr  
 Mr Pettersson  
 Mr Ramsay  
 Mr Rattenbury  
 Mr Steel  
 Ms Stephen-Smith

## NOES, 10

Miss C. Burch  
 Mr Coe  
 Mrs Dunne  
 Mr Hanson  
 Mrs Jones  
 Mrs Kikkert  
 Ms Lawder

Ms Lee  
 Mr Parton  
 Mr Wall

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) more needs to be done to ensure that Canberrans from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background living with a disability can better access disability services in the ACT;
  - (b) disability can affect people of all ages, socioeconomic positions, and cultural backgrounds;
  - (c) seniors from a CALD background living with a disability are particularly vulnerable when it comes to accessing disability services in the ACT; and
  - (d) disability advocacy groups in the ACT perform a vital function of providing outreach, understanding and engagement for those within the disability community in the ACT but are limited in what they can specifically offer to the CALD community due to a lack of ACT government support; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to ensure that disability advocacy, inclusion and multicultural participation grants are able to support the needs of Canberrans from a CALD background living with a disability.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 7 PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE A.C.T.—DECENTRALISATION

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

- (1) notes that Canberra:
  - (a) plays a critical role as our nation’s capital and is Australia’s centre of public administration, driven by the expertise and hard work of public servants who are highly capable, diligent and committed in their service to the entire country;
  - (b) is home to a broad range of private sector organisations and tertiary institutions that regularly provide services and expertise to government departments; and

- (c) is a successful regional centre and partner with the surrounding NSW councils to strengthen economic growth, encourage tourism, and foster export opportunities;
- (2) also notes the success of continuing efforts by the ACT Government to create and protect jobs in the ACT, including:
- (a) campaigning to make Canberra the permanent home of the Australian Space Agency, which aims to triple the size of Australia's space industry and create up to 20 000 jobs by 2030;
  - (b) signing a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Space Agency to strengthen and grow the ACT's space industry;
  - (c) supporting our local workforce through a pipeline of major infrastructure projects, including the light rail network and the University of Canberra Hospital;
  - (d) relocating more than 1 000 ACT public servants to Woden to co-locate Health Directorate and Access Canberra staff, creating a more efficient and streamlined ACT public service and enlivening the town centre, including surrounding businesses;
  - (e) ensuring the ACT public service is further spread across multiple local centres, including Gungahlin and Belconnen and, in the near future, Dickson, to the benefit of multiple communities;
  - (f) diversifying Canberra's economy by supporting innovation and entrepreneurialism to create more private sector jobs and bring new opportunities to the ACT;
  - (g) encouraging investment and opening doors for international trade and tourism; and
  - (h) fiercely advocating for the protection of public sector jobs in the ACT;
- (3) further notes the Commonwealth Government's commitment to move more jobs out of Canberra every year, as demonstrated by:
- (a) Canberra losing more than 6 700 Federal public service jobs since the Coalition government took office in 2013, as of mid-2017;
  - (b) Central Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane attracting more Federal public service jobs than regional areas between 2013 and 2017, with:
    - (i) Inner Sydney gaining 2 000 public servants;
    - (ii) Inner Melbourne gaining 850 public servants; and
    - (iii) Inner Brisbane gaining 1 260 public servants;
  - (c) regional Australia losing 748 Federal public service jobs over the same period;
  - (d) the shambolic forced move of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to Armidale which resulted in the resignation of the agency's chief executive and at least 20 scientists;

- (e) the Commonwealth Government's decision to relocate the Australian Space Agency to Adelaide despite Canberra being the initial home of the Agency and natural home of the space industry with nearly one in four Australian space industry jobs being based in Canberra; and
  - (f) a new misguided plan to move 76 of the Murray Darling Basin Authority's staff to regional towns including Griffith, Mildura and Murray Bridge despite:
    - (i) Canberra serving as a neutral location for the authority to ensure the river system is managed in the interests of all Australians; and
    - (ii) the grave issues raised in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission Report regarding the negligence and maladministration from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority;
- (4) further notes:
- (a) no cost-benefit analysis has been released by the Federal Liberal-National Government regarding the forced relocation of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and no commitment has been given that it will release such analysis for any future relocation;
  - (b) the continued lack of detail about the Commonwealth Government's inquiry into the decentralisation of the public service, creating uncertainty for government departments and staff;
  - (c) the decentralisation of significant components of the Australian Public Service out of the ACT will have devastating consequences for Canberra's and Australia's economic, social and cultural fabric, including:
    - (i) increasing investment uncertainty and undermining continued economic growth;
    - (ii) significantly reducing activity in town centres, impacting on small businesses and local communities;
    - (iii) disrupting the lives of Canberrans whose familial, social and work networks are firmly established in the ACT; and
    - (iv) jeopardising the efficiency and expertise of the Australian Public Service; and
- (5) calls on this Assembly to continue to:
- (a) condemn the Federal Government's policy of decentralisation, which has served as a pork-barrelling exercise that has risked and continues to risk undermining the ability of public sector staff to carry out their jobs effectively;
  - (b) use all tools at its disposal, including public advocacy, representation at local and national forums, and tri-partisan action with other political parties as appropriate, to protect and support Canberra's public sector workers;

- (c) seek Commonwealth Government recognition of Canberra as the appropriate home of the Australian Public Service, and a reversal of its policy of forced public sector relocation from Canberra to regional towns and centres around Australia; and
- (d) vigorously refute attacks on Canberra public sector workers' collective integrity, work ethic, and service to the wider Australian community.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

## **8 DANGEROUS DOGS LEGISLATION—ENFORCEMENT**

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

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) there were 485 officially reported serious dog attacks in Canberra in 2017-18;
  - (b) in 2017-18 the annual increase in dog attacks in Canberra was 30 percent over 5 years;
  - (c) the number of dog attacks in 2018 is now about 700;
  - (d) the annual rate of increase in dog attacks in one year is now about 70 percent;
  - (e) in 2016-17 the average rate of dog attack reported in Canberra was one a day;
  - (f) in 2018 the average rate of dog attack reported in Canberra has doubled to two a day;
  - (g) anywhere else this rate of increase in crime or injury would be regarded as a crisis;
  - (h) anywhere else this rate of increase in the neglect of animal welfare would be regarded an animal welfare tragedy;
  - (i) dogs that have been found to have committed vicious attacks on people or other animals are still returned to the community; and
  - (j) the tragic death last week of yet another beloved innocent domestic animal as a result of a violent dog attack; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) provide the resources needed to ensure that the current dog laws are effectively enforced; and
  - (b) provide the resources needed to ensure that dog attacks are investigated quickly and treated under the law with the urgency and seriousness that the community expects.

Mr Steel (Minister for City Services) moved the following amendment: Omit paragraph (1), substitute:

“(1) notes that:

- (a) there was a tragic death last week of a beloved innocent domestic animal as a result of a violent dog attack;
- (b) there were 485 reports of dog attacks in Canberra in 2017-18;
- (c) in December 2017 legislative changes took effect which increased requirements for mandatory reporting of dog attacks;
- (d) in 2016-17 the average rate of reports of dog attacks in Canberra was one a day;
- (e) in 2018 the average rate of reports of dog attacks reported in Canberra was two a day;
- (f) from the 2017 calendar year to the 2018 calendar year confirmed attacks increased slightly from 360 to 392;
- (g) from the 2017 calendar year to the 2018 calendar year the number of dogs euthanised at the direction of Domestic Animal Services has increased from 3 to 29;
- (h) in 2018 over 117 warnings and 59 infringement notices were issued for dogs being in public places without a lead or not under effective control;
- (i) in 2018 118 fines, 88 warnings and 68 control orders were issued in relation to dog attacks; and
- (j) in early 2018 the ACT Government increased the number of positions managing domestic animals by 8; and”

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) there was a tragic death last week of a beloved innocent domestic animal as a result of a violent dog attack;
- (b) there were 485 reports of dog attacks in Canberra in 2017-18;
- (c) in December 2017 legislative changes took effect which increased requirements for mandatory reporting of dog attacks;
- (d) in 2016-17 the average rate of reports of dog attacks in Canberra was one a day;
- (e) in 2018 the average rate of reports of dog attacks reported in Canberra was two a day;

- (f) from the 2017 calendar year to the 2018 calendar year confirmed attacks increased slightly from 360 to 392;
  - (g) from the 2017 calendar year to the 2018 calendar year the number of dogs euthanised at the direction of Domestic Animal Services has increased from 3 to 29;
  - (h) in 2018 over 117 warnings and 59 infringement notices were issued for dogs being in public places without a lead or not under effective control;
  - (i) in 2018 118 fines, 88 warnings and 68 control orders were issued in relation to dog attacks;
  - (j) in early 2018 the ACT Government increased the number of positions managing domestic animals by 8; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) provide the resources needed to ensure that the current dog laws are effectively enforced; and
  - (b) provide the resources needed to ensure that dog attacks are investigated quickly and treated under the law with the urgency and seriousness that the community expects.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## **9 RESIDENTIAL PREMISES—TEMPERATURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Ms Le Couteur, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
- (a) this summer the ACT experienced record-breaking extreme heat, and this is likely to occur more frequently in future as a result of climate change;
  - (b) heatwaves are Australia’s deadliest type of natural hazard, with seniors and infants most at risk of death and serious injury; and
  - (c) many vulnerable older people and children live in apartments, including public housing tenants;
- (2) notes that:
- (a) this summer there were numerous reports of Canberra apartments less than five years old – including public housing – reaching inside temperatures of over 40 degrees;
  - (b) the design and construction of these apartments were covered by a minimum Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) standard:
    - (i) while the current EER system is helpful, it is clearly inadequate to ensure new apartments are liveable and safe during heatwaves;
    - (ii) some experts believe that the minimum EER requirement is being undermined by weak planning rules and that the ACT should adopt rules similar to those in the NSW State Environmental Planning Policy No 65 (SEPP 65) “Apartment Design Guide”;

- (iii) unfortunately, some builders don't build to the EER standard required by their building approval;
  - (iv) the EER system is controlled through the Council of Australian Governments and the Australian Building Code, and there is little national progress in strengthening it; and
  - (v) the national EER rating tool (NatHERS) is based on Canberra's past cooler climate, not the hotter climate that we are facing now and into the future;
- (3) notes that air conditioning is a solution for some people, however many lower-income people cannot afford air conditioners, people who live in apartments can be limited in the types of air conditioning they can install, tenants are not able to install them and air conditioners don't work when extreme heat causes blackouts;
- (4) notes that the ACT Government is already taking action on heatwave safety and energy efficient housing, though there are opportunities for more to be done:
  - (a) the Government is reviewing the EER system and investigating minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties under the Greens/ALP Parliamentary Agreement;
  - (b) the Government's Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme is improving household heating, cooling and energy efficiency, and reducing energy bills. The 2018-19 Budget extended the scheme to public housing, and will see significant upgrades in 2 200 public housing homes over three years; and
  - (c) ACT Housing contacts vulnerable tenants during heatwaves to check on their safety; and
- (5) calls on the ACT Government to deliver the following action plan:
  - (a) investigate potential changes to planning rules to improve apartment design and reduce summer heat inside new apartments, including requirements for improved solar access, external summer shading, adequate cross-ventilation and key elements of the NSW SEPP 65 "Apartment Design Guide";
  - (b) investigate potential changes to ACT Housing design requirements for public housing purchases and construction that address the needs of vulnerable tenants in a future hotter climate, for example inclusion of energy-efficient cooling and external summer shading;
  - (c) investigate potential expansion of the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme to cover more options that would keep Canberrans cool in heatwaves;

- (d) investigate how the ACT Government can improve the performance of the EER system without waiting for national reform, for example by requiring separate NatHERS ratings for winter and summer, setting maximum air-leakage standards and basing the ratings on Canberra's future hotter climate;
- (e) improve monitoring of building quality to ensure that buildings meet the EER rating they were approved with;
- (f) report to the Assembly and the community on the findings of parts (5)(a) to (e) by the last sitting day in October 2019; and
- (g) release a draft Territory Plan Variation for community consultation for part (5)(a) by the end of March 2020.

