

# Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

**Sitting day—16 September 2021**

**Issue 8/2021**

## Government Business

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

### Bills introduced

###  [Financial Management Amendment Bill 2021](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_65001/) (presented 16 September)

###  Summary: This bill will amend the Financial Management Act 1996 to increase the appropriation during the 2021-2022 supply period from 50 percent to 75 percent due to the delay in the introduction of the 2021-2022 appropriation bills as a result of the current COVID-19 outbreak in the Territory. Amendments to the Act will also increase the amount available for Treasurer’s advance payments from one percent to five percent of 2020-2021 appropriation acts.

### [Operational Efficiencies (COVID-19) Legislation Amendment Bill 2021](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_65002/) (presented 16 September)

### Summary: This bill will amend several Territory statutes to permanently adopt a number of legislative measures taken during the COVID-19 emergency and will also extend the expiry of measures put in place to assist the business activities of incorporated associations.

### Bills debated

###  [COVID-19 Emergency Response (Check-in Information) Amendment Bill 2021](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_64814/)

### Summary: This bill will amend the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 to exclusively reserve personal information collected through the use of the Check In CBR app (the app) for contract tracing purposes and compliance with its provisions. The bill will entrench into the Act that personal information collected about individuals by the app is provided to and stored by ACT Health, is stored for 28 days and then deleted, unless the person is subject to an investigation or prosecution for failing to comply with a public heath direction and can only be used for contract tracing and contract tracing compliance purposes.

### Proceedings: The bill was agreed to in principle following debate on 16 September. During the detail stage a number of amendments moved by the Opposition were negatived by the Assembly with one amendment moved by the Government being agreed to.

### The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

###  [Domestic Violence Agencies Amendment Bill 2021](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_64490/)

### Summary: This bill will establish the domestic and family violence death review function in the ACT. The review mechanism aims to take a system-wide perspective and make recommendations to improve responses to domestic and family violence in relation to policy, procedures, legislation, system and services, data collection and management, and public awareness.

### Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 16 September with all parties agreeing to the proposed legislation in principle.

### The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

###  [Financial Management Amendment Bill 2021](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_65001/)

###  Summary: This bill will amend the Financial Management Act 1996 to increase the appropriation during the 2021-2022 supply period from 50 percent to 75 percent due to the delay in the introduction of the 2021-2022 appropriation bills as a result of the current COVID-19 outbreak in the Territory. Amendments to the Act will also increase the amount available for Treasurer’s advance payments from one percent to five percent of 2020-2021 appropriation acts.

### Proceedings: Debate resumed on the bill following its presentation earlier in the day. It received the support of all parties and was agreed to in principle.

### The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

### Ministerial statements

The Chief Minister provided the Assembly with an update, on 16 September, on the **COVID-19 outbreak** in the ACT. During the statement the Chief Minister informed the Assembly that the ACT had recorded over 500 cases of COVID-19 since 12 August 2021 with over 130,000 tests being conducted. He went on to highlight the importance of high vaccination rates for all residents.

An update on the **ACT Government’s response to COVID-19** was the subject of a ministerial statement by the Minister for Health on 16 September. During the statement the Minister outlined the COVID-19 situation across Australia, in particular New South Wales and Victoria. The Minister also updated the Assembly on the vaccination program within the Territory and outlined what actions had been taken by the Government in response to the outbreak.

The full text of the statements made by Ministers can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2021/links/download.htm) site.

## Private Members’ Business

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

### Motions debated

**Support for business during the COVID-19 pandemic** was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Lee MLA on 16 September. The motion included noting the challenges faced by business during the current lockdown and called on the Government to, among other things, define a clear path forward for ACT businesses, including a clear and transparent plan for the safe transition out of lockdown and also included calling on the Government to establish a COVID-19 Business Recovery Taskforce.

