



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Non-sitting and sitting weeks—28 August to 21 September 2018

Issue 10/2018

Government Business

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

Bills introduced

[Statute Law Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 20 September)

Summary: This bill will make minor and technical amendments to a number of laws to enhance the Territory's statute book.

[Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 20 September)

Summary: This bill will amend a number of criminal laws to improve the operation and efficiency of the criminal justice system. These amendments include, clarification that warrants under the *Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Act 2005* are issued by a magistrate, rather than the Magistrates Court, extending the ability to issue warrants to an associate judge of the Supreme Court and increasing the monetary value of a penalty unit for offences.

[Sentencing Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#) (presented 20 September)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005* and the *Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005* to improve the administration of the Intensive Correction Order scheme that commenced in 2016.

Bills debated

[Betting Operations Tax Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill establishes a new tax that will be payable by betting operators that accept bets from, or provide services to, people located in the ACT, regardless of where the operator may be based. This bill will amend the *Taxation Administration Act 1999* so that the general tax administration and enforcement provisions of that Act will apply.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 18 September with the Opposition indicating support for the bill but also indicating they would be moving an amendment to the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle and the Opposition moved an amendment to the bill. The Assistant Speaker in accordance with the provisions of standing order 200, ruled the amendment out-of-order. Debate was adjourned to a later hour and when debate resumed the bill was passed without amendment.

[Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will make amendments to a number of Territory laws to address outdated requirements and reduce red tape by addressing duplication and providing greater clarity for ACT businesses, individuals and community organisations in achieving regulatory outcomes. The amendments further streamline reporting for charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, provide a more efficient process for industry in the lodgement of plans, maps and other documents and allow alternative documents of identification for use in licenced venues, the casino and venues selling tobacco.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 18 September with both the Opposition and ACT Greens indicating support for the passage of the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly.

[Crimes \(Restorative Justice\) Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Crimes (Restorative Justice) Act 2004* to improve access to restorative justice in the ACT which will provide a greater capacity for victims of crime to navigate the criminal justice system.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 18 September with both the Opposition and ACT Greens indicating support for the passage of the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly.

[Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction \(Principal Target\) Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* to bring forward the principal target date for achieving net zero emissions from 30 June 2050 to 30 June 2045.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 18 September with the Opposition indicating they would not be opposing the bill. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the legislation and the bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly.

[Civil Law \(Wrongs\) \(Child Abuse Claims Against Unincorporated Bodies\) Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Civil Law (Wrongs) Act 2002* to implement recommendation 94 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in its *Report on Redress and Civil Litigation*. This bill will enable an unincorporated body to nominate an entity to act as the defendant in a proceeding for a child abuse claim, allow a court to make an order to appoint a related trust as a defendant to a child abuse claim and allow trustees to apply trust property to meet liability for child abuse.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 20 September with the Opposition and the ACT Greens indicating their support for the legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly.

[Courts and Other Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 \(No 2\)](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008*, *Court Procedures Act 2004*, *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1990*, *Magistrates Court Act 1930*, and *Supreme Court Act 1933*. The bill's primary set of amendments will increase the retirement age of Magistrates, the ACAT President, and the Director of Public Prosecutions from 65 to 70.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 20 September with the Opposition and ACT Greens indicating their support for the bill. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly.

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

Ministerial statements

The Minister for City Services made a statement relating to the **Better Suburbs Statement 2030** on 18 September. During the statement the Minister tabled the paper *Have your say on City Services for Better Suburbs Statement 2030* which includes recommendations from the Better Suburbs Forum. The statement highlighted how the Better Suburbs Statement 2030 was developed and the benefits it provides. Ms Le Couteur MLA, Ms Lawder MLA and Ms Cheyne also made statements in relation to the matter.

A statement relating to the **evaluation on the 2015 Innovation Reforms to the on-demand transport industry in the ACT** was made on 18 September by the Minister for Business and Regulatory Services. During the statement the Minister tabled five papers including the Centre for International Economics reports on the impacts of ACT on demand transport reforms and impacts on taxi stakeholders of the ACT on-demand transport reforms.

The following ministerial statements were made on 20 September—

New Zealand Delegation in August 2018 made by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

Government response to ACT Housing Choices Collaboration Hub recommendations made by the Minister for Planning and Land Management.

Outcomes from the Inquiry into the Extent, Nature and Consequence of Insecure Work in the ACT by the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs made by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](#) site.

Motions debated

A motion was moved by the Deputy Chief Minister that welcomed the arrival in Canberra of representatives of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons on the Nobel Peace Ride. The motion noted that the United Nations (UN) Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the first ever treat to explicitly prohibit all aspects of the development, production, possession, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, or assistance or encouragement to engage in any of these prohibited activities. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the motion. The motion called on the Members of the Legislative Assembly to urge the Australian Government to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The motion was then passed by the Assembly.

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

New Minister

On 27 August the *Australian Capital Territory (Self Government) Ministerial Appointment 2018 (No 1)* commenced, which resulted in the appointment of a new Minister, Mr Steel MLA.

Private Members' Business

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

Bills introduced

[Land Tax \(Community Housing Exemption\) Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Land Tax Act 2004* to exempt owners from paying land tax if the owner enters into an agreement with a registered community housing provider.

Bills debated

[Health \(Improving Abortion Access\) Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Health Act 1993* to improve access to safe and legal abortions for people in the ACT.

Proceedings: Debate on this bill resumed on 19 September with the Government moving a number of amendments to the bill. The Opposition indicated their position on this legislation would be treated as a conscience issue for each Member of the party. The ACT Greens indicated their support for the Government amendments. The bill was agreed to in principle following a vote of the Assembly.

The amended bill was then passed by the Assembly.

Motions debated

A motion was moved by Mrs Dunne in relation to the **Australian Medical Association's call for a board of inquiry** into the ACT Health governance structure, workplace culture and industrial practices. The motion included calling on the Executive to reverse its opposition to the establishment of a board of inquiry to investigate matters raised in the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards' 2018 Accreditation Report. Government amendments were moved during debate which noted the ACT Government has announced an Independent Review into the workplace culture in the delivery of public

healthcare services in the ACT. The Opposition indicated they would be opposing the amendments and the ACT Greens indicated their support for the amendments.

Following a vote of the Assembly, the amended motion was then passed.

On 19 September, Ms Cheyne MLA moved a motion relating to the **impact of feral horses on the ACT**. The motion included noting that feral horses cause significant environmental damage, including impacting soil with their hoofs and grazing sensitive vegetation. The motion called on the ACT Government to condemn the NSW Government's reckless legislation. The Opposition indicated they would be opposing the motion and the ACT Greens indicated their support for the motion.

Following a vote of the Assembly the motion was then passed.

Other motions debated on 19 September related to:

- Withdrawal of Government funding for the H Course at the ANU School of Music—Ms Lee MLA
- Proposed review of NAPLAN testing—Ms Lee MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

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

Motions debated

A motion relating to the Assembly's **committee structures** was moved by Ms Cheyne on 20 September. The motion called for an amendment to the resolution of the Assembly of 13 December 2018, as amended 27 October 2017, which established the general purpose standing committees (with four MLAs), to change the majority of committees to three member committees, with the exception of the Public Accounts Committee.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

On 20 September the Government moved a motion relating to the **request for documents from Icon Water Limited**. The motion called on the Assembly to order Icon Water Limited to table the Corporate Services Agreement and Customer Services and Community Support Agreement that it has with ActewAGL.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

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

Matters of public importance

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

The importance of reducing single-use plastic in the ACT—Ms Le Couteur MLA

The importance of ACT and NT residents having the same legislative rights as enjoyed in other jurisdictions—Ms Cheyne MLA

Papers Presented

The following are papers of interest that were presented during the sitting week:

- Have your say on city services for Better Suburbs—Statement 2030 (*presented 18 September by Minister for City Services*)
- Harrison School—Copy of Statement (*presented 18 September by Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development*)
- Public Sector Management Standards—Pursuant to section 56—Engagements of long term senior executive members—1 March to 31 August 2018 (*presented 18 September by the Chief Minister*)
- Our Booris, Our Way—Interim report (*presented 18 September by Minister for Children, Youth and Families*)
- Exposure Draft—Domestic Animals (Dangerous Dogs) Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (*presented 19 September by Ms Lawder MLA*)
- Exposure Draft—Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018 (*presented 19 September by Mr Pettersson MLA*)
- Icon Water Contracts with ActewAGL—Resolution of the Assembly of 23 August 2018 requesting documents under standing order 213A—Letter to the Clerk from the Head of Service (*presented 19 September by the Speaker*)
- Business Impact Assessment of ACT Government-led construction activities in Gungahlin— pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 6 June 2018 concerning the impact on local businesses of light rail construction (*presented 20 September by the Minister for Transport*)
- Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 79(1)—Approval of Variation No 356 to the Territory Plan—Amendments to the West Belconnen Concept Plan for Ginninderry Stage 1 Development (*presented 20 September by the Minister for Planning and Land Management*)
- Unfantastic Plastic—Review of the ACT Plastic Shopping Bag Ban (*presented 20 September by the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability*)

Petitions

The following e-petitions were lodged on 18 September—

- More fully fenced play spaces—lodged by Ms Le Couteur MLA.
- ACT Clubs' Community Contributions Scheme—lodged by Mr Parton MLA and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety.

The following e-petition was lodged on 20 September—

- Fair treatment for international students in Canberra—lodged by Mrs Kikkert MLA and referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs.

A copy of the terms of these petitions can be accessed from the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

Committee Activities

Committee report presented

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

Report 4—Methodology for determining rates and land tax in strata residences (*presented 20 September 2018*)

Scrutiny Committee

[Scrutiny Report 21](#) (*presented 18 September*)

This report contained the committee's comments on eight bills, 14 pieces of subordinate legislation and one government response.

Committee Referral

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

A motion was moved by Mr Wall MLA to refer the interpretation and application of section 65 of the *Australian Capital (Self Government) Act 1988* to the committee for consideration and inquiry into the application of section 65.

Motor Accident Injuries Bill 2018— Exposure Draft and Guide to the Motor Accident Injuries Bill 2018 Exposure Draft

The Exposure Draft was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety to inquire into and report by 1 November 2018.

Committee statement

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

The chair of the committee made a statement on 20 September updating the Assembly on the committee's inquiry into Standardised Testing in ACT schools.

Health Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 18 September informing the Assembly that the committee has resolved to conduct an inquiry into, and report on, maternity services across the ACT.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee made a statement on 18 September relating to the committee's consideration of Auditor-General reports. The chair informed the Assembly that it had resolved to inquire further into Repots Nos 5/2018 and 8/2018, as well as referring Report No 7/2018 to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs for its consideration.

Committee membership

The resolution of the Assembly of 13 December 2016, as amended 27 October 2017, which established the general purpose standing committees was amended to reflect three member committees, excluding the Public Accounts Committees and Select Committees.

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee

Mr Hanson MLA
Ms Orr MLA
Mr Pettersson MLA

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

Mrs Kikkert MLA
Mr Pettersson MLA
Mr Wall MLA

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Miss C. Burch MLA
Mr Milligan MLA
Ms Orr MLA

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

Ms Cody MLA
Mrs Dunne MLA
Ms Le Couteur MLA

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

Ms Cody MLA
Ms Lee MLA
Mr Pettersson MLA

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee

Ms Le Couteur MLA
Ms Orr MLA
Mr Parton MLA

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

Ms Cheyne MLA
Ms Cody MLA
Mrs Dunne MLA
Ms Lawder MLA

Government response

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—Inquiry into the Extent, Nature and Consequence of Insecure Work in the ACT (*presented 20 September 2018*).

Education Activities

Information on our various program offerings are available on the Assembly's website.

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)

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, 23 October 2018.

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