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

"(1) notes that:

- (a) this summer the ACT experienced record-breaking extreme heat, and this is likely to occur more frequently in future as a result of climate change;
- (b) heatwaves are Australia's deadliest type of natural hazard, with seniors and infants most at risk of death and serious injury; and
- (c) many vulnerable older people and children live in apartments, including public housing tenants;

(2) notes that:

- (a) temperatures inside apartments can become very hot during heatwaves;
- (b) the design and construction of these apartments were covered by minimum energy efficiency standard, which most projects comply with by meeting a minimum energy efficiency rating:
  - (i) the energy efficiency rating is a general measure of efficiency over the year, rather than a measure of how a building performs in a particular season or extreme weather;
  - (ii) energy efficiency standards in the National Construction Code are developed under the Building Ministers Forum and the Nationwide House Energy Rating System is overseen by the COAG Energy Council, and there are some changes to the existing standards for 2019 and plans to significantly update the code and energy rating methods for the 2022 version of the code; and
  - (iii) current methods of assessing energy efficiency use average climate data, rather than extreme weather or future climate projections;

(3) notes that while the ACT will experience hotter summers, it will also continue to have relatively cold winters and building standards must address both seasons;

- (4) notes that minimum energy efficiency standards should be supported by planning controls that enable well-designed buildings that occupants can operate as intended;
- (5) notes that while good planning and building standards are important, they are only part of managing people's health and safety in extreme weather;
- (6) notes that the ACT Government is already taking action on heatwave safety and energy efficient housing including:
  - (a) the Government is reviewing the EER system and investigating minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties under the Greens/ALP Parliamentary Agreement;
  - (b) the Government will be adopting new standards in the 2019 National Construction Code that require any building using the energy efficiency rating pathways to also meet separate heating and cooling standards;
  - (c) the Government is undertaking work under the existing Climate Change Adaptation strategy to review these standards for suitability for the current and future climate;
  - (d) the Government is developing a guideline for apartments that includes planning matters such as the design and siting of a building for cross-ventilation, passive solar design and appropriate seasonal shading;
  - (e) the Government reports annually on the number and outcomes of energy efficiency standard audits;
  - (f) the Government's Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme is improving household heating, cooling and energy efficiency, and reducing energy bills;
    - (i) the 2018/19 Budget extended the scheme to public housing, and will see significant upgrades in 2200 public housing homes over three years;
  - (g) ACT Housing contacts vulnerable tenants during heatwaves to check on their safety; and
  - (h) ESA and ACT Health provide advice for people on how to keep healthy and safe in extreme weather; and
- (7) calls on the Government to:
  - (a) investigate potential changes to planning rules to improve apartment design and reduce summer heat inside new apartments, including requirements for improved solar access, external summer shading, adequate cross-ventilation; and
  - (b) improve monitoring of building quality to ensure that buildings meet the EER rating they were approved with."

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 19		NOES, 2
Miss C. Burch	Mrs Kikkert	Ms Le Couteur
Ms J. Burch	Ms Lawder	Mr Rattenbury
Ms Cheyne	Ms Orr	
Ms Cody	Mr Parton	
Mr Coe	Mr Pettersson	
Mrs Dunne	Mr Ramsay	
Ms Fitzharris	Mr Steel	
Mr Gentleman	Ms Stephen-Smith	
Mr Hanson	Mr Wall	
Mrs Jones		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) this summer the ACT experienced record-breaking extreme heat, and this is likely to occur more frequently in future as a result of climate change;
  - (b) heatwaves are Australia’s deadliest type of natural hazard, with seniors and infants most at risk of death and serious injury; and
  - (c) many vulnerable older people and children live in apartments, including public housing tenants;
- (2) notes that:
  - (a) temperatures inside apartments can become very hot during heatwaves;
  - (b) the design and construction of these apartments were covered by minimum energy efficiency standard, which most projects comply with by meeting a minimum energy efficiency rating:
    - (i) the energy efficiency rating is a general measure of efficiency over the year, rather than a measure of how a building performs in a particular season or extreme weather;
    - (ii) energy efficiency standards in the National Construction Code are developed under the Building Ministers Forum and the Nationwide House Energy Rating System is overseen by the COAG Energy Council, and there are some changes to the existing standards for 2019 and plans to significantly update the code and energy rating methods for the 2022 version of the code; and
    - (iii) current methods of assessing energy efficiency use average climate data, rather than extreme weather or future climate projections;