During debate an amendment was moved by the Government that sought to highlight the significant economic support that the ACT Government has put in place to support businesses. The amendment also called on the Government to continue to work within the *ACT pathway forward*, released on 14 September, which outlined the principles for consideration of easing restrictions aligned with the National Plan for the safe transition out of lockdown. The amendment also included calling on the Government to support the Territory’s short-term economic recovery and long-term economic growth. The Government’s amendment was passed following a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

A motion moved by Mr Davis MLA on 16 September included, among other things, acknowledging that the **ACT community sector** had been a vital partner in the Government’s response to the current COVID-19 outbreak. The motion also acknowledged that many community sector organisations have experienced a significant drop in their incomes due to the lockdown while at the same time experiencing a significant increase in need for their services. The motion also included calling on the ACT Government to continue to work closely with the community sector in response to COVID-19 and to examine options to provide financial support and security to community sector organisations during this time. During debate an amendment was moved by the Opposition calling on the Government to, among other things, establish a Poverty Task Force. The proposed amendment was negatived following a vote of the Assembly.

The unamended motion was agreed to.

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly [*Hansard*](http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2021/links/download.htm) 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 moved

A motion amending the **sitting pattern** for the remainder of 2021 was moved and agreed to by the Assembly on 16 September. The Assembly will now meet on the following dates:

6, 7 and 8 October 2021

9, 10 and 11 November 2021

23, 24 and 25 November 2021

30 November, 1 and 2 December 2021.

A motion amending a resolution of the Assembly setting standing committee reporting dates on annual and financial reports was moved and agreed to. Standing committees are now to report to the Assembly on **calendar and financial year annual and financial reports** for 2020-2021 by 31 May 2022.

A motion seeking to establish a **Select Committee on the COVID-19 2021 Pandemic Response** to consider and report to the Assembly on any matter relating to the ACT Government’s health and financial response and any other matter relating to the COVID-19 pandemic was moved by the Leader of the Opposition on 16 September. The motion included a proposed composition of the committee and outlined matters to be taken into consideration when conducting public hearings. During debate an amendment was moved by the ACT Greens seeking to alter the composition of the committee and also amending the considerations to be taken into account when conducting public hearings. Further amendments were moved by the Leader of the Opposition to the ACT Greens amendment which were agreed to. The amended ACT Greens amendment was then also agreed to.

The amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

A motion moved by the Government on 16 September sought the Assembly’s agreement to delay the introduction of the **Appropriation Bill 2021-2022 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2021-2022** until 6 October 2021, and as a consequence, a delay in the presentation of the 2021-22 Budget Review until early 15 February 2022.

The motion was agreed to without amendment following debate.

The full terms of the above motion can be found in the [Minutes of Proceedings](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-the-chamber/chamber-documents).

## Petitions and petition responses

The following petitions were lodged—

* Maintenance of public housing dwellings—lodged by Mr Parton MLA
* 40 kph speed limit zones in Civic—Proposed waiver of fines and penalties—lodged by Mr Parton MLA

The petitions on 40kph speed limit zones in Civic were referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

* Domestic Animal Services—Improved operations—lodged by Ms Lawder MLA
* Drake-Brockman Drive—Bicycle lane improvements—lodged by Mrs Kikkert MLA
* ACT residents living on federal income support—lodged by Mr Braddock

The petition on federal income support was referred to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

The following ministerial responses to petitions were lodged—

* Place naming conventions and public statues—Increasing the prominence of women *(Minister for Planning and Land Management)*
* Traffic management in Gordon—Improvements (*Minister for Transport and City Services)*
* Footpaths along Ballarat Street in Fisher—Improvements *(Minister for Transport and City Services)*
* Tharwa Drive and Lawrence Wackett Crescent, Theodore—Traffic safety *(Minister for Transport and City Services)*
* Amenities for Bonner Oval *(Minister for Sport and Recreation)*

A copy of the petitions and petition responses can be found on the Assembly [*Hansard*](http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2021/links/download.htm) site.

## Papers Presented

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

* Annual Reports—
* Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission—2020-21
* ACT Policing Surveillance Device—2017-18—Corrigendum
* Auditor-General’s Report—Supplementary Report to Court Transport Unit Vehicle—Romeo 5 (Report No 3/2021)
* Climate Change Council Annual Report 2020-21
* National Agreement of Closing the Gap (Closing the Gap—Jurisdictional Implementation Plan)—ACT Implementation Plan
* Notices amending the 2021 sitting pattern of the Legislative Assembly—
* Special Gazette No S2, Thursday, 19 August 2021
* Special Gazette No S3, Monday, 23 August 2021
* Planning and Development Act—Exercise of call-in powers—
* Development Application No 202138619—Blocks 792 and 820 Section 0 Gungahlin
* Development Application No 202138630—Block 792 Section 0 Gungahlin
* Development Application No 202138715—Block 792 Section 0 Gungahlin, Block 849 Section 0 Gungahlin, Block 1 Section 164 Harrison, Block 1 Section 165 Harrison, Block 2 Section 127 Harrison and Block 11 Section 5 Harrison
* Presentation of annual reports pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*—
Extension of time for presenting 2020-21 annual reports
* Report on a review of a critical incident by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services: Riot and serious fires at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 10 November 2020—Government response
* Report on a review of a critical incident by the ACT Inspector of Corrections Services: Serious fire at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 14 November 2020—Government response
* Report of a review of a critical incident by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services: Use of force to conduct a strip search at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 11 January 2021
* Review of the *Mental Health (Secure Facilities) Act 2016*—Update
* Report on the review of the operation of the *Emergencies Act 2004*
* Status of the Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19—Reports by the Chief Health Officer:
* Report 17—9 August 2021
* Report 18—8 September 2021

## Committee Activities

### Committee reports

####  Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee

[Report 2—Report on Inquiry into the Carers Recognition Bill 2021](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1828527/HWC-Report-2-Report-on-Inquiry-into-Carers-Recognition-Bill-2021-2.pdf)

####  Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

[Report 3—Draft Land Management Plan: Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds (Revised Report)](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1842707/PTCS-Report-3-Draft-Land-Management-Plan-Canberra-Urban-Lakes-and-Ponds-revised-report.pdf)

Report 4—DV365—Housing Choices—Co-Housing and Boarding Houses

####  Scrutiny Committee

####  [Scrutiny Report 8](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1828452/Report_08.pdf)

This report contained the committee’s comments on four bills, 104 pieces of subordinate legislation, three government responses, one national regulation and four regulatory impact statements.

### Committee statement

 **Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee**

The chair of the committee, on 16 September, made a statement informing the Assembly that the committee had resolved not to undertake an inquiry into a petition, presented to the Assembly, concerning the expansion of the Kippax Fair centre.

### Committee inquiries

**Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee**

A motion moved, seeking to refer standing order 113A to the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, was agreed to by the Assembly. Standing order 113A relates to the number of questions asked during question time in the Assembly and how those questions are asked.

**Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021—Select Committee**

The chair of the committee moved a motion seeking an extension to the committee’s report date to 30 November 2021.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

 **Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee**

The chair of the committee moved a motion seeking an extension to the committee’s report date for its inquiry into the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Managements) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2) and the Road Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 20201 to 30 November 2021.

The motion was passed by the Assembly.

### Committee membership

**COVID-19 2021 Pandemic Response—Select Committee**

A motion appointing Ms Clay MLA, Ms Lee MLA and Ms Orr MLA to the select committee was moved and agreed to by the Assembly.

## Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

### Electorate of Brindabella

Ms Joy Burch (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Johnathan Davis (ACT Greens)

Mr Mick Gentleman (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Nicole Lawder (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Mark Parton (Canberra Liberals)

### Electorate of Ginninderra

Ms Yvette Berry (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Peter Cain (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Tara Cheyne (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Jo Clay (ACT Greens)

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert (Canberra Liberals)

### Electorate of Kurrajong

Mr Andrew Barr (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Elizabeth Lee (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Shane Rattenbury (ACT Greens)

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Rebecca Vassarotti (ACT Greens)

### Electorate of Murrumbidgee

Emma Davidson (ACT Greens)

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC (Canberra Liberals)

Mrs Giulia Jones (Canberra Liberals)

Dr Marisa Paterson (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Chris Steel (Australian Labor Party)

### Electorate of Yerrabi

Mr Andrew Braddock (ACT Greens)

Ms Leanne Castley (Canberra Liberals)

Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

## Next Sitting

**Wednesday, 6 October 2021.**

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