



# Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Sitting of 27 August 2020

Issue 13/2020

## Government Business

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

### **Bill introduced**

#### [Electricity Feed-in \(Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation\) Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Act 2011* to disapply certain provisions that would otherwise delay the granting of feed-in tariff (FiT) entitlements to give effect to the outcomes of the renewables Auction 5. The amendments will enable the Minister to grant FiT entitlements to the auction winners immediately, rather than waiting for the day after the sixth sitting day after the relevant capacity release documentation is presented to the Assembly.

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

### **Bills debated**

#### [City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017* by including provisions in the Act to facilitate the process for revitalising the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings located within the City Renewal Precinct.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on the bill on 27 August with all parties indicating support for the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

#### [Electoral Amendment Bill 2018](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Electoral Act 1992* to prohibit property developers and close associates giving gifts to political entities and will place a prohibition on political entities accepting such gifts. The bill also amends the definition of gift and amends the timeframe for reporting of gifts received over the \$1 000 threshold.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 27 August with further consideration in the detail stage. A number of amendments were moved by the Government, Opposition and ACT Greens.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

#### [Electricity Feed-in \(Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation\) Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Act 2011* to disapply certain provisions that would otherwise delay the granting of feed-in tariff (FiT) entitlements to give effect to the outcomes of the renewables Auction 5. The amendments will enable the Minister to grant FiT entitlements to the auction winners immediately, rather than waiting for the day after the sixth sitting day after the relevant capacity release documentation is presented to the Assembly.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill following its presentation earlier in the day. The Opposition indicated its support for the proposed legislation and the bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

#### [Emergencies Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Emergencies Act 2004* and a number of other Territory Acts to implement recommendations from the whole of ACT Government review of the effectiveness of the response to the 2019-20 bushfire season. The amendments contained in the bill primarily relate to the appointment of an emergency controller as well as the functions and powers of that position.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 27 August with all parties in the Assembly indicating support for the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

#### [Public Interest Disclosure Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012* to support a pro-disclosure culture and system that provides clarity to disclosers and disclosure officers and will require all disclosures under the Act to be forwarded to the ACT Integrity Commission. The amendments will also improve the integrity framework, reduce the scope of the Act and remove the overlap with the *Integrity Commission Act 2019*.

*Proceedings:* The bill received the support of the ACT Greens when debate resumed on 27 August with the Opposition indicating it supported the bill in principle. The proposed legislation was agreed to in principle. During the detail stage a number of amendments, proposed by the Government, were agreed to.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

#### [Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*, the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005*, the *Uncollected Goods Act 1996* and the *Residential Tenancies Regulation 1998* to improve protections for occupants by introducing new occupancy principles and by making those principles a mandatory part of every occupancy agreement. The bill will also clarify the difference between an occupancy agreement and a residential tenancy agreement and clarify the application of the occupancy framework to people who reside in residential parks.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill in the detail stage with a number of amendments moved by the Government being agreed to.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

#### [Sexuality and Gender Identity Conversion Practices Bill 2020](#)

*Summary:* This bill will prohibit certain practices aimed at changing a person's sexuality or gender identity (conversion practices) with a view to protecting vulnerable people from harm.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 27 August with the Opposition indicating it would be seeking to have the proposed legislation referred to a committee of the Tenth Assembly. The bill was agreed to in principle. As forecast the Opposition moved its motion which was negatived. Debate in the detail stage continued with an amendment moved by the Government being agreed to and proposed amendments moved by the Opposition negatived.

The amended bill was passed following a vote of the Assembly.

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

On 27 August, the Treasurer provided the Assembly with an Economic and Fiscal Update. During the statement the Treasurer presented the following papers:

- ACT Jobs and Economic Recovery Plan
- Economic and Fiscal Update—August 2020
- Supply Instrument and Authorisation of Payments—Explanatory Notes

The Leader of the Opposition also addressed the Assembly in relation to the ministerial statement.

A full record of the debates and statements 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 final reporting date of the Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic Response, of no later than 16 October 2020, was moved by the Opposition on 27 August. The motion also outlined that, should the committee determine not to prepare a final report, the Chair shall advise the Speaker in writing prior to 16 October 2020.

The motion was agreed to by the Assembly without amendment.

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

## Retiring Members

On 27 August, the final sitting day programmed for the Ninth Assembly, Mrs Dunne and Ms Le Couteur made statements in relation to their upcoming retirement from the Assembly. The Leader of the Opposition, Chief Minister and Leader of the ACT Greens also spoke in relation to the Members' retirement.

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

## Papers Presented

The following papers of interest were presented on 13 August 2020:

- 2019-20 Capital Works Program—Progress report—Year-to-date 31 December 2019
- Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act—Statement of reasons for extension of time for presenting 2019-2020 annual reports
- Assembly Budget Protocols—Agreement between the Speaker and the Chief Minister on budget and funding arrangements for the Office of the Legislative Assembly and Officers of the Assembly
- Auditor-General's Reports—
  - 3/2020—Data Security—Government response
  - 6/2020—Transfer of workers' compensation arrangements from Comcare—Ministerial response
- Commercial waste reduction—Mixed-use areas—Response to resolution of the Assembly of 4 June 2020
- Functional Family Therapy—Child Welfare—Implementation update
- Out of Home Care Strategy 2015-2020—A Step Up for Our Kids—One Step Can Make a Lifetime of Difference—Update
- Report on COVID-19 Measures for the period 1-31 July 2020 (Report No 4)—Presented pursuant to section 3 of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*
- Smoke and air quality—Development of a strategy—Government response to resolution of the Assembly of 13 February 2020
- Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services—Independent Review—Final Report—Biannual update on implementation of the recommendations—Statement

A copy of the above papers can be found on the [Assembly](#) website.

## Petitions

The following petitions were lodged on 27 August—

- Fraser West bus terminus—Reduction of bus usage—lodged by Mrs Kikkert
- *Live in Ya Lounge*—Financial support proposal—lodged by Ms Lee
- Proposed Turner Parklands bus layover—Proposed review of loss of parkland and visual amenity, traffic management and safety and noise and fumes—lodged by Miss C Burch
- Proposed waste processing facilities in Fyshwick—Alternative sites—lodged by Ms Lee
- Watson pharmacy—Kerbside disability parking bays—lodged by Ms Lee
- Watson shops—Construction of pedestrian crossing across Windeyer Street—lodged by Ms Lee
- West Belconnen Waste Facility—Review of closure—lodged by Ms Le Couteur

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

## Committee Activities

### *Committee reports presented*

#### **Scrutiny Committee**

##### [Scrutiny Report 50](#)

This report contained the committee's comments on one bill, one piece of subordinate legislation, one national regulation, seven government responses and one private member's response.

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

##### [Interim Report 4](#)

#### **Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee**

##### [Report 12—Final Report on Child and Youth Protection Services \(Part 1\)](#)

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

##### [Report 13—Inquiry into Auditor-General Report No 8 of 2018: Assembly of rural land west of Canberra](#)

### *Committee statements*

#### **Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee**

The chair of the committee informed the Assembly that the committee had prepared a corrigendum to Report 9 entitled *Inquiry into Building Quality*. At the conclusion of the statement the chair presented the corrigendum.

#### **Integrity Commission—Standing Committee**

The chair made a statement in relation to the performance of the ACT Integrity Commission since its full commencement on 1 December 2019. The statement was made in accordance with the resolution establishing the committee and the committee's terms of reference.

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

The deputy chair made a statement in relation to the committee's consideration of statutory appointments for the periods 1 January to 30 June 2019 and 1 January to 30 June 2020. At the conclusion of the statement the chair tabled the relevant schedules of statutory appointments for the specified periods.

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

The chair made a statement in relation to the committee's consideration of statutory appointments during 2018, 2019 and 2020. At the conclusion of the statement the chair tabled the relevant schedule of statutory appointments for the specified periods.

The full text of the statement can be found on the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

## ***Responses to committee report***

### **Estimates 2019-2020—Select Committee**

Report—Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2019-2020

Recommendation 56—Update to Government response

Recommendation 99—Centre for Eating Disorders—Update to Government response

## ***Papers presented***

### **Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report 9—Youth Mental Health in the ACT—

Recommendation 19—Timeline for completion of the Adolescent Mental Health Unit at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children

Recommendation 48—Update on the 2018 position statement on eating disorders

### **Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee**

Report 10—Report on Inquiry into Maternity Services in the ACT

Recommendation 3—Canberra Maternity Options Service—Implementation Progress Report

## **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**

**The Assembly will meet again following the election for the Tenth Assembly.**

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