- (3) notes that while the ACT will experience hotter summers, it will also continue to have relatively cold winters and building standards must address both seasons;
- (4) notes that minimum energy efficiency standards should be supported by planning controls that enable well-designed buildings that occupants can operate as intended;
- (5) notes that while good planning and building standards are important, they are only part of managing people's health and safety in extreme weather;
- (6) notes that the ACT Government is already taking action on heatwave safety and energy efficient housing including:
  - (a) the Government is reviewing the EER system and investigating minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties under the Greens/ALP Parliamentary Agreement;
  - (b) the Government will be adopting new standards in the 2019 National Construction Code that require any building using the energy efficiency rating pathways to also meet separate heating and cooling standards;
  - (c) the Government is undertaking work under the existing Climate Change Adaptation strategy to review these standards for suitability for the current and future climate;
  - (d) the Government is developing a guideline for apartments that includes planning matters such as the design and siting of a building for cross-ventilation, passive solar design and appropriate seasonal shading;
  - (e) the Government reports annually on the number and outcomes of energy efficiency standard audits;
  - (f) the Government's Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme is improving household heating, cooling and energy efficiency, and reducing energy bills;
    - (i) the 2018/19 Budget extended the scheme to public housing, and will see significant upgrades in 2200 public housing homes over three years;
  - (g) ACT Housing contacts vulnerable tenants during heatwaves to check on their safety; and
  - (h) ESA and ACT Health provide advice for people on how to keep healthy and safe in extreme weather; and
- (7) calls on the Government to:
  - (a) investigate potential changes to planning rules to improve apartment design and reduce summer heat inside new apartments, including requirements for improved solar access, external summer shading, adequate cross-ventilation; and

- (b) improve monitoring of building quality to ensure that buildings meet the EER rating they were approved with.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 10 OLDER CANBERRANS—SERVICES

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

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) this week is ACT Seniors Week;
  - (b) older Australians (65 and over) make up 15 percent of all Australians;
  - (c) the population of some areas of Canberra are much older than average including Weston Creek and Woden, where for example, more than a quarter of Hughes residents are over 60;
  - (d) within 40 years over a quarter of all Canberrans will be over 65;
  - (e) ACT Government policies have consistently disproportionately hit older Canberrans hardest including with astronomic rate increases, and difficult to access and uncoordinated services;
  - (f) the Labor-Greens Government has demonstrated its lack of priority for older Canberrans;
  - (g) more than half our suburbs are not age friendly and the Government is currently only funding two suburbs a year with age friendly funding;
  - (h) at current age friendly suburb funding it will be 2073 (55 years from today) before all current suburbs are funded; and
  - (i) concessions have been removed and changed for seniors, creating confusion and distress amongst older Canberrans; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to change its attitude towards older Canberrans and take meaningful action to improve their lives and ensure they are not disadvantaged by Government policy.

Mr Ramsay (Minister for Seniors and Veterans) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, and substitute:

- “(1) notes that:
  - (a) on 21 February 2019 the Government tabled its *Age-Friendly Canberra: A Vision For Our City*;
  - (b) this Vision was created from extensive consultation with senior Canberrans, including surveys completed by over 750 respondents;
  - (c) this document outlines a series of principles the Government will consider when making decisions that affect not only older people, but all people in Canberra;

- (d) the Vision shows the Government's commitment to ensuring our senior Canberrans are:
    - (i) involved, connected and valued;
    - (ii) safe, secure and free from abuse and discrimination;
    - (iii) provided with information, services and supports which embrace diversity; and
    - (iv) living well in a city for all ages; and
  - (e) this Vision is the first step in developing an age-friendly city plan for release in 2020, which will provide a series of actions to continue to develop Canberra as an age-friendly city;
- (2) further notes that:
- (a) according to the ABS, within 40 years the number of Canberrans over the age of 65 will be 17.4 percent;
  - (b) the Government provides a large number of concessions and rebates to those most at need, including vulnerable older members of our city;
  - (c) the Government recently extended the General Rates Deferral Scheme to all property owners over 65, who own at least 75 percent equity in their home;
  - (d) the Government provides rebates of up to \$700 for eligible pensioners on their rates;
  - (e) the Government provides concessions on utilities, including increasing the value of this concession by \$50 to \$654 per household from 1 July 2018;
  - (f) the Government provides a full stamp duty concession for eligible pensioners who wish to downsize to housing that better suits their needs; and
  - (g) there is a comprehensive list and extensive information about concessions and support available to eligible Canberrans, including older Canberrans, online at [www.assistance.act.gov.au](http://www.assistance.act.gov.au);
- (3) further notes that:
- (a) given Canberra's ageing paths, Parliamentary Agreement Item 3.7 is ensuring that \$30 million is being spent on new and upgraded cycling and walking paths as well as age-friendly suburb improvements;
  - (b) the Government manages approximately 3000 kilometres of community paths and is progressively upgrading and enhancing the local suburban community path network on a prioritised basis in consultation with peak seniors organisations and other stakeholders;

