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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2016–2017

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 30

[**Wednesday, 13 September 2017**](http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2017/pdfs/20170913.pdf)

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**1** The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. A quorum of Members not being present, the Speaker (Ms Burch) ordered the bells to be rung. A quorum having been formed, the Speaker 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 Questions on notice Nos 368 and 371—Answers—Explanation—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mrs Dunne, by leave, made a statement concerning the Minister for Planning and Land Management’s explanation, under standing order 118A, regarding the answers to questions on notice Nos 368 and 371.

3 Credit rating

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

1. notes, after reviewing the 2017 ACT Budget, international ratings agency Standard & Poor’s has reaffirmed the Territory’s AAA credit rating, based on:
   1. the Government’s clear capacity to “successfully deliver its infrastructure plans, including private public partnerships and the Asbestos Eradication Scheme, while containing debt levels”;
   2. the Government having “successfully addressed a number of challenges, including the global financial crisis in 2008-2009 and Commonwealth Government fiscal consolidation”; and
   3. the Government “reforming its tax system toward a more stable income source and away from volatile conveyance duties”;
2. further notes that:
   1. the ACT is one of just three States or Territories in Australia and one of only 28 sub-national jurisdictions outside the USA to hold this rating;
   2. the ACT has now held this rating consistently for 23 years, with only Victoria having a longer track record of holding the highest possible credit rating among the Australian States or Territories; and
   3. this strong ratings record has underpinned the ACT Government’s investment in Canberra by facilitating affordable borrowing from both Australian and international markets; and
3. acknowledges that the ACT Government will:
   1. maintain a focus on delivering Budgets consistent with a AAA rating while continuing to invest in Canberra’s growth and delivery of the services our community expects and deserves;
   2. continue a steady path back to surplus as the local economy strengthens after a sustained period of economic challenges; and
   3. make continued smart use of the Territory’s balance sheet to invest in infrastructure that will boost our city’s longer-term productivity and growth.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

4 International Mother Language Day

Mr Coe (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

1. notes:
   1. in 1999, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation proclaimed annual observance of International Mother Language Day on 21 February;
   2. that about 170 languages are spoken in Canberra;
   3. the significance of preserving indigenous languages as a link to indigenous culture and histories and as an expression of identity;
   4. the place of language instruction in government and non-government schools and in other organisations such as the 40 community language schools in the ACT;
   5. the social, cultural and economic benefits of multi-lingualism to the ACT and Australia; and
   6. the encouragement to learning a language other than English contained in the Government’s ACT Language Policy; and
2. calls on the ACT Government to observe International Mother Language Day in the ACT to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by the people around the world, especially those in Canberra, through:
   1. establishing collections and displays, sometimes called an “Ekushey Corner”, at ACT Libraries to promote and protect mother languages;
   2. promote the active participation, revitalisation and maintenance of local indigenous languages;
   3. supporting the construction of a monument in Canberra dedicated to the mother languages of Australians;
   4. continuing the ACT Heritage Library’s collection of oral history as a means of preserving the multi-lingual inheritance of the ACT; and
   5. supporting second language instruction in schools.

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Multicultural Affairs), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

1. In paragraph (1)(f), omit “the encouragement to learning a language other than English contained in the Government’s ACT Language Policy”, substitute “that the Government’s ACT Languages Policy encourages the learning of a language other than English”.
2. In paragraph (2)(b), omit “promote”, substitute “promoting”.
3. In paragraph (2)(c), omit “supporting the construction of”, substitute “exploring options to support the construction of”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

1. notes:
   1. in 1999, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation proclaimed annual observance of International Mother Language Day on 21 February;
   2. that about 170 languages are spoken in Canberra;
   3. the significance of preserving indigenous languages as a link to indigenous culture and histories and as an expression of identity;
   4. the place of language instruction in government and non-government schools and in other organisations such as the 40 community language schools in the ACT;
   5. the social, cultural and economic benefits of multi-lingualism to the ACT and Australia; and
   6. that the Government’s ACT Languages Policy encourages the learning of a language other than English; and
2. calls on the ACT Government to observe International Mother Language Day in the ACT to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by the people around the world, especially those in Canberra, through:
   1. establishing collections and displays, sometimes called an “Ekushey Corner”, at ACT Libraries to promote and protect mother languages;
   2. promoting the active participation, revitalisation and maintenance of local indigenous languages;
   3. exploring options to support the construction of a monument in Canberra dedicated to the mother languages of Australians;
   4. continuing the ACT Heritage Library’s collection of oral history as a means of preserving the multi-lingual inheritance of the ACT; and
   5. supporting second language instruction in schools.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

5 Mount Taylor—Safe access

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

1. notes that Mount Taylor:
   1. provides an invaluable recreational asset for the whole of the Canberra community;
   2. has a number of walking trails that provide opportunities to improve health and wellbeing across a wide range of fitness levels; and
   3. is utilised by many thousands of Canberrans;
2. further notes that:
   1. use of Mount Taylor is growing noticeably as more residents discover its ease of access, the variety of its walking trails and spectacular views of the ACT;
   2. accessing Mount Taylor from Sulwood Drive has become increasingly popular with many dozens of vehicles parked adjacent to the Mannheim Street Kambah entrance for lengthy periods of the day and evening;
   3. Sulwood Drive is a major thoroughfare connecting Tuggeranong Parkway with Erindale Drive and also provides several access points into Kambah and Wanniassa;
   4. many pedestrians, motorists and cyclists utilise the access point to Mount Taylor from the parking area adjacent to Mannheim Street at times of the day that coincide with peak traffic flows along Sulwood Drive;
   5. there is no infrastructure to facilitate pedestrian, cyclist or motorist safety when entering or departing this parking area;
   6. there is a significant and growing concern over the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians accessing Mount Taylor from this parking area;
   7. the lack of signage, the ad hoc way drivers enter the parking area and disrepair of the parking area itself, presents a significant danger to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, including those proceeding along Sulwood Drive and those within the parking area itself;
   8. there is a lack of suitable cycling infrastructure linking Athllon Drive and the Tuggeranong Parkway along Sulwood Drive; and
   9. there is an opportunity to enhance community utilisation of Mount Taylor with improved walking trails; and
3. calls on the Government to:
   1. create dedicated, visible, and safe entry and exit points to the Mount Taylor carpark on Sulwood Drive with dedicated and clearly defined safe crossings for pedestrians and cyclists;
   2. improve the safety and amenity of the parking area by installing lighting and a bin;
   3. consider changes to improve the intersection of Mannheim Street and Sulwood Drive with regard to the safety and needs of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians wishing to access the Mount Taylor carpark;
   4. extend the footpath on Mannheim Street from MacKay Crescent to Sulwood Drive; and
   5. investigate the construction of a dedicated bike lane on Sulwood Drive.

Debate ensued.

Ms Fitzharris (Minister for Transport and City Services) moved the following amendment: Omit paragraph (3), substitute:

“(3) calls on the Government to investigate the following improvements to the Mount Taylor carpark:

* 1. creation of dedicated, visible, and safe entry and exit points to the Mount Taylor carpark on Sulwood Drive with dedicated and clearly defined safe crossings for pedestrians and cyclists;
  2. improvements to the safety and amenity of the parking area by installing lighting and a bin;
  3. changes to improve the intersection of Mannheim Street and Sulwood Drive with regard to the safety and needs of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians wishing to access the Mount Taylor carpark;
  4. extension of the footpath on Mannheim Street from MacKay Crescent to Sulwood Drive; and
  5. construction of a dedicated bike lane on Sulwood Drive.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

1. notes that Mount Taylor:
   1. provides an invaluable recreational asset for the whole of the Canberra community;
   2. has a number of walking trails that provide opportunities to improve health and wellbeing across a wide range of fitness levels; and
   3. is utilised by many thousands of Canberrans;
2. further notes that:
   1. use of Mount Taylor is growing noticeably as more residents discover its ease of access, the variety of its walking trails and spectacular views of the ACT;
   2. accessing Mount Taylor from Sulwood Drive has become increasingly popular with many dozens of vehicles parked adjacent to the Mannheim Street Kambah entrance for lengthy periods of the day and evening;
   3. Sulwood Drive is a major thoroughfare connecting Tuggeranong Parkway with Erindale Drive and also provides several access points into Kambah and Wanniassa;
   4. many pedestrians, motorists and cyclists utilise the access point to Mount Taylor from the parking area adjacent to Mannheim Street at times of the day that coincide with peak traffic flows along Sulwood Drive;
   5. there is no infrastructure to facilitate pedestrian, cyclist or motorist safety when entering or departing this parking area;
   6. there is a significant and growing concern over the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians accessing Mount Taylor from this parking area;
   7. the lack of signage, the ad hoc way drivers enter the parking area and disrepair of the parking area itself, presents a significant danger to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, including those proceeding along Sulwood Drive and those within the parking area itself;
   8. there is a lack of suitable cycling infrastructure linking Athllon Drive and the Tuggeranong Parkway along Sulwood Drive; and
   9. there is an opportunity to enhance community utilisation of Mount Taylor with improved walking trails; and
3. calls on the Government to investigate the following improvements to the Mount Taylor carpark:
   1. creation of dedicated, visible, and safe entry and exit points to the Mount Taylor carpark on Sulwood Drive with dedicated and clearly defined safe crossings for pedestrians and cyclists;
   2. improvements to the safety and amenity of the parking area by installing lighting and a bin;
   3. changes to improve the intersection of Mannheim Street and Sulwood Drive with regard to the safety and needs of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians wishing to access the Mount Taylor carpark;
   4. extension of the footpath on Mannheim Street from MacKay Crescent to Sulwood Drive; and
   5. construction of a dedicated bike lane on Sulwood Drive.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 Language of debate—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker made a statement concerning the use of a language, other than English, during debates.

8 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Wall moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mrs Jones for today’s sitting for personal reasons.

Question—put and passed.

9 Major Events Strategy

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

1. notes recent data from Tourism Research Australia indicating the strong growth in visitor numbers to the ACT, including:
   1. a 9.1 percent increase in the number of international visitors, taking the Territory’s total to 221 000 international visitors for the 2016-17 financial year;
   2. a 27.3 percent increase in international visitor expenditure since the previous financial year, the fastest growth rate of any jurisdiction taking the total international visitor expenditure to over half a billion dollars; and
   3. similarly strong growth in domestic visitation, with domestic visitors to the ACT increasing by 2.7 percent and total domestic trip expenditure increasing by 16.3 percent;
2. notes the important role major events play in attracting both international and domestic tourists to the Territory, noting that:
   1. Floriade attracts more than 400 000 local, interstate and international visitors each year;
   2. the Enlighten festival attracts over 280 000 visitors each year;
   3. the National Multicultural Festival similarly attracts approximately 280 000 each year; and
   4. the vast array of other major events that attract visitors to the Territory, including, but not limited to, the National Folk Festival, the Canberra Balloon Spectacular, Skyfire, Summernats, Australia Day and New Year’s Eve celebrations;
3. notes the release of the ACT Government’s Major Events Strategy, building on the success of the ACT Government’s Special Event Fund to:
   1. provide the right policy settings for events to grow and prosper in Canberra;
   2. focus on the acquisition of new and exclusive major events;
   3. revitalise and grow our existing anchor events like Floriade and Enlighten;
   4. deliver events throughout the year;
   5. encourage collaboration and coordination across the events sector; and
   6. enhance our major event venues and infrastructure; and
4. calls on the ACT Government to explore options in implementing the Major Events Strategy to:
   1. utilise the natural and cultural assets located in the Parliamentary Triangle;
   2. continue to partner with national cultural institutions to deliver events;
   3. introduce additional family friendly celebrations;
   4. promote the use of Women’s Safety Audits in preparation of ACT events and in line with the ACT Women’s Action Plan 2016-26, to ensure women’s full, equal and safe participation;
   5. commit to increasing local content to assist local artists to showcase local arts and entertainment;
   6. implement a new festival celebrating Canberra’s innovation, strengths and global outlook;
   7. establish a new music festival; and
   8. introduce an iconic Canberra midnight celebration for New Year’s Eve.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

10 Schools for All rEPORT

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

1. notes:
   1. the Report of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour (Schools for All) was established by the ACT Government after a 10-year-old boy with autism was locked inside a cage at an ACT school;
   2. in November 2015, the report listed 50 recommendations for schools in all sectors that were all immediately accepted by the ACT Government;
   3. since the report was delivered there have been a number of delays in implementing the recommendations in ACT government schools; and
   4. the Independent and Catholic school sectors have implemented all but one recommendation; and
2. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. implement all recommendations as a matter of urgency;
   2. demonstrate that ACT teachers and staff are better equipped now than they were prior to November 2015 to deal with students with complex needs and challenging behaviours;
   3. undertake an audit on the status of the inclusion of suitable withdrawal spaces and appropriate calming and sensory spaces in all ACT government schools and the progress of modifications that are underway; and
   4. report to the Assembly on (2)(b) and (c) by the last sitting day of November 2017.

Ms Berry (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes:

(a) that the *Report of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour* (Schools for All Report) was delivered to the ACT Government in November 2015 with 50 recommendations;

(b) of the 50 recommendations, 49 related to ACT public schools and 26 related to Catholic and independent schools;

(c) the ACT Government responded in November 2015 on behalf of both the government and non-government school sectors to agree, or agree in principle, to all recommendations;

(d) the ACT Government established the Schools for All Program, managed by a cross-sector program board, and overseen and led by an independent, expert oversight group, to manage implementation of recommendations made in the Schools for All Report;

(e) the Schools for All Program seeks enduring cultural change in all ACT schools;

(f) the ACT Government allocated $21.5 million to deliver the Schools for All Program;

(g) the independent, expert oversight group advised the Government in November 2016 to progress implementation of recommendations over a longer period of time than initially contemplated, to ensure that work was rigorous, of a high standard and created enduring change;

(h) the Minister for Education has reported to the ACT Legislative Assembly on the status of the Schools for All Program as at:

(i) each quarter during 2016;

(ii) at the end of 2016; and

(iii) each quarter-to-date during 2017;

(i) updated timeframes for recommendations were highlighted in the status report, as at the third quarter 2016, that the Minister for Education tabled in the Assembly on 13 December 2016;

(j) since the Schools for All Program commenced, the Education Directorate has closed 34 recommendations, but remains committed to continual improvement and building on these recommendations;

(k) work led and resourced by the Education Directorate has supported non‑government school sectors to close recommendations related to Catholic and independent schools;

(l) the Schools for All Program is continuing, with most remaining recommendations requiring longer-term focus;

(m) many remaining recommendations have linkages and dependencies in other cross-government initiatives and Education Directorate projects; and

(n) the ACT Government has led Australia in equipping teachers and staff to support students with complex needs and challenging behaviours, including through the recently-launched Occupational Violence policy and management plan; and

(2) calls on the ACT Government to:

(a) continue its methodical implementation of recommendations from the Schools for All Report in keeping with the aim of creating enduring change;

(b) continue to publicly report on the status of work as part of the Schools for All Program; and

(c) by the last sitting day of November 2017, update the Assembly on the ACT Government’s investment in providing suitable withdrawal spaces and appropriate calming and sensory spaces in ACT public schools.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

“(1) notes:

(a) that the *Report of the Expert Panel on Students with Complex Needs and Challenging Behaviour* (Schools for All Report) was delivered to the ACT Government in November 2015 with 50 recommendations;

(b) of the 50 recommendations, 49 related to ACT public schools and 26 related to Catholic and independent schools;

(c) the ACT Government responded in November 2015 on behalf of both the government and non-government school sectors to agree, or agree in principle, to all recommendations;

(d) the ACT Government established the Schools for All Program, managed by a cross-sector program board, and overseen and led by an independent, expert oversight group, to manage implementation of recommendations made in the Schools for All Report;

(e) the Schools for All Program seeks enduring cultural change in all ACT schools;

(f) the ACT Government allocated $21.5 million to deliver the Schools for All Program;

(g) the independent, expert oversight group advised the Government in November 2016 to progress implementation of recommendations over a longer period of time than initially contemplated, to ensure that work was rigorous, of a high standard and created enduring change;

(h) the Minister for Education has reported to the ACT Legislative Assembly on the status of the Schools for All Program as at:

(i) each quarter during 2016;

(ii) at the end of 2016; and

(iii) each quarter-to-date during 2017;

(i) updated timeframes for recommendations were highlighted in the status report, as at the third quarter 2016, that the Minister for Education tabled in the Assembly on 13 December 2016;

(j) since the Schools for All Program commenced, the Education Directorate has closed 34 recommendations, but remains committed to continual improvement and building on these recommendations;

(k) work led and resourced by the Education Directorate has supported non‑government school sectors to close recommendations related to Catholic and independent schools;

(l) the Schools for All Program is continuing, with most remaining recommendations requiring longer-term focus;

(m) many remaining recommendations have linkages and dependencies in other cross-government initiatives and Education Directorate projects; and

(n) the ACT Government has led Australia in equipping teachers and staff to support students with complex needs and challenging behaviours, including through the recently-launched Occupational Violence policy and management plan; and

(2) calls on the ACT Government to:

(a) continue its methodical implementation of recommendations from the Schools for All Report in keeping with the aim of creating enduring change;

(b) continue to publicly report on the status of work as part of the Schools for All Program; and

(c) by the last sitting day of November 2017, update the Assembly on the ACT Government’s investment in providing suitable withdrawal spaces and appropriate calming and sensory spaces in ACT public schools.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

11 Rates reform

Mr Coe (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

1. notes:
   1. the budgeted 12 percent increase in residential general rates revenue in 2017-18 is imposing serious financial pressure on home owners;
   2. the increases in rates have hit unit owners the hardest due to the Government’s change in its method of calculation;
   3. this change in the calculation of rates on units comes after a concerted policy by the Government to increase the number of Canberrans living in units;
   4. the residential rates increases and a budgeted 18 percent increase in land tax revenue in 2017-18 places serious financial pressure on landlords and tenants as well;
   5. the pressure from rates and land tax increases is compounded by changes to Lease Variation Charges which increase the cost of residential developments;
   6. the impact of Government policies on pensioners is further compounded by lower rates, energy and water concessions;
   7. a Government spokeswoman has admitted to *The Canberra Times* that no modelling has been done about the impact of residential rate rises on homeowners with a fixed income;
   8. the human face of this impact were two retirees in their eighties living on a modest income in a small unit who sat in the public gallery in late August wanting to know how they will pay a 53 percent rates increase this year; and
   9. this relentless imposition on Canberrans by the Labor-Greens Government will continue with budgeted revenue from residential general rates increasing by a further 11 percent in 2018-19, and 9 percent in 2019-20, and 9 percent again in 2020-21; and
2. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. stop its unfair and destructive rates reform; and
   2. table in the Assembly no later than 21 September the Treasury analysis of the financial and social impacts of the rates reform package.

Mr Barr (Treasurer) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after (1), substitute:

“notes:

(a) unlike other jurisdictions, general rates in the ACT fund both municipal level services and state government equivalent services, such as our hospitals, schools and transport infrastructure;

(b) the changes to the methodology for calculating general rates on units are intended to bring more equity into the tax system, as previously unit holders with very valuable properties were contributing significantly less in rates than owners of freestanding homes with lower values;

(c) even after the change in rates calculation methodology for units, over 90 percent of unit holders pay rates as if they were in the lowest two marginal rating categories;

(d) average rates on units across the ACT are $1352 per year, compared with $2295 per year for freestanding homes; and

(e) the ACT Government models the impact of tax policy changes based on property values rather than incomes because:

(i) the Government does not have access to comprehensive data on the incomes of Territory residents; and

(ii) land-based taxation protects the progressive nature of the ACT’s tax system;

(2) further notes that the ACT’s rates system includes a number of concessions and deferments supporting more than 18 000 people, and that:

(a) these concessions were last examined as part of the Government’s major Concessions Review in 2015-16;

(b) this review resulted in the Government allocating an additional $35 million over four years to the concessions program in the 2016 Budget;

(c) further reforms from that review have recently taken effect in the 2017‑18 financial year; and

(d) eligibility for the current concessions program is assessed according to varying criteria and these need to be reviewed regularly to make sure they provide adequate support for low-income households;

(3) acknowledges that, while the tax reform process is widely supported as an economic reform:

(a) the impact of major changes to the taxation system on the community need to be closely monitored;

(b) equity and social justice are important aims of the taxation system; and

(c) taxation is one important element of housing affordability, particularly for residents with low or fixed incomes; and

(4) further acknowledges that the Government will:

(a) monitor the impact of the recent tax and concession policy changes as these roll out, including their impact on:

(i) cost of living for Canberrans;

(ii) Canberra property owners who are on low or fixed incomes; and

(iii) Canberrans who are both income and asset poor; and

(b) conduct financial and social impact analysis on the adequacy of concessions and the eligibility criteria for these, and provide this analysis to the Assembly not later than Budget Day 2018.”.

Debate continued.

*Adjournment negatived:* It being approximately 6 pm—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

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

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AYES, 9 | |  | NOES, 6 | |
| Mr Barr | Ms Orr |  | Mr Coe | Mr Milligan |
| Ms Burch | Mr Pettersson |  | Mrs Dunne |  |
| Ms Cheyne | Mr Ramsay |  | Mrs Kikkert |  |
| Mr Gentleman | Mr Rattenbury |  | Ms Lawder |  |
| Ms Le Couteur |  |  | Ms Lee |  |

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

(a) unlike other jurisdictions, general rates in the ACT fund both municipal level services and state government equivalent services, such as our hospitals, schools and transport infrastructure;

(b) the changes to the methodology for calculating general rates on units are intended to bring more equity into the tax system, as previously unit holders with very valuable properties were contributing significantly less in rates than owners of freestanding homes with lower values;

(c) even after the change in rates calculation methodology for units, over 90 percent of unit holders pay rates as if they were in the lowest two marginal rating categories;

(d) average rates on units across the ACT are $1352 per year, compared with $2295 per year for freestanding homes; and

(e) the ACT Government models the impact of tax policy changes based on property values rather than incomes because:

(i) the Government does not have access to comprehensive data on the incomes of Territory residents; and

(ii) land-based taxation protects the progressive nature of the ACT’s tax system;

(2) further notes that the ACT’s rates system includes a number of concessions and deferments supporting more than 18 000 people, and that:

(a) these concessions were last examined as part of the Government’s major Concessions Review in 2015-16;

(b) this review resulted in the Government allocating an additional $35 million over four years to the concessions program in the 2016 Budget;

(c) further reforms from that review have recently taken effect in the 2017‑18 financial year; and

(d) eligibility for the current concessions program is assessed according to varying criteria and these need to be reviewed regularly to make sure they provide adequate support for low-income households;

(3) acknowledges that, while the tax reform process is widely supported as an economic reform:

(a) the impact of major changes to the taxation system on the community need to be closely monitored;

(b) equity and social justice are important aims of the taxation system; and

(c) taxation is one important element of housing affordability, particularly for residents with low or fixed incomes; and

(4) further acknowledges that the Government will:

(a) monitor the impact of the recent tax and concession policy changes as these roll out, including their impact on:

(i) cost of living for Canberrans;

(ii) Canberra property owners who are on low or fixed incomes; and

(iii) Canberrans who are both income and asset poor; and

(b) conduct financial and social impact analysis on the adequacy of concessions and the eligibility criteria for these, and provide this analysis to the Assembly not later than Budget Day 2018.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

12 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.29 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

**MEMBERS’ ATTENDANCE:** All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mr Doszpot\* and Mrs Jones\*.

\*on leave

Tom Duncan

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly