



# Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

**Sitting of 21 May 2020**

**Issue 5/2020**

## **Government Business**

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

### ***Bills introduced***

#### [Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Building Act 2004*, the *Building (General) Regulation 2008* and the *Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2001* by implementing provisions relating to the ACT Building Regulatory System reform program. The bill also introduces a new administrative power for the responsible Minister for the functions of the Construction Occupations Registrar to make a statement of expectations in relation to the Registrar's functions. A number of minor and technical amendments to building laws will also be made by this bill.

#### [Working with Vulnerable People \(Background Checking\) Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011* to strengthen safeguards for vulnerable people in the community, particularly children and people with disability. The bill extends the application of disqualifying offences for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) workers, refines the classification of offences to align with the NDIS worker screening framework and establishes a process for assessing kinship carers. The bill also gives effect to the National Standards for Working with Children Checks (National Standards) and implements recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse relating to working with children.

### ***Bills debated***

#### [Crimes \(Protection of Police, Firefighters and Paramedics\) Amendment Bill 2019](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to create new offences for assaults against police officers, firefighters and paramedics; intentionally or recklessly driving at a police officer and exposing a police officer to a risk to safety; and driving at and causing damage to a police vehicle.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on 21 May with the Opposition indicating that although they supported the passage of the bill, they would be proposing amendments during the detail stage. The ACT Greens also stated they would be supporting the bill along with a number of the amendments to be moved. The bill was agreed to in principle.

During the detail stage amendments moved by the Government and the Opposition were agreed to with the exception of one amendment moved by the Opposition. That amendment related to the penalty for the assault of an emergency worker.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

#### [Firearms Legislation Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Firearms Act 1996*, the *Firearms Regulation 2008* and the *Prohibited Weapons Act 1996* to allow aviation security inspectors to carry fake weapons including imitation firearms and prohibited weapons in order to test airport security. The bill also exempts participants, coaches and officials of biathlon or modern pentathlon from the requirement to obtain a permit for their laser target shooting devices used for the participation in their sport.

*Proceedings:* The proposed legislation received tri-partisan support when debate resumed on 21 May and the bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

#### [Loose-fill Asbestos Legislation Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend Territory legislation to give effect to the management of any Mr Fluffy affected properties remaining in the community following the close of the Buyback Program on 30 June 2020. The amendments propose to include: transitional support for homeowners; additional asbestos management plan requirements; development and building approval restrictions; occupancy prohibition; and the potential for compulsory acquisition if required from mid-2025.

*Proceedings:* The proposed legislation received tri-partisan support when debate resumed on 21 May and the bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

#### [Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will provide for the licensing and regulation of providers of labour hire services to ensure that labour hire businesses operating in the ACT meet their workplace obligations and responsibilities to workers. The bill also creates a framework to prevent and respond to non-compliance with workplace standards in the labour hire industry.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 21 May with the Opposition outlining its reasons as to why it would not be supporting the passage of the proposed legislation through the Assembly. The ACT Greens indicated support for the bill during the debate. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed without amendment following a vote of the Assembly.

#### ***Ministerial statement***

On 21 May the Minister for Health provided an update to the Assembly on the **ACT Government's response to the COVID-19 emergency**. During the statement the Minister presented a report by the Chief Health Officer on the status of the public health emergency due to COVID-19.

A full record of the debates can be accessed at [Hansard](#).

## 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*

### **Motion debated**

A motion proposing an amendment to the Assembly's standing order concerning the use of audio visual or audio links by committees was passed. The amendment related to the conduct of committee public and deliberative meetings.

The full terms of the above motion can be found in the [Minutes of Proceedings](#).

## Private Members' Business

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

### **Bill debated**

[Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration \(Tissue Donor Acknowledgement\) Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1997* to provide opportunities for families of a person who has donated tissue, while living or on death, to have the donation formally acknowledged.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 22 May and received the support of all parties in the Assembly. The bill was agreed to in principle. During the details stage several amendments moved by the Government were agreed to.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

### **Motion debated**

A motion calling on the ACT Government to apply the \$150 **rebate to residential rates** for the fourth quarter of 2019-20 rather than in 2020-21 was moved by the Leader of the Opposition on 21 May. During debate an amendment was moved by the Government that sought to outline the initiatives it had implemented to assist rate payers during the COVID-19 pandemic period. The ACT Green's outlined its reasons for supporting the Government's proposed amendment. The Government's amendment was passed following a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was agreed to.

The full terms of the above motion can be found in the [Minutes of Proceedings](#).

## Papers Presented

The following papers of interest were presented on 21 May 2020:

- Approval of Variation No 366 to the Territory Plan—Franklin Grasslands Environmental Offset Site

- Report by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services—Healthy Prison Review of the Alexander Maconochie Centre 2019—Government response
- Reports of reviews of critical incidents by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services: Assault of detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 5 December 2019 and 13 January 2020
- Special report by the ACT Electoral Commission on the effect of Commonwealth Electoral Act amendments on the ACT funding and disclosure scheme—Government response

## Petition Response

The following ministerial response to a petition was lodged—

- Newborn screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (*Minister for Health*)

A copy of the ministerial response can be found on the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

## Committee Activities

### *Committee reports presented*

#### **COVID-19 Pandemic Response—Select Committee**

[Interim Report 1](#)

#### **Public Accounts—Standing Committee**

[Report 11—Tender for the sale of Block 30 Dickson](#)

[Report 12—Complaint regarding Auditor-General Report No 3 of 2018](#)

#### **Scrutiny Committee**

[Scrutiny Report 42](#)

This report contained the committee's comments on four bills, 39 pieces of subordinate legislation, two national regulations, one regulatory impact statement and three government responses.

### *Committee statements*

#### **Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee**

The chair of the committee made a statement in relation to the timing for the provision of proposed amendments to bills to the committee during the COVID-19 emergency.

#### **Public Accounts—Standing Committee**

The chair of the committee made a statement in relation to a recommendation contained in the report of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure's inquiry into the *Review of the Performance of the Three Branches of Government in the Australian Capital Territory against Latimer House Principles—9<sup>th</sup> Assembly*. The recommendation related to the number of Auditor-General's reports reported on by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

## 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)  
Miss Candice Burch (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)  
Mr Deepak Gupta (Australian Labor Party)  
Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)  
Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)  
Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

## Next Sitting

Thursday, 4 June 2020.

*This document is produced by the Office of the Legislative Assembly for information.*