- (c) the Government is continually improving pedestrian footpath connections in our suburbs with the Age Friendly Suburbs Program providing a rolling schedule of upgrades to make our suburbs even more age friendly; and
  - (d) all Canberrans can report problems with footpaths and other suburban infrastructure by calling Access Canberra or reporting an issue online through Fix My Street; and
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) use the *Age-Friendly Canberra: A Vision For Our City* to guide policymaking to ensure its positive impact on the lives of our senior Canberrans;
  - (b) continue the development of the Age-Friendly City Plan;
  - (c) continue to provide targeted concessions and support schemes to Canberra's most vulnerable; and
  - (d) continue to upgrade and enhance pathways in our suburbs to improve pedestrian accessibility and connections."

Debate continued.

Ms Lawder addressing the Assembly—

---

*Adjournment negatived:* It being 6.30 pm—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

---

Ms Lawder continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) on 21 March 2019 the Government tabled its *Age-Friendly Canberra: A Vision For Our City*;
  - (b) this Vision was created from extensive consultation with senior Canberrans, including surveys completed by over 750 respondents;
  - (c) this document outlines a series of principles the Government will consider when making decisions that affect not only older people, but all people in Canberra; and

- (d) the Vision shows the Government's commitment to ensuring our senior Canberrans are:
    - (i) involved, connected and valued;
    - (ii) safe, secure and free from abuse and discrimination;
    - (iii) provided with information, services and supports which embrace diversity; and
    - (iv) living well in a city for all ages; and
  - (e) this Vision is the first step in developing an age-friendly city plan for release in 2020, which will provide a series of actions to continue to develop Canberra as an aged friendly city;
- (2) further notes that:
- (a) according to the ABS, within 40 years the number of Canberrans over the age of 65 will be 17.4 percent.
  - (b) the Government provides a large number of concessions and rebates to those most at need, including vulnerable older members of our city;
  - (c) the Government recently extended the General Rates Deferral Scheme to all property owners over 65, who own at least 75 percent equity in their home;
  - (d) the Government provides rebates of up to \$700 for eligible pensioners on their rates;
  - (e) the Government provides concessions on utilities, including increasing the value of this concession by \$50 to \$654 per household from 1 July 2018;
  - (f) the Government provides a full stamp duty concession for eligible pensioners who wish to downsize to housing that better suits their needs; and
  - (g) there is a comprehensive list and extensive information about concessions and support available to eligible Canberrans, including older Canberrans, online at [www.assistance.act.gov.au](http://www.assistance.act.gov.au);
- (3) further notes that:
- (a) given Canberra's ageing paths, Parliamentary Agreement Item 3.7 is ensuring that \$30 million is being spent on new and upgraded cycling and walking paths as well as age-friendly suburb improvements;
  - (b) the Government manages approximately 3000 kilometres of community paths and is progressively upgrading and enhancing the local suburban community path network on a prioritised basis in consultation with peak seniors organisations and other stakeholders;
  - (c) the Government is continually improving pedestrian footpath connections in our suburbs with the Age Friendly Suburbs Program providing a rolling schedule of upgrades to make our suburbs even more age friendly; and

- (d) all Canberrans can report problems with footpaths and other suburban infrastructure by calling Access Canberra or reporting an issue online through Fix My Street; and
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) use the *Age-Friendly Canberra: A Vision For Our City* to guide policymaking to ensure its positive impact on the lives of our senior Canberrans;
  - (b) continue the development of the Aged-Friendly City Plan;
  - (c) continue to provide targeted concessions and support schemes to Canberra's most vulnerable; and
  - (d) continue to upgrade and enhance pathways in our suburbs to improve pedestrian accessibility and connections."—

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 7 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

---

---

**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE:** All Members were present at some time during the sitting.

---

---

**Tom Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly