



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2024–2025–2026

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 70

THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2026

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Hanson) took the Chair and made the following acknowledgement of country in the Ngunnawal language:

Dhawura nguna, dhawura Ngunnawal.

Yanggu ngalawiri dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari.

Nginggada Dindi wanggiralidjinyin.

This is Ngunnawal country.

Today we are all meeting on Ngunnawal country.

We always pay respect to Elders, female and male.

The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 PETITION—MINISTERIAL RESPONSE—RESPONSE NOTED

The Clerk announced that the following response to a petition had been lodged:

Ms Tough (Minister for Women, Seniors and Veterans), dated 3 September 2026—
Response to e-Pet 047-26, lodged by Mr Steel concerning the inclusion of the Woden Valley Soccer Club on the National Premier League Girls in 2027.

The Speaker proposed—That the response so lodged be noted.

Question—put and passed.

3 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES

Ordered—That notices No 1, 2 and 3, Executive business, relating to the presentation of three bills, be postponed until a later hour this day.

4 TUGGERANONG ICE SPORTS FACILITY—DOCUMENTS—ORDER TO TABLE

Miss Nuttall, pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with standing order 213A, the Assembly orders the Government to provide the Assembly with the following documents:

- (1) all briefs, advice and business cases provided to the Minister for Sport and Recreation or the Minister's office concerning the viability, cost, risks, delays or likelihood of the Tuggeranong Ice Sports Facility proceeding since 1 January 2016; and
- (2) all communication between the ACT Government and the project proponents concerning the viability, cost, risks, delays or likelihood of the project proceeding since 1 January 2018.

Mr Steel (Minister for Sport and Recreation) moved the following amendment: Add:

- “(3) notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 213A, the document or documents are to be provided within 30 calendar days.”.

Amendment agreed to.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That:

- (1) in accordance with standing order 213A, the Assembly orders the Government to provide the Assembly with the following documents:
 - (a) all briefs, advice and business cases provided to the Minister for Sport and Recreation or the Minister's office concerning the viability, cost, risks, delays or likelihood of the Tuggeranong Ice Sports Facility proceeding since 1 January 2016; and
 - (b) all communication between the ACT Government and the project proponents concerning the viability, cost, risks, delays or likelihood of the project proceeding since 1 January 2018; and
- (2) notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 213A, the document or documents are to be provided within 30 calendar days.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

5 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING—STANDING COMMITTEE—PETITIONS—WOMBAT—SUPPORT FOR PROTECTION—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Ms Clay (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning had resolved not to conduct an inquiry into e-Pet 15-26 and Pet 049-26 relating to the management of wombats in the ACT.

6 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING—STANDING COMMITTEE—PETITIONS—CURTIN PRESBYTERY SITE—OBJECTION TO PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Ms Clay (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning had resolved not to conduct an inquiry into e-Pet 038-26 and Pet 052-26 concerning objection to the proposed development at the Curtin Presbytery site.

7 **TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER**

Mr Cain (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Transport and City Services.

Paper: Mr Cain, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper:

Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—11th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2026.

8 **APPROPRIATION BILL 2026-2027**

The Assembly, according to order, resumed consideration at the detail stage—

Detail Stage

Schedule 1—Appropriations—Proposed expenditure—

Consideration resumed at Part 1.19—ACT Gambling and Racing Commission—agreed to.

Part 1.20—Public Trustee and Guardian—agreed to.

Part 1.21—Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—agreed to.

Total Appropriated to Territory Entities—debated and agreed to.

Part 1.22—Treasurer’s advance—debated and agreed to.

Part 1.23—Capital works reserve—agreed to.

Total Appropriations—debated and agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 10, by leave, taken together and agreed to.

Title—debated and agreed to.

Question—That the Bill be agreed to—

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 14

Andrew Barr	Michael Pettersson
Andrew Braddock	Chris Steel
Fiona Carrick	Rachel Stephen-Smith
Jo Clay	Caitlin Tough
Thomas Emerson	Rebecca Vassarotti
Laura Nuttall	Taimus Werner-Gibbings
Suzanne Orr	
Marisa Paterson	

NOES, 7

Peter Cain
Leanne Castley
Ed Cocks
Jeremy Hanson
Elizabeth Lee
James Milligan
Mark Parton

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—Bill agreed to.

9 APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2026-2027

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—

Debate resumed.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—put and passed.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to—put and passed.

10 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Ms Tough (Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Domestic Violence Agencies Act 1986*, and for other purposes.

Paper: Ms Tough presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Tough moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Ms Barry) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 PROPERTY DEVELOPERS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Mr Steel (Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation about property developers, and for other purposes.

Paper: Mr Steel presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Steel moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Ms Lee) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Mr Steel (Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation about building and construction.

Paper: Mr Steel presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Steel moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Ms Lee) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

13 A.C.T. AMBULANCE SERVICE—WORKFORCE, WELLBEING AND SERVICE SUSTAINABILITY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Dr Paterson (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the ACT Ambulance Service workforce, wellbeing and service sustainability and presented the following paper:

ACT Ambulance Service—Workforce, wellbeing and service sustainability —Ministerial statement, 24 September 2026.

Dr Paterson moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

14 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

15 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business), pursuant to standing order 211, presented the following papers:

ACT Disability Strategy 2024-2033—First Action Plan 2024-2026—Annual Report 2026, dated September 2026, together with a tabling statement.

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to section 21—Auditor-General's Report No 5/2026—Concession, rebate and social support schemes—Government response, dated September 2026.

Bus frequency—Improvement—Assembly resolution of 5 December 2024—Government response—4th Update, dated September 2026.

Children and Young People Act, pursuant to subsection 727S(5)—ACT Children and Young People Death Review Committee—Annual Report—2024/2025, dated 25 June 2026, together with a tabling statement.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act, pursuant to section 21—At a Crossroad—Extinction or survival for our Canberra Dragon—Special Report—

Report, dated September 2026.

Government response, dated September 2026.

Education and Care Services National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories—Education and Care Services National Further Amendment Regulations 2026 (2026 No 290) dated 19 June 2026, together with an explanatory statement.

Financial Management and Government Procurement Legislative Compliance—Select Committee—Report—Inquiry into the Financial Management and Government Procurement Legislative Compliance—Government response, dated September 2026.

Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to section 39—Copy of notice provided to the Ombudsman—Freedom of Information request—Decision not made in time—Education Directorate—FILE2024/110421, FILE2024/111677 and FILE 2025/25514, dated 11 September 2026.

Heavy Vehicle National Law as applied by the law of States and Territories—Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Regulation 2026 (2026 No 348), undated, together with an explanatory statement.

Molonglo Valley playing fields—Improvement—Assembly resolution of 11 June 2026—Government response, dated September 2026.

Remuneration Tribunal Act, pursuant to section 10—Determinations, together with accompanying statements for:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal—Determination 9 of 2026, dated 16 September 2026.

ACT Magistrates Court Judicial Positions—Determination 8 of 2026, dated 16 September 2026.

ACT Supreme Court Judicial Positions—Determination 7 of 2026, dated 16 September 2026.

Chief Executive Officer of ACT Courts and Tribunal—Determination 12 of 2026, dated 16 September 2026.

Director of Public Prosecutions—Determination 13 of 2026, dated 16 September 2026.

Full-time Statutory Office Holders—Chief Executive Officer, ACT Integrity Commission—Determination 11 of 2026, dated 16 September 2026.

Part-time Public Office Holder—Determination 14 of 2026, dated 16 September 2026.

Part-time Statutory Office Holder—Integrity Commissioner—Determination 10 of 2026, dated 16 September 2026.

Respite care services—Improvement—Assembly resolution of 26 March 2026—Government response, dated September 2026.

Woden Town Centre Integrated land use plan—Assembly resolution of 3 February 2026—Government response to paragraph (3)(b)(iii)—Woden Town Centre Working Group—Q3 2026 quarterly report, undated.

16 PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY AND HAEMATOLOGY SERVICES—FEASIBILITY AND SCOPING

Mr Parton (Leader of the Opposition) and Ms Lee, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) the ACT does not currently operate a self-contained paediatric oncology and haematology service, with care provided through a shared-care model involving Canberra Health Services and tertiary services, principally the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network;
- (b) while the current model enables some treatment and supportive care to be provided closer to home, many children and families are still required to travel interstate for specialised diagnosis, treatment, clinical review and other tertiary services; and

- (c) interstate travel for treatment can impose significant emotional, financial and practical pressures on families already dealing with a child's serious illness;
- (2) further notes that:
- (a) a recent Assembly petition calling for a dedicated paediatric oncology and haematology unit at Canberra Hospital received 2,364 signatures, demonstrating significant community concern about current arrangements;
 - (b) an enhanced regional paediatric oncology and haematology service would increase the range of care safely delivered in Canberra while maintaining access to interstate tertiary services for highly specialised treatment; and
 - (c) Canberrans travelling interstate may access assistance through the ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS), but families have raised concern about the onerous administrative burden, often requiring them to repeatedly provide evidence of travel, accommodation and appointments during periods of acute stress and intensive caregiving responsibilities; and
- (3) calls on the Government to:
- (a) undertake a formal feasibility and scoping exercise into establishing an enhanced regional paediatric oncology and haematology service at Canberra Hospital, in partnership with the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network and other relevant clinical partners;
 - (b) ensure the scoping exercise considers:
 - (i) current patient activity and treatment pathways;
 - (ii) which aspects of paediatric oncology and haematology care could safely and sustainably be delivered in Canberra;
 - (iii) workforce, infrastructure, pharmacy, pathology, imaging, inpatient and day-treatment requirements;
 - (iv) clinical governance, escalation and transfer arrangements with tertiary services; and
 - (v) the capital and recurrent funding required for the preferred model;
 - (c) engage with the Commonwealth, NSW Government and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network to identify opportunities to expand the proportion of paediatric oncology and haematology care that can safely be delivered closer to home;
 - (d) strengthen IPTAS by reducing unnecessary administrative requirements for families undertaking repeated interstate treatment, improving access to assistance in advance where appropriate and reviewing travel, accommodation and transport assistance against the actual costs faced by families; and

- (e) report to the Assembly by 1 December 2026 on the outcome of the feasibility and scoping exercise, discussions with NSW and tertiary clinical partners, the preferred service model and proposed reforms to IPTAS.

Debate ensued.

Ms Vassarotti, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

1. Omit paragraph (1)(a), substitute:
 - “(a) the ACT does not currently operate a self-contained paediatric oncology and haematology service, with care provided through a shared-care model involving Canberra Health Services and interstate specialised services, principally the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network;”.
2. After paragraph (1)(a), insert:
 - “(aa) many treatments require a reasonable number of patients to meet safety and quality thresholds, and highly specialised services require a specialist skillset that can often only be met in large states such as NSW;”.
3. Omit paragraph (2)(b), substitute:
 - “(b) an enhanced regional paediatric oncology and haematology service may increase the range of care safely delivered in Canberra while maintaining access to interstate tertiary services for highly specialised treatment; and”.
4. Omit paragraph (3)(b)(iv), substitute:
 - “(iv) clinical governance, escalation and transfer arrangements with specialised services; and”.
5. Omit paragraph (3)(d), substitute:
 - “(d) complete the review of IPTAS to enhance the user experience, reduce administrative burden and support more timely processing of applications;”.
6. After paragraph (3)(d), insert:
 - “(dd) as part of the IPTAS review, immediately offer all families a PLANS (Paediatric Liaison and Navigation Service) navigator and consider what viable solutions may provide greater support, both now and in the future;”.
7. Omit paragraph (3)(e), substitute:
 - “(f) report to the Assembly by 30 June 2027 on the outcome of the feasibility and scoping exercise, discussions with NSW and specialised clinical partners, the preferred service model, and completed IPTAS review, and provide an interim report on the IPTAS review by March 2027.”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT does not currently operate a self-contained paediatric oncology and haematology service, with care provided through a shared-care model involving Canberra Health Services and interstate specialised services, principally the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network;
 - (b) many treatments require a reasonable number of patients to meet safety and quality thresholds, and highly specialised services require a specialist skillset that can often only be met in large states such as NSW;
 - (c) while the current model enables some treatment and supportive care to be provided closer to home, many children and families are still required to travel interstate for specialised diagnosis, treatment, clinical review and other tertiary services; and
 - (d) interstate travel for treatment can impose significant emotional, financial and practical pressures on families already dealing with a child’s serious illness;
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) a recent Assembly petition calling for a dedicated paediatric oncology and haematology unit at Canberra Hospital received 2,364 signatures, demonstrating significant community concern about current arrangements;
 - (b) an enhanced regional paediatric oncology and haematology service may increase the range of care safely delivered in Canberra while maintaining access to interstate tertiary services for highly specialised treatment; and
 - (c) Canberrans travelling interstate may access assistance through the ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS), but families have raised concern about the onerous administrative burden, often requiring them to repeatedly provide evidence of travel, accommodation and appointments during periods of acute stress and intensive caregiving responsibilities; and
- (3) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) undertake a formal feasibility and scoping exercise into establishing an enhanced regional paediatric oncology and haematology service at Canberra Hospital, in partnership with the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network and other relevant clinical partners;
 - (b) ensure the scoping exercise considers:
 - (i) current patient activity and treatment pathways;
 - (ii) which aspects of paediatric oncology and haematology care could safely and sustainably be delivered in Canberra;
 - (iii) workforce, infrastructure, pharmacy, pathology, imaging, inpatient and day-treatment requirements;

- (iv) clinical governance, escalation and transfer arrangements with specialised services; and
- (v) the capital and recurrent funding required for the preferred model;
- (c) engage with the Commonwealth, NSW Government and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network to identify opportunities to expand the proportion of paediatric oncology and haematology care that can safely be delivered closer to home;
- (d) complete the review of IPTAS to enhance the user experience, reduce administrative burden and support more timely processing of applications;
- (e) as part of the IPTAS review, immediately offer all families a PLaN (Paediatric Liaison and Navigation Service) navigator and consider what viable solutions may provide greater support, both now and in the future; and
- (f) report to the Assembly by 30 June 2027 on the outcome of the feasibility and scoping exercise, discussions with NSW and specialised clinical partners, the preferred service model, and completed IPTAS review, and provide an interim report on the IPTAS review by March 2027."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

17 DATA CENTRES—INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Miss Nuttall, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the:
 - (a) Chief Minister's announcement to create an ACT Data Centre Framework (ACTDCF) to ensure consistency and clarity for investors; and
 - (b) ACT has around 15 data centres already, and there are current applications for new data centres which may not be subject to the proposed framework;
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) data centres are energy and water intensive and operate 24 hours a day;
 - (b) demand for, and development of, data centres is growing rapidly across Australia and community concern about their use and impact is widespread;
 - (c) data centres pose a high risk for environmental damage and are not listed in the Planning (General) Regulation 2023 as a development requiring an environmental impact assessment;
 - (d) without appropriate regulations, data centres' high energy and water use will impact household and business energy bills and could undermine our climate emissions reduction targets; and
 - (e) data centres with closed loop water systems will still require significant amounts of water from our environment; and

- (3) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) create an ACTDCF that:
 - (i) requires data centres to:
 - (A) demonstrate clear and enduring local economic and social benefits for Canberra including opportunities for local employment, skills development and community wealth building as a primary threshold for approval;
 - (B) purchase or create additional 100 percent renewable energy to match their demand by using Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO);
 - (C) ensure they do not increase electricity or water prices for Canberra households;
 - (D) use flexible demand, backed by renewable solutions;
 - (E) meet the full costs of any energy, water or utility infrastructure upgrades attributable to their development or expansion;
 - (F) implement best practice water and energy efficiency as standard, currently closed loop water use;
 - (G) be battery backup only, that is, not diesel generator backup; and
 - (H) be sustainable in demands on the ACT's limited water supply;
 - (ii) increases transparency of the magnitude of current and future water consumption, energy use and climate pollution by data centres;
 - (iii) has built-in reviews to enable best practice to continue to be updated; and
 - (iv) ensures adequate community input, including First Nations traditional custodians, for data centre development or expansion;
 - (b) review the *Planning Act 2023* and the Territory Plan to ensure that the water supply, environmental and ecological impacts of data centres are addressed as part of the Development Application process;
 - (c) undertake a deliberative participatory process to include and enable Canberrans, including First Nations traditional custodians, to provide input to the ACTDCF;
 - (d) consider innovative options such as co-locating data centres with public pools to use cooling water as a heating source;
 - (e) consider a levy on data centres or other mechanisms to ensure long-term wealth benefits of data centres continue to recirculate to the Canberra community;
 - (f) collaborate and coordinate with NSW and the Federal Government on interjurisdictional and regional water matters including factoring data centres into any future water and energy negotiations; and
 - (g) enact a moratorium on new data centres until the ACTDCF is in place.

Mr Milligan moved the following amendment: Omit all words after paragraph (1)(a), substitute:

- “(b) under the *Planning Act 2023*, development proposals requiring approval are subject to the development application process and assessed against the Territory Plan;
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) ensure the ACT Data Centre Framework:
 - (i) requires data centre proponents to demonstrate how the additional energy and network capacity required by their development will be provided, including through investment in additional generation, storage or other infrastructure, without transferring additional costs to existing households and businesses; and
 - (ii) ensures planning requirements are clear, proportionate and provide certainty for investment by identifying appropriate locations for future data centre investment and associated digital infrastructure;
 - (b) actively pursue and facilitate investment in data centres and associated digital infrastructure that leverages Canberra's strengths in government, defence, cyber security, research and advanced technology, including by identifying appropriate investment-ready locations and providing clear pathways for prospective investors; and
 - (c) engage with major domestic and international data centre operators, digital infrastructure providers and major users of data centre capacity to promote the ACT as a destination for appropriate digital infrastructure investment.”.

Mr Barr (Chief Minister), by leave, moved the following amendments to Mr Milligan's proposed amendment together:

1. After all text in paragraph (1)(b), insert:
 - “(c) the ACT already has comprehensive requirements for the approval of data centres;
 - (d) that Canberra's role as Australia's seat of government provides a unique opportunity to attract digital infrastructure investment and creates a particular need for secure and reliable digital infrastructure;
 - (e) that data centres support nationally significant activities, including:
 - (i) government service delivery;
 - (ii) weather forecasting and climate modelling;
 - (iii) environmental monitoring and natural resource management;
 - (iv) scientific and academic research;
 - (v) cyber security and critical infrastructure protection; and
 - (vi) emergency management and disaster response;

- (f) the growth of AI is increasing demand for high-performance computing and secure data storage, making sovereign data centres increasingly important for keeping sensitive data and AI capabilities under Australian control; and
 - (g) that data centres contribute to investment, highly skilled employment, construction activity, technology capability and economic diversification in the ACT; and”.
2. After all text in paragraph (2)(a)(ii), insert:
- “(iii) provides transparency regarding energy, water and infrastructure impacts;
 - (iv) supports renewable energy use, energy efficiency, water efficiency and innovation in infrastructure design; and
 - (v) ensures appropriate community consultation and engagement;”.
3. After paragraph (2)(c), insert:
- “(d) collaborate with NSW and the Commonwealth on matters relating to energy, water, digital infrastructure and regional planning associated with data centre investment; and
 - (e) consider innovative approaches to improve energy productivity and reduce emissions, including waste heat recovery opportunities, while recognising that major data centres are not appropriate within public pool and aquatic centre precincts.”.

Miss Nuttall, by leave, moved the following amendments to Mr Barr’s proposed amendments to Mr Milligan’s proposed amendments:

- 1. After all text in paragraph (1)(g), insert:
 - “(h) community concern about data centres and their impact on local environment and amenity;”.
- 2. After all text in paragraph (2)(a)(v), insert:
 - “(vi) requires data centres to buy or create 100 percent renewable electricity to meet the additional demand required;
 - (vii) requires data centres to use closed loop water cooling and are sustainable on the ACT’s limited water supply;
 - (viii) requires consultation with First Nations traditional custodians for any greenfield data centre development;”.
- 3. In Mr Barr’s amendment No 3, omit paragraphs (2)(d) and (e), substitute:
 - “(d) collaborate with NSW and the Commonwealth on matters relating to energy, water, digital infrastructure and regional planning associated with data centre investment;
 - (e) consider innovative approaches to improve energy productivity and reduce emissions, including waste heat recovery opportunities; while recognising that major data centres are not appropriate within public pool and aquatic centre precincts; and

- (f) consider a levy on data centres or other options to ensure long-term wealth benefits for the Canberra community.”.

Debate continued.

Mr Emerson, by leave, moved the following amendments to Miss Nuttall’s proposed amendments to Mr Barr’s proposed amendments to Mr Milligan’s proposed amendment together:

1. After all text in paragraph (1)(h), insert:
 - “(i) demand for, and development of, data centres is growing rapidly across Australia; and
 - (j) international precedents (such as in Ireland and Virginia, USA) demonstrate that without appropriate regulation, the rapid growth of data centres can contribute to higher household energy and water bills and can undermine emissions reduction targets;
 - (k) the ACT is vulnerable to water stress from drought, climate change and population growth, and its biodiversity is in decline; and
 - (l) data centres can exacerbate negative ecological and water supply impacts;”.
2. After all text in paragraph (2)(f), insert:
 - “(g) ensure any data centres approved between now and the commencement of the ACT Data Centre Framework (ACTDCF) meet or exceed the standards set out at paragraphs (2)(a) to (f) of this motion; and
 - (h) report back to the Assembly by the last sitting week of 2026 on the expected impact of data centre demand on the ACT’s legislated emissions reduction targets.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mr Emerson’s amendments to Miss Nuttall’s amendments to Mr Barr’s amendments to Mr Milligan’s amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6		NOES, 15	
Andrew Braddock		Andrew Barr	Suzanne Orr
Fiona Carrick		Peter Cain	Mark Parton
Jo Clay		Leanne Castley	Michael Pettersson
Thomas Emerson		Tara Cheyne	Chris Steel
Laura Nuttall		Ed Cocks	Rachel Stephen-Smith
Rebecca Vassarotti		Jeremy Hanson	Caitlin Tough
		James Milligan	Taimus Werner-Gibbings
		Deborah Morris	

And so it was negatived.

Question—That Miss Nuttall’s amendments to Mr Barr’s amendments to Mr Milligan’s amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6		NOES, 15	
Andrew Braddock		Andrew Barr	Suzanne Orr
Fiona Carrick		Peter Cain	Mark Parton
Jo Clay		Leanne Castley	Michael Pettersson
Thomas Emerson		Tara Cheyne	Chris Steel
Laura Nuttall		Ed Cocks	Rachel Stephen-Smith
Rebecca Vassarotti		Jeremy Hanson	Caitlin Tough
		James Milligan	Taimus Werner-Gibblings
		Deborah Morris	

And so it was negatived.

Mr Barr's amendments to Mr Milligan's amendment agreed to.

Question—That Mr Milligan's amendment, as amended, be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 15		NOES, 6	
Andrew Barr	Suzanne Orr	Andrew Braddock	
Peter Cain	Mark Parton	Fiona Carrick	
Leanne Castley	Michael Pettersson	Jo Clay	
Tara Cheyne	Chris Steel	Thomas Emerson	
Ed Cocks	Rachel Stephen-Smith	Laura Nuttall	
Jeremy Hanson	Caitlin Tough	Rebecca Vassarotti	
James Milligan	Taimus Werner-Gibblings		
Deborah Morris			

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the Chief Minister's announcement to create an ACT Data Centre Framework (ACTDCF) to ensure consistency and clarity for investors; and
 - (b) that under the *Planning Act 2023*, development proposals requiring approval are subject to the development application process and assessed against the Territory Plan;
 - (c) the ACT already has comprehensive requirements for the approval of data centres;
 - (d) that Canberra's role as Australia's seat of government provides a unique opportunity to attract digital infrastructure investment and creates a particular need for secure and reliable digital infrastructure;
 - (e) that data centres support nationally significant activities, including:
 - (i) government service delivery;

- (ii) weather forecasting and climate modelling;
 - (iii) environmental monitoring and natural resource management;
 - (iv) scientific and academic research;
 - (v) cyber security and critical infrastructure protection; and
 - (vi) emergency management and disaster response;
 - (f) the growth of AI is increasing demand for high-performance computing and secure data storage, making sovereign data centres increasingly important for keeping sensitive data and AI capabilities under Australian control; and
 - (g) that data centres contribute to investment, highly skilled employment, construction activity, technology capability and economic diversification in the ACT; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) ensure the ACT Data Centre Framework:
 - (i) requires data centre proponents to demonstrate how the additional energy and network capacity required by their development will be provided, including through investment in additional generation, storage or other infrastructure, without transferring additional costs to existing households and businesses;
 - (ii) ensures planning requirements are clear, proportionate and provide certainty for investment by identifying appropriate locations for future data centre investment and associated digital infrastructure;
 - (iii) provides transparency regarding energy, water and infrastructure impacts;
 - (iv) supports renewable energy use, energy efficiency, water efficiency and innovation in infrastructure design; and
 - (v) ensures appropriate community consultation and engagement;
 - (b) actively pursue and facilitate investment in data centres and associated digital infrastructure that leverages Canberra's strengths in government, defence, cyber security, research and advanced technology, including by identifying appropriate investment-ready locations and providing clear pathways for prospective investors;
 - (c) engage with major domestic and international data centre operators, digital infrastructure providers and major users of data centre capacity to promote the ACT as a destination for appropriate digital infrastructure investment;
 - (d) collaborate with NSW and the Commonwealth on matters relating to energy, water, digital infrastructure and regional planning associated with data centre investment; and
 - (e) consider innovative approaches to improve energy productivity and reduce emissions, including waste heat recovery opportunities, while recognising that major data centres are not appropriate within public pool and aquatic centre precincts."—

be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 15		NOES, 6
Andrew Barr	Suzanne Orr	Andrew Braddock
Peter Cain	Mark Parton	Fiona Carrick
Leanne Castley	Michael Pettersson	Jo Clay
Tara Cheyne	Chris Steel	Thomas Emerson
Ed Cocks	Rachel Stephen-Smith	Laura Nuttall
Jeremy Hanson	Caitlin Tough	Rebecca Vassarotti
James Milligan	Taimus Werner-Gibbings	
Deborah Morris		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

18 STANDING ORDER 118AA(A)—SPEAKER’S RULING

The Speaker, pursuant to standing order 118AA(a), determined that an answer to a question without notice from Mr Cain to Ms Orr (Minister for Housing and Homelessness) was not responsive to the question, and directed the Minister to provide a written response to the question and lodge it with the Clerk by 1.45 pm the next business day.

19 POINT OF ORDER—STANDING ORDER 117—SPEAKER’S RULING

A point of order having been raised by a Minister as to whether a Member during Question Time had misled the Assembly and made a false imputation in his question to the Minister, the Speaker ruled that there was no point of order.

20 PAPERS PRESENTED ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2026—PAPERS NOTED

The Speaker, pursuant to standing order 211A, proposed—That the papers presented under standing order 211 during the presentation of papers in the routine of business today be noted.

Question—put and passed.

21 PRESENTATION OF PAPER

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Education), pursuant to standing order 213, presented the following paper:

Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment—Education Directorate 2027 School Resourcing Realignment and associated activities, dated 10 September 2026.

22 HATE CRIMES AND VILIFICATION REVIEW—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED

Ms Cheyne (Attorney-General) presented the following papers:

Hate Crimes and Vilification Review—

Final Report, undated.

Ministerial statement, 24 September 2026.

Ms Cheyne moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Paper: Mr Braddock, by leave, presented the following paper:

Hate Crimes and Vilification Review—Response to ministerial statement—Mr Braddock, undated.

Question—put and passed.

23 CIT GOVERNANCE REVIEW—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED

Mr Pettersson (Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations) made a ministerial statement concerning CIT governance review and presented the following papers:

Canberra Institute of Technology Governance Review—Discussion Paper.

CIT Governance Review—Ministerial statement, 24 September 2026.

Adjournment negatived: It being 6.30 pm—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Pettersson moved—That the Assembly take note of the statement.

Question—put and passed.

24 MULTICULTURALISM—ANNUAL MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—2026—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Pettersson (Minister for Multicultural Affairs) presented the following paper:

2026 Ministerial Statement on Multiculturalism—Ministerial statement, 24 September 2026—

and moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Paper: Mr Cain, by leave, presented the following paper:

2026 Ministerial Statement on Multiculturalism—Response—Ms Barry, undated.

Paper: Mr Braddock, by leave, presented the following paper:

2026 Ministerial Statement on Multiculturalism—Response—Mr Braddock, undated.

Question—put and passed.

25 NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2026—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Pettersson (Minister for Children, Youth and Families) presented the following paper:

National Child Protection Week 2026—Ministerial statement, 24 September 2026—

and moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

26 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Four Members' statements were made.

27 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Education) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.58 pm adjourned until Tuesday, 20 October 2026 at 10 am.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Ms Berry*.

*on leave.

Hamish Finlay
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly