

2004–2005

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 18

WEDNESDAY, 4 MAY 2005

1 The Assembly met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Berry) took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 **OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms MacDonald—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the Office of Fair Trading continues to enhance its activities to the benefit of the ACT community;
 - (b) successful prosecutions have been undertaken of traders in the fitness, real estate, motor vehicle and credit provider industries that have acted against the interests of consumers; and
 - (c) a wide ranging licensing and enforcement regime has maintained a high level of professionalism amongst businesses and has resulted in increased protection to ACT consumers; and
- (2) recognises the achievements of the Office of Fair Trading and acknowledges the important contribution made by the Office to the well-being of the Canberra community—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

3 **CITY HILL AND THE CITY CENTRE—REVITALISATION**

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

- (1) notes the importance of the revitalisation of the City Hill and the Canberra City Centre;
- (2) recognises the contribution of the National Capital Authority through the “Griffin Legacy”;
- (3) notes the importance of giving the Canberra community adequate opportunity to contribute to debate on the issue; and

- (4) calls on the Minister for Planning to consider all options with a view to the best outcomes being delivered for the City Hill/Canberra City area.

Debate ensued.

Mr Corbell (Minister for Planning), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

- (1) paragraph (1), omit “Canberra”;
- (2) insert new paragraphs:
 - “(2A) recognises the contribution of the ACT Planning and Land Authority through its City Hill ‘Concept for the future’ proposal;
 - (2B) recognises the contribution of the private sector proposal ‘Living City’ put forward by Mr Terry Snow;”;
- (3) paragraph (4), omit the paragraph; and
- (4) add the following new paragraphs:
 - “(6) affirms the importance of the Government’s Canberra Central Program as a key element to help drive the revitalisation of the City Centre; and
 - (7) affirms the importance of considering all options for the future development of City Hill and its environs to ensure the successful and sustainable revitalisation of the City Centre, including City Hill.”.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 8	
Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald	Mrs Burke	Mr Seselja
Mr Corbell	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Smyth
Ms Gallagher	Mr Quinlan	Dr Foskey	Mr Stefaniak
Mr Gentleman	Mr Stanhope	Mr Mulcahy	
Mr Hargreaves		Mr Pratt	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the importance of the revitalisation of the City Hill and the City Centre;
- (2) recognises the contribution of the National Capital Authority through the ‘Griffin Legacy’;
- (3) recognises the contribution of the ACT Planning and Land Authority through its City Hill ‘Concept for the future’ proposal;
- (4) recognises the contribution of the private sector proposal ‘Living City’ put forward by Mr Terry Snow;
- (5) notes the importance of giving the Canberra community adequate opportunity to contribute to debate on the issue;
- (6) affirms the importance of the Government’s Canberra Central Program as a key element to help drive the revitalisation of the City Centre; and

- (7) affirms the importance of considering all options for the future development of City Hill and its environs to ensure the successful and sustainable revitalisation of the City Centre, including City Hill.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

4 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASKFORCE

Dr Foskey, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services reconvene the Affordable Housing Taskforce with the following terms of reference:

- (1) review progress in improving housing affordability since the Taskforce report “Strategies for Action” was tabled in 2002;
- (2) review recent developments and initiatives to increase housing affordability in Australia and overseas, and assess their appropriateness in the ACT context;
- (3) provide advice to the Government on the implementation of strategies outlined in that report;
- (4) oversee the development of a long-term Affordable Housing Strategy for the ACT; and
- (5) provide ongoing advice to the Government on housing affordability in the ACT and the effectiveness of strategies and actions implemented by the Government.

Debate ensued.

Mr Hargraves (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

- (1) preamble, omit “reconvene the Affordable Housing Taskforce with the following terms of reference”, substitute “provide a report to the Assembly on”;
- (2) paragraph (1), omit “review”;
- (3) paragraph (2), omit “review”;
- (4) paragraph (3), omit the paragraph;
- (5) paragraph (4), omit the paragraph; and
- (6) paragraph (5), omit “provide ongoing advice to Government on”.

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 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE NOS. 321, 322, 323, 324, 325 AND 333—ANSWERS—EXPLANATION

Mrs Burke, pursuant to standing order 118A, asked Mr Corbell (Minister for Health) for an explanation concerning the answers to questions on notice Nos. 321, 322, 323, 324, 325 and 333.

Mr Corbell gave an explanation.

7 QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 229—ANSWER—EXPLANATION

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to standing order 118A, asked Mr Corbell (Minister for Health) for an explanation concerning the answer to question on notice No. 229.

Mr Corbell gave an explanation.

8 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASKFORCE

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr Foskey, and on the amendments moved by Mr Hargreaves (Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services) (*see* [Entry 4](#))—

Debate resumed.

Dr Foskey, by leave, moved the following amendments to Mr Hargreaves proposed amendments together:

- (1) preamble, after “provide a report to the Assembly on”, insert “30 June 2005 on”;
- (2) add the following new paragraph:
 - “(7) add the following new paragraph:
 - ‘(6) that the report include an Implementation Plan to implement the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Taskforce report “Strategies for Action”; and’ ”; and
- (3) add the following new paragraph:
 - “(8) add the following new paragraph:
 - ‘(7) that the Minister consult with community groups and housing industry representatives as part of the process of developing his report.’ ”.

Ordered—That the question be divided.

Debate continued.

Amendment No. (1) agreed to.

Amendment No. (2) negatived.

Amendment No. (3) negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mr Hargreaves’ amendments, as amended, be agreed to—put and passed.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services provide a report to the Assembly on 30 June 2005 on:

- (1) progress in improving housing affordability since the Taskforce report ‘Strategies for Action’ was tabled in 2002;
- (2) recent developments and initiatives to increase housing affordability in Australia and overseas, and assess their appropriateness in the ACT context; and
- (3) housing affordability in the ACT and the effectiveness of strategies and actions implemented by the Government.”—

be agreed to—put.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

9 GRAFFITI

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the general untidiness and shabby third world country look of the city as a consequence of the proliferation of graffiti across suburbia and through the city and town centres;
 - (b) this shabby image is having a profound impact on how people generally are feeling about their city, including a feeling of declining safety;
 - (c) that graffiti is encouraging an erosion of pride in the look of our city and consequently encouraging further vandalism;
 - (d) the threat to tourism and the development of business caused by the impact of graffiti and related vandalism; and
 - (e) the Government's failure to significantly reduce graffiti, including its failure to implement serious policies aimed at preventing graffiti, protecting government and private property and prosecuting graffiti offenders; and
- (2) calls on the Government to take immediate action aimed at:
 - (a) strengthening policies to seriously tackle graffiti prevention;
 - (b) providing additional support to owners of private property repeatedly afflicted by graffiti;
 - (c) prosecuting graffiti offenders and strengthening rehabilitation; and
 - (d) restoring a sense of pride in the community.

Debate ensued.

Mr Hargreaves (Minister for Urban Services) moved the following amendment: omit all words after "notes", substitute:

- (1) the Government is keenly aware of the issues associated with graffiti in the ACT and has taken a pro-active role through the development of the ACT Graffiti Management Strategy released in August 2004;
- (2) this Strategy is the first of its kind for the ACT and represents an innovative and comprehensive approach to the management of graffiti;
- (3) the Strategy addresses graffiti through 5 key elements—prevention, removal, diversion, community awareness and education, and legislation;
- (4) the establishment of the Graffiti Management Steering Committee in February 2005 and the appointment of a Graffiti Coordinator to work with the Committee, to implement key actions of the Strategy and liaise with young people and stakeholder interest groups;
- (5) a successful graffiti art workshop program was established in 2004-2005 in partnership with Arts and Recreation Training ACT, with funding support from Urban Service's Community Partnership Program;

- (6) 15 legal graffiti art sites have been identified on public assets and another 15 sites are currently being assessed for their suitability for legal graffiti art;
- (7) approximately \$1 million is provided annually for an ongoing graffiti removal program from public and private assets. Of this about \$780,000 is spent on graffiti removal from assets within urban open spaces and \$212,000 on removal of graffiti from private assets in public view;
- (8) the Graffiti Hotline (6207 2500) was established last year to coordinate all requests for the removal of graffiti from public and private assets; and
- (9) a community awareness, involvement and education campaign targeting various elements of the Strategy is also being implemented.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

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

10 MEDICARE FUNDED TREATMENTS FOR A.C.T. RESIDENTS

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

- (1) recognises the importance to the ACT community of maintaining accessibility to Medicare funded treatments and services based on objective merit rather than subjective value judgements;
- (2) notes the negative implications associated with restricting Medicare subsidisation for in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatments on an arbitrary basis; and
- (3) affirms its commitment to accessible and affordable health services for all ACT residents, including the provision of IVF, at the discretion of the individual, in consultation with their medical practitioner.

Debate ensued.

Mr Smyth (Leader of the Opposition) addressing the Assembly—

11 ADJOURNMENT

It being 6 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.29 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly