



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2004–2005–2006–2007

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 104

WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE 2007

- 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 **ALBERT HALL**

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

 - (1) notes:
 - (a) the poor state of the Albert Hall, clearly a result of some years of government neglect;
 - (b) the cultural and heritage value of the Albert Hall to the Canberra community;
 - (c) that, on 24 May 2007, a public meeting was held to discuss the future of the Albert Hall;
 - (d) the disappointment of the meeting with the failure of the Government to send a representative competent to comment on the tender process; and
 - (e) that public management of the Albert Hall offers the best guarantee for continued community use of the facility; and
 - (2) directs the ACT Government to:
 - (a) abort the current tender process for the management of the Albert Hall and arrange a six month extension of the current management arrangements to enable a period for proper community consultation;
 - (b) expend the \$1.8 million necessary to restore this building to an appropriate standard;

- (c) maintain community access balanced with periodic commercial use to ensure the upkeep of the facility;
- (d) establish a joint body with the Australian Government, including community representation, to report and advise on the planning and management of the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct; and
- (e) ensure that the report or advice of the committee is considered against any future tender for the sale of the precinct.

Mr Hargreaves (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) recognises the ongoing cultural value and the heritage of Albert Hall;
- (2) acknowledges the importance of continued public ownership and community use of the Hall;
- (3) acknowledges that the Hall has been managed by a private sector firm under Government supervision for the past 11 years;
- (4) notes that a tender for the continued management by the private sector under Government supervision closed on 24 May 2007 and is currently being evaluated; and
- (5) notes that, concurrently with the tender process, the Government will consider all options for assuring ongoing and effective public use of the Hall.”.

Debate continued.

Paper: Mrs Burke, by leave, presented the following paper:

*Albert Hall—A future for our Albert Hall—*Brochure prepared for public meeting held at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, 24 May 2007.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mr Hargreaves’ amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) recognises the ongoing cultural value and the heritage of Albert Hall;
- (2) acknowledges the importance of continued public ownership and community use of the Hall;
- (3) acknowledges that the Hall has been managed by a private sector firm under Government supervision for the past 11 years;

- (4) notes that a tender for the continued management by the private sector under Government supervision closed on 24 May 2007 and is currently being evaluated; and
- (5) notes that, concurrently with the tender process, the Government will consider all options for assuring ongoing and effective public use of the Hall.”—
be agreed to—put and passed.

3 SMOKING REFORMS

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that tobacco accounts for the greatest single health burden of disease and injury in Australia, 7.8 per cent of the total burden, according to *The burden of disease and injury in Australia 2003* report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare;
 - (b) the significant reforms made by the ACT Government to reduce smoking in our community;
 - (c) these reforms have included the banning of smoking in enclosed places and further tobacco control measures;
 - (d) the positive impact these reforms have had on the ACT community; and
 - (e) that after a thorough consultation process, the ACT Government is planning further tobacco control measures; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Health Minister to report to the Assembly on a timetable for these further reforms.

Mrs Burke moved the following amendment: Add the following words after paragraph (2):

- “(3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) make public the proposed control measures by 30 June 2007; and
 - (b) report to the Assembly by the last sitting day of September 2007 on the outcomes of the consultation.”.

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.

4 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

5 A.C.T. GOVERNMENT TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION TO CHINA/DELEGATION TO UTILITIES BOARD IN SINGAPORE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Stanhope (Minister for Business and Economic Development), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning an ACT Government Trade and Investment Mission to China and delegation to the Utilities Board in Singapore in May 2007 and presented the following paper:

ACT Government Trade and Investment Mission to China/Delegation to Utilities Board in Singapore—May 2007—Ministerial statement, 6 June 2007.

Mr Stanhope moved—That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

6 ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—MEMBERSHIP

Ms MacDonald, pursuant to standing order 223, moved—That Ms MacDonald be discharged from the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure for the period 29 June to 27 July 2007 and that Ms Porter be appointed in her place for that period.

Question—put and passed.

7 SMOKING REFORMS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Porter and on the amendment moved by Mrs Burke (*see entry 3*)—

Debate resumed.

Paper: Ms Gallagher (Minister for Health) presented the following paper:

Tobacco control—Areas on which ACT Health consulted.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mrs Burke’s amendment be agreed to—put and passed.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that tobacco accounts for the greatest single health burden of disease and injury in Australia, 7.8 per cent of the total burden, according to *The burden of disease and injury in Australia 2003* report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare;
 - (b) the significant reforms made by the ACT Government to reduce smoking in our community;
 - (c) these reforms have included the banning of smoking in enclosed places and further tobacco control measures;
 - (d) the positive impact these reforms have had on the ACT community; and
 - (e) that after a thorough consultation process, the ACT Government is planning further tobacco control measures;
- (2) calls on the ACT Health Minister to report to the Assembly on a timetable for these further reforms; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) make public the proposed control measures by 30 June 2007; and
 - (b) report to the Assembly by the last sitting day of September 2007 on the outcomes of the consultation.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

8 ACT HEALTH SYSTEM

Mrs Burke, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that despite the ongoing dedication and commitment by the ACT's nurses, doctors and allied health workers in the public hospital system:
 - (a) the recently released report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found the ACT performed poorly against a range of health indicators;
 - (b) elective surgery lists continue to grow, with Canberrans waiting one month longer, on average, than the national median waiting time for elective surgery; and
 - (c) medical labour costs are growing and the ACT recorded the worst emergency department performance out of all States and Territories; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) acknowledge the poor performance of the ACT health system against other jurisdictions; and
 - (b) take action to make the necessary improvements that will provide Canberrans with a higher quality of care.

Ms Gallagher (Minister for Health) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after "That this Assembly", substitute:

"notes:

- (1) the recent report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australian Hospital Statistics 2005-06*, found the ACT's available public hospital beds increased from 679 in 2004-05 to 714 in 2005-06, an increase of 5.2% against a national decrease of 0.7%;
- (2) since 2003-04, the Stanhope Government has funded an additional 147 beds in the ACT health system;
- (3) this investment replaces the 114 acute care beds the previous Liberal Government removed from the ACT health system;
- (4) the ACT health system is delivering record levels of elective surgery;
- (5) the ACT Government continues to invest in the health system at record levels, most recently announcing an additional \$12.6 million for acute care beds, whilst driving efficiencies; and
- (6) the Stanhope Government's continued commitment to improving the ACT's already excellent health system."

Debate continued.

Mr Mulcahy addressing the Assembly—

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 34 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

9 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 6.28 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