

**2001-2002-2003-2004**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**No. 94**

**WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2004**

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**1** The Assembly met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. A quorum of Members not being present, the Speaker (Mr Berry) ordered the bells to be rung. A quorum having been formed the Speaker 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 PUBLIC SCHOOLS – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES**

Ms Dundas, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly:

- (1) recognises that many public school students from low income families miss out on school excursions, school camps and school subjects with levies due to cost; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to establish a central fund that parents can apply to for assistance with these costs.

Debate ensued.

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

- (1) paragraph (1), omit “many”, substitute “some”;
- (2) paragraph (1), insert “could” after the words “students from low income families”; and
- (3) paragraph (2), omit “establish, substitute “investigate the need for”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Mrs Cross, by leave, moved the following amendment: Add the following paragraph:

“(3) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) take immediate action to ensure that equity funds are made available through the schools to all students who need them for these reasons; and
- (b) report back to the Assembly in May 2004.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question – That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) recognises that some public school students from low income families could miss out on school excursions, school camps and school subjects with levies due to cost;
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to investigate the need for a central fund that parents can apply to for assistance with these costs; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) take immediate action to ensure that equity funds are made available through the schools to all students who need them for these reasons; and
  - (b) report back to the Assembly in May 2004.” –

be agreed to – put and passed.

### **3 CRIMES AMENDMENT BILL 2002**

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.

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.

### **4 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

### **5 PAPER**

Mr Corbell (Minister for Planning), having added to an answer, presented the following paper:

Belconnen Block 13, Section 32 – Land Auction – Lot 4.

### **6 CRIMES AMENDMENT BILL 2002**

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.

Mr Pratt, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

The debate having been closed by the reply of Mr Pratt –

Mrs Cross, by leave, addressed the Assembly.

Question – That this Bill be agreed to in principle – put.

The Assembly voted —

Ayes, 6

Noes, 11

Mrs Burke  
Mr Cornwell  
Mrs Dunne  
Mr Pratt  
Mr Smyth  
Mr Stefaniak

Mr Berry  
Mr Corbell  
Mrs Cross  
Ms Dundas  
Ms Gallagher  
Mr Hargreaves

Ms MacDonald  
Mr Quinlan  
Mr Stanhope  
Ms Tucker  
Mr Wood

And so it was negatived.

## 7 CONDER 4A LAND – MORATORIUM ON DEVELOPMENT

Mr Hargreaves, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the ten year moratorium on development on the area of land in the suburb of Conder known as Conder 4A;
- (2) congratulates the Conder Land Care Group on their work in the 4A area over the past two years that has resulted in the re-instatement of the wetlands near Tom Roberts Avenue; and
- (3) welcomes the announcement by the Chief Minister and Minister for Environment that he will progress the inclusion of Conder 4A into the Canberra Nature Park.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

## 8 BUSHFIRE RECOVERY CENTRE

Mr Smyth (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly notes the considerable contribution made by the Bushfire Recovery Centre to bushfire survivors and the Canberra community and calls on the Government to:

- (1) continue the operations of the Bushfire Recovery Centre in its present form until 30 June 2004;
- (2) use this extension of time to properly and extensively consult with bushfire survivors and other stakeholders on their future needs; and
- (3) report to the Assembly by the last sitting day of May on the results of the consultation and proposed future arrangements for bushfire recovery services.

Mr Smyth addressing the Assembly –

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*Adjournment negatived:* It being 5 p.m. – The question was proposed – That the Assembly do now adjourn.

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

Question – put and negatived.

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Debate ensued.

Mr Stanhope (Chief Minister), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Mr Stanhope moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That”, substitute: “this Assembly notes the considerable contribution made by the Bushfire Recovery Centre to bushfire survivors and the Canberra community and calls on the Government to:

- (1) continue to provide the services of the Recovery Centre in a form that is visible and easily accessible to the clients of the Centre;
- (2) continue to properly and extensively consult with bushfire survivors and other stakeholders on their future needs;
- (3) engage in a process of closure that is positive to the clients of the Centre; and
- (4) report to the Assembly by the last sitting day of May on the results of the consultation and proposed future arrangements for bushfire recovery services.”.

Debate continued.

Mrs Dunne, who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly and moved the following amendment to Mr Stanhope’s amendment: Paragraph (1), omit “in a form that is visible and easily accessible to the clients of the Centre;”, substitute “in its present form until 30 June 2004;”.

Debate continued.

Mrs Dunne, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Question – That Mrs Dunne’s amendment to Mr Stanhope’s amendment be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted —

Ayes, 5

Noes, 10

Mrs Burke  
Mr Cornwell  
Mrs Dunne  
Mr Smyth  
Mr Stefaniak

Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald
Mr Corbell	Mr Quinlan
Mrs Cross	Mr Stanhope
Ms Dundas	Ms Tucker
Mr Hargreaves	Mr Wood

And so it was negatived.

Ms Tucker, who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly and moved the following amendment to Mr Stanhope’s amendment: Paragraph (2), omit “continue to”.

Question – That Ms Tucker’s amendment to Mr Stanhope’s amendment be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted —

Ayes, 7		Noes, 8	
Mrs Burke	Mr Pratt	Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald
Mr Cornwell	Mr Smyth	Mr Corbell	Mr Quinlan
Ms Dundas	Ms Tucker	Mrs Cross	Mr Stanhope
Mrs Dunne		Mr Hargreaves	Mr Wood

And so it was negated.

Question – That Mr Stanhope’s amendment be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted —

Ayes, 10		Noes, 5	
Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald	Mrs Burke	
Mr Corbell	Mr Quinlan	Mr Cornwell	
Mrs Cross	Mr Stanhope	Mrs Dunne	
Ms Dundas	Ms Tucker	Mr Pratt	
Mr Hargreaves	Mr Wood	Mr Smyth	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question – That the motion, as amended, be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted —

Ayes, 8		Noes, 7	
Mrs Burke	Mrs Dunne	Mr Berry	Mr Quinlan
Mr Cornwell	Mr Pratt	Mr Corbell	Mr Stanhope
Mrs Cross	Mr Smyth	Mr Hargreaves	Mr Wood
Ms Dundas	Ms Tucker	Ms MacDonald	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative – Motion, as amended, agreed to, viz;

“That this Assembly notes the considerable contribution made by the Bushfire Recovery Centre to bushfire survivors and the Canberra community and calls on the Government to:

- (1) continue to provide the services of the Recovery Centre in a form that is visible and easily accessible to the clients of the Centre;
- (2) continue to properly and extensively consult with bushfire survivors and other stakeholders on their future needs;
- (3) engage in a process of closure that is positive to the clients of the Centre; and
- (4) report to the Assembly by the last sitting day of May on the results of the consultation and proposed future arrangements for bushfire recovery services.”.

## **9 VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS – FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES**

Ms MacDonald, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly:

- (1) recognises the high level of vocational and higher education student debt in the ACT and throughout Australia;
- (2) acknowledges that many ACT students are having difficulty meeting the costs of living;
- (3) notes that many students are forced to work increasingly long hours to meet the costs of living;
- (4) acknowledges that the Federal Government's Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy payments are not high enough to meet the costs of living; and
- (5) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (a) review the amount students are paid in Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy; and
  - (b) reassess the eligibility criteria of Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy, to make it easier for students to obtain these allowances.

Ms MacDonald, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate adjourned (Mrs Burke) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## **10 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Wood (Manager of Government Business) moved – That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Question – put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 7.00 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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

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**T Duncan**  
**Clerk of the Legislative Assembly**