



Matters of public importance —your Assembly @ work

Sitting and non sitting weeks—16 December 2016 to 17 February 2017

Issue 1/2017

Government business

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

Bills introduced

Co-operatives National Law (ACT) Bill 2017

This bill seeks to repeal the *Cooperatives Act 2002* and replace it with a uniform national law in relation to co-operatives. The new legislation includes mutual recognition provisions, clarifies governance provisions and reduces reporting provision for smaller co-operatives.

Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

This bill will seek to amend legislation to retrospectively delegate certain Director-General functions to ACT Corrective Services officers who have responsibility for the supervision of an offender on an Intensive Correction Order.

Family and Personal Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

This purpose of this bill is to amend the *Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1991*, the *Family Violence Act 2016* and the *Personal Violence Act 2016* to address a number of procedural issues contained in those Acts and to reduce red tape to facilitate streamlined family violence and personal protection order schemes.

Bills debated

The following bills were debated during the sitting week and were passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (16 February)

Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (No 2) (14 February)

Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (No 2) (14 February)

The following bills were debated on 14 February and passed by the Assembly with amendments.

Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (No 3)

Summary: This bill seeks to amend a number of Territory laws within the Justice and Community Safety portfolio to improve the operation of each amended law.

Proceedings: The bill was agreed to in principle after debate. During the detail stage an amendment was moved by the Government which received the support of all parties.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

Statute Law Amendment Bill 2016

Summary: The purpose of this bill is to make minor and technical amendments to a number of laws to enhance the Territory's statute book.

Proceedings: Both the Opposition and ACT Greens indicated their support for the bill when debate resumed on 14 February and the bill was agreed to in principle. During the detail stage an amendment was moved by the Government relating to a court's power to discharge an adoption order made under certain circumstances. The amendment was supported by all parties.

The bill, as amended, was passed by the Assembly.

Transport Canberra and City Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Summary: This bill seeks to make a number of minor and technical amendments to laws administered by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate including the *Domestic Animals Act 2000*, the *Domestic Animals Regulation 2001* and the *Public Unleased Land Act 2013*.

Proceedings: This bill was agreed to in principle by all parties in the Assembly when debate resumed on the proposed legislation. During the detail stage an amendment was moved by the Opposition to omit a clause relating to the removal of noncompliant signs. This amendment was agreed to without debate.

The bill, as amended, was passed by the Assembly.

Motion debated

A motion seeking the Assembly's approval of the appointment of the Independent Reviewer—ACT Government Campaign Advertising and the Alternate Independent Reviewer—ACT Government Campaign was agreed to by all Members of the Assembly on 16 February.

Ministerial statements

The following ministerial statements were made on 14 February.

The Chief Minister made a ministerial statement concerning the **Government's priorities** for 2017. During his statement the Chief Minister presented a paper entitled *Priority Legislation Items—Autumn 2017*.

ACT Health Reporting was the subject of a statement made by the Minister for Health in which she outlined the work being undertaken to review ACT Health's data governance and protocols. Mrs Dunne MLA also made a statement in relation to the matter.

The statement made by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs highlighted the role of the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body** in the Territory and the ninth anniversary of the Nation's apology to the stolen generations. Mr Milligan MLA also made a statement on the matter.

The **future of education** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for

Education and Early Childhood Development on 16 February.

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 proposing a **review of the bail system in the Territory** was moved by Mr Hanson MLA on 15 February.

The motion included noting that other Australian jurisdictions have launched reviews of their bail systems and indicated that previous calls for the comprehensive reviews of the bail system in the ACT had not been fully addressed by the current Government. The motion also included calling on the Government to conduct an urgent, independent and comprehensive review into the bail system in the ACT and present the review to the Assembly by 30 June 2017.

During debate, the Government moved an amendment which included noting that the ACT's bail system demonstrated a strong focus on protecting victims of domestic and family violence and other serious crimes. The amendment also included calling on the Government to continue to monitor developments, including inquiries and reports, around Australia for ways to improve the ACT's bail legislation, as part of its commitment to continuous improvement of the justice system. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the Government's amendment during the debate and the amendment was passed by the Assembly after a vote.

The motion, as amended, was passed by the Assembly.

Business confidence was the subject of a further motion moved on 15 February by Ms Cody MLA.

The motion sought to outline the steps the Government had taken to pursue economic diversification and growth and called on the Government to continue making significant investments in transformational city-building infrastructure.

During debate on the motion the Opposition stated that it believed there was a great deal of uncertainty and concern in the community about the direction of the Government over the next four years and it was up to all Members to hold them to account to make sure that there is greater investment with better outcomes for the Territory.

The ACT Greens indicated their support of the motion during debate and stated that the Greens had worked closely with the Government to seek diversity in the ACT economy while also reducing the environmental footprint.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

Other motions moved on 15 February 2017 related to:

**Alexander Maconochie Centre—
Accommodation for female detainees—**
Mrs Jones MLA

Marriage Equality—Mr Pettersson MLA

Mpowerdome—Mr Wall MLA

**Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th
Legislative Assembly for the ACT—**Mr Coe MLA

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

Assembly business

Motions debated

A motion referring **2015-2016 annual and financial reports** to the relevant Assembly standing committees for inquiry and report was agreed to by the Assembly on 16 February. A detailed schedule can be found in the *Minutes of Proceedings*.

The standing committees will hold public hearings in the weeks commencing 17 February and 6 March 2017 and will each report to the Assembly on the result of their inquiries by the last sitting day of May 2017.

A motion establishing a **Select Committee on Estimates 2017-2018** to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2017-2018, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2017-2018 Budget was agreed to by the Assembly on 16 February. The committee is to report by 1 August 2017.

Two further Assembly business motions were agreed to by the Assembly on 16 February. The motions referred the following matters to the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure:

- . omnibus amendment bills; and
- . the process of referrals to the Commissioner for Standards.

Executive Members' business

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

Motion debated

A motion concerning **climate change mitigation** was moved by Mr Rattenbury MLA on 16 February. The motion sought to highlight the consequences of climate change and the importance of renewable energy. It included calling on the ACT Government to prioritise actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. During debate an amendment was moved by the Opposition that sought to note the ACT's commitment to renewable energy as an important response to climate change and called on the Government to implement actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change factoring in reliability of electricity supply and affordability of power for all Canberrans. The proposed amendment was negated after a vote of the Assembly.

The motion was passed without amendment.

Matters of public importance

The following matters of public importance were discussed in the Assembly this week—

The importance of the lunar new year to Canberrans—Mrs Jones MLA

The importance of better road maintenance to Canberrans—Mrs Kikkert MLA

Papers presented

The following are papers of interest that were presented:

2016-17 Capital Works Program Progress Report—December quarter 2016

ACT Auditor-General—

Report 11/2016—Financial Audits—Financial Results and Audit Findings

Report 1/2017—Worksafe ACT’s management of its regulatory responsibilities for the demolition of loose-fill asbestos contaminated houses, including corrigendum

(presented by the Speaker on 14 February)

Report 7/2016—Certain Land Development Agency Acquisitions—Government response *(presented by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development on 14 February)*

Report 2/2017—2016 ACT Election *(presented by the Speaker on 16 February)*

ACT Coroner’s Court Annual Report 2015-2016 *(presented by the Attorney-General on 14 February)*

ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2015-16 (including recalculations for 2014-15) *(presented by the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability on 16 February)*

ACT Road Safety Report Card 2017 *(presented by the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety on 16 February)*

Budget 2016-17—Budget Review *(presented by the Treasurer on 14 February)*

Final Report on the review of the Domestic Adoption Process in the ACT *(presented by the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth on 16 February)*

Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme—Update on the ACT Government response—Quarterly Report for the period 1 October to 31 December 2016) *(presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 14 February)*

Schedule of Leases Granted for the period 1 October to 31 December 2016 *(presented by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 14 February)*

Treatment in custody of Steven Freeman—Government response to the independent inquiry *(presented by the Minister for Corrections on 16 February)*

Petitions

On 14 February the following petitions were lodged—

Curtin—Draft Master Plan—lodged by Ms Le Couteur MLA and referred to the Minister for Planning and Land Management

This petition was also referred to the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal for consideration.

Tillyard Drive and Ginninderra Drive—Traffic control measures—lodged by Mrs Kikkert and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services

This petition was also referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services for consideration.

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

Committee activities

Committee establishment and membership

Estimates 2017-2018—Select Committee

Mr Wall (*Chair*), Ms Cody MLA, Mr Coe MLA, Ms Le Couteur MLA, Mr Pettersson.

Committee report presented

Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Report 2 *(presented 14 February)*

This report contained the committee’s comments on seven bills, 87 pieces of subordinate legislation and two regulatory impact statements.

Government response

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee—Eighth Assembly—Report 7—Inquiry into Auditor-General’s report on rehabilitation of male detainees at the AMC *(presented by the Minister for Corrections on 16 February)*

Education activities

Introduction to Public Tours

The Legislative Assembly for the ACT offers a weekly public tour each Wednesday at 1.30 pm for an hour. The tours are conducted by education staff of the Assembly and will include a behind the scenes look at the Assembly. The tour will cover the history of self-government in the ACT, the unique features of our parliament, what happens on a sitting day, Assembly committees, how people can get involved, and the artwork in the Assembly.

On sitting weeks, the tour will conclude in the chamber and people are welcome to stay for

question time at 2.30 pm. Tours are free of charge and no bookings are required.

Meet up for the tour at the Public Entrance at 196 London Circuit, Civic.

Seniors Expo

The Assembly will be represented by education staff at the Seniors Expo “One Big Day” being held at Exhibition Park, Canberra. The Seniors Expo is part of the Council of the Ageing’s Senior Week, an event dedicated to older people that promotes a healthy and dynamic lifestyle and celebrates seniors’ contributions to and involvement in their communities.

When and where: 9.30 am – 3.00 pm
Thursday, 23 March
Exhibition Park

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, 21 March 2017.

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