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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2016–2017–2018

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 54

[**Wednesday, 11 April 2018**](http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2018/pdfs/20180411.pdf)

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**1** The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms J. Burch) 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 Crimes (consent) Amendment Bill 2018

Ms Le Couteur, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1900*.

*Paper:* Ms Le Couteur presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

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

Debate adjourned (Mr Ramsay—Attorney-General) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 Apollo 11 mission—50th Anniversary

Ms Lawder, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

1. notes that:
   1. 21 July 2019 will be the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, where mankind first walked on the moon;
   2. the Apollo 11 landing on the moon is arguably one of the greatest achievements in modern history;
   3. the Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station and Tidbinbilla Tracking Station (now Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex (CDSCC)) in the ACT, played a significant role in the Apollo 11 (and other) space missions, with the first footage of man walking on the moon broadcast throughout the world from Honeysuckle Creek;
   4. the ACT has played, and continues to play, a significant role in the space tracking industry through a number of sites and over more than 50 years; and
   5. a number of people who have worked in the space tracking industry in the ACT are still alive and the 50th anniversary is a fitting and significant time to recognise and honour their contribution; and
2. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. support the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Apollo 11 mission through financial and other assistance;
   2. install a significant tribute and commemoration to the space tracking industry in the ACT through an artwork or similar in the ACT in time for the 50th anniversary;
   3. investigate ways to provide recognition of space tracking history and contribution in the ACT, including through supporting:
      1. digitalising records, including audio records and digitising original paper records;
      2. publishing records;
      3. events;
      4. physical works at Honeysuckle Creek, Orroral Valley, and CDSCC at Tidbinbilla; and
      5. other activities, in collaboration with other relevant bodies, in time for the 50th anniversary; and
   4. report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2018 on the ACT Government’s contribution to and support for the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for the Environment and Heritage), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

(1) After paragraph (1)(e), insert:

“(f) the important role played by the ACT is recognised through the heritage listing of the Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station, Orroral Valley Tracking Station and the Orroral Geodetic Observatory;”.

(2) Omit paragraphs (2)(a) and (b), substitute:

“(a) support the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Apollo 11 mission and continue working with stakeholders, including former tracking station employees, Tidbinbilla Deep Space Communication Complex, NASA and the Australian National University, on a celebration;

(b) work with stakeholders on possible options for an artwork or similar to commemorate the space tracking industry in the ACT in time for the 50th anniversary;”.

*Paper:* Mr Gentleman presented the following paper:

Apollo Achievement Award—Walter Neville Gentleman, presented by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

1. notes that:
   1. 21 July 2019 will be the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, where mankind first walked on the moon;
   2. the Apollo 11 landing on the moon is arguably one of the greatest achievements in modern history;
   3. the Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station and Tidbinbilla Tracking Station (now Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex (CDSCC)) in the ACT, played a significant role in the Apollo 11 (and other) space missions, with the first footage of man walking on the moon broadcast throughout the world from Honeysuckle Creek;
   4. the ACT has played, and continues to play, a significant role in the space tracking industry through a number of sites and over more than 50 years;
   5. a number of people who have worked in the space tracking industry in the ACT are still alive and the 50th anniversary is a fitting and significant time to recognise and honour their contribution; and
   6. the important role played by the ACT is recognised through the heritage listing of the Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station, Orroral Valley Tracking Station and the Orroral Geodetic Observatory; and
2. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. support the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Apollo 11 mission and continue working with stakeholders, including former tracking station employees, Tidbinbilla Deep Space Communication Complex, NASA and the Australian National University, on a celebration;
   2. work with stakeholders on possible options for an artwork or similar to commemorate the space tracking industry in the ACT in time for the 50th anniversary;
   3. investigate ways to provide recognition of space tracking history and contribution in the ACT, including through supporting:
      1. digitalising records, including audio records and digitising original paper records;
      2. publishing records;
      3. events;
      4. physical works at Honeysuckle Creek, Orroral Valley, and CDSCC at Tidbinbilla; and
      5. other activities, in collaboration with other relevant bodies, in time for the 50th anniversary; and
   4. report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2018 on the ACT Government’s contribution to and support for the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

4 Greyhound racing industry

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

1. notes:
   1. in 2014 the ACT Government sold ACTTAB for $105.5 million;
   2. the Treasurer inflated the price in return for lower annual contributions from TABcorp to the racing industry;
   3. TABcorp made it clear that they would have been happy to directly fund the three ACT racing codes;
   4. the sale price was negotiated in an environment where three racing codes were operating;
   5. the sale price also included an ongoing contribution of $1 million indexed to CPI which is funded from turnover on the three racing codes; and
   6. 22 percent of that turnover comes from the betting on greyhound racing;
2. further notes that:
   1. the ACT Greens often call on Government to cleanse itself of “unethical” funds and investments;
   2. in 2015 ACT Greens Minister Shane Rattenbury announced a ban on junk food, alcohol, gambling, fossil fuels and weapons advertising on ACTION buses; and
   3. in 2017 the ACT Greens questioned the ethics of the ACT Government for its investment in poker machine manufacturers; and
3. condemns the Government for continuing to derive revenue from greyhound racing.

Mr Ramsay (Minister for Regulatory Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes:

(a) in 2014, the ACT Government sold ACTTAB for $105.5 million as part of the Commonwealth Government’s Asset Recycling Initiative; and

(b) the ACT supports community racing and the major codes operating in the Territory through both direct budget funding and a share of race field fees;

(2) further notes that:

(a) the ACT Government has appropriated $1 million for 2017-18 towards transition support for the greyhound industry, including support for worker retraining and animal rehabilitation and rescue;

(b) the 2016 Parliamentary Agreement between Labor and the Greens recognises that the ACT has some of the highest rates of poker machines per capita of any state or territory, notes the harm that these machines can cause for vulnerable members of the ACT community, and commits to reducing the number of poker machines in the ACT to 4000 by June 2020; and

(c) the Attorney-General has recently announced the appointment of an independent expert to provide advice that will support clubs to reduce their reliance on gaming machine revenue;

(3) congratulates the ACT Government for taking strong action to ban greyhound racing in the ACT following:

(a) the revelations of widespread animal cruelty outlined in the McHugh Report; and

(b) the inextricable links between the New South Wales industry and the ACT industry identified in the Durkin Report; and

(4) calls on the Government to continue working to improve the welfare of greyhounds in the ACT through the transition period, including by supporting local animal welfare organisations as necessary.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AYES, 13 | |  | NOES, 10 | |
| Mr Barr | Ms Orr |  | Miss C. Burch | Mr Milligan |
| Ms Berry | Mr Pettersson |  | Mr Coe | Mr Parton |
| Ms J. Burch | Mr Ramsay |  | Mrs Dunne | Mr Wall |
| Ms Cheyne | Mr Rattenbury |  | Mr Hanson |  |
| Ms Fitzharris | Mr Steel |  | Mrs Kikkert |  |
| Mr Gentleman | Ms Stephen-Smith |  | 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) in 2014, the ACT Government sold ACTTAB for $105.5 million as part of the Commonwealth Government’s Asset Recycling Initiative; and

(b) the ACT supports community racing and the major codes operating in the Territory through both direct budget funding and a share of race field fees;

(2) further notes that:

(a) the ACT Government has appropriated $1 million for 2017-18 towards transition support for the greyhound industry, including support for worker retraining and animal rehabilitation and rescue;

(b) the 2016 Parliamentary Agreement between Labor and the Greens recognises that the ACT has some of the highest rates of poker machines per capita of any state or territory, notes the harm that these machines can cause for vulnerable members of the ACT community, and commits to reducing the number of poker machines in the ACT to 4000 by June 2020; and

(c) the Attorney-General has recently announced the appointment of an independent expert to provide advice that will support clubs to reduce their reliance on gaming machine revenue;

(3) congratulates the ACT Government for taking strong action to ban greyhound racing in the ACT following:

(a) the revelations of widespread animal cruelty outlined in the McHugh Report; and

(b) the inextricable links between the New South Wales industry and the ACT industry identified in the Durkin Report; and

(4) calls on the Government to continue working to improve the welfare of greyhounds in the ACT through the transition period, including by supporting local animal welfare organisations as necessary.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

5 Renewable energy

Ms Orr, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

1. notes:
   1. addressing and mitigating global warming is both an environmental imperative and an economic necessity in the 21st Century;
   2. renewable energy is critical in transitioning Australia to a low-carbon economy in the cheapest and most efficient way;
   3. energy management, which includes both energy efficiency and demand response is the cheapest form of reliable capacity in the electricity sector;
   4. Australia is one of 197 parties to have signed, and amongst 175 parties to have ratified, the Paris Agreement;
   5. the Paris Agreement is a commitment to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius;
   6. a January 2018 report released by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency showed that a CSIRO Virtual Power Station Project which trialled smart devices for home energy management could be a viable alternative to costly electricity network upgrades, enable greater deployment of solar PV and reduce the cost of household electricity bills; and
   7. that all parties currently represented in the ACT Assembly unequivocally indicated their support for reaching 100 percent renewable electricity for the ACT by 2020, prior to the 2016 election;
2. further notes the ACT Government’s long-term leadership on renewable energy, in particular by:
   1. implementing policies to power the ACT with 100 percent renewable electricity by 2020;
   2. committing to the 2050 Pathway Platform to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, including by setting interim targets at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2016;
   3. its ongoing and unwavering support for and investment in Australia’s renewable energy sector through the period of investment and regulatory uncertainty created by the Federal Coalition Government;
   4. investing $5 million of grants to subsidise the cost of installing battery storage systems across the ACT, making it one of the most ambitious battery incentive programs in the country; and
   5. leading innovation in renewable energy technology, such as supporting a trial of a 400-home “virtual power plant” in the ACT, which is currently underway;
3. calls on the Government to:
   1. investigate opportunities to create a larger virtual power plant project, including an assessment of the savings for participating households, improvements to electricity grid stability, and strengthening renewable energy investment;
   2. increase awareness of the opportunities and benefits that smart devices and virtual power plants offer to participating households and to support the stability of the electricity grid; and
   3. continue its active support for measures that mitigate climate change impacts; and
4. calls on all parties represented in the 9th ACT Legislative Assembly to recommit to reaching 100 percent renewable electricity for the ACT by 2020.

Debate ensued.

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 74 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 Renewable energy

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Orr (*see* [entry 5](#Entry5))—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

8 bus services—Punctuality

Miss C. Burch, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

1. notes that:
   1. ACTION buses did not meet the 80 percent punctuality benchmark set in 2016-17;
   2. the punctuality benchmark was reduced to 75 percent for 2017-18;
   3. ACTION buses have been on time 72.96 percent of the time in 2017-18 to date; and
   4. ACTION buses have met punctuality benchmarks in only two of 90 weeks since mid-2016;
2. further notes that:
   1. school buses regularly arrive at school gates after the commencement of the school day;
   2. some school buses are scheduled to depart prior to the end of the school day; and
   3. some school buses are scheduled to depart up to 45 minutes after the end of the school day; and
3. calls on the Minister for Transport and City Services to:
   1. explain to the Assembly why:
      1. ACTION buses consistently fail to meet punctuality benchmarks;
      2. it is acceptable for morning school bus services to arrive after the commencement of the school day;
      3. it is acceptable for afternoon school bus services to depart before the end of the school day; and
      4. is it acceptable for afternoon school buses to depart as late as 45 minutes after the end of the school day; and
   2. report to the Assembly by Thursday, 7 June 2018 on steps taken to:
      1. improve ACTION buses’ punctuality;
      2. ensure that school buses arrive at school before the commencement of the school day; and
      3. ensure that school buses depart shortly after the end of the school day.

Ms Fitzharris (Minister for Transport and City Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes that:

(a) there is no agreed standard in the Australian public transport industry for the measurement of on-time performance of bus services;

(b) Transport Canberra buses are measured for timeliness through one of the strictest measures in the country using GPS technology through the MyWay ticketing system;

(c) Transport Canberra is a leader in providing open performance data and regularly publishes data on the ACT Government Open Data portal—www.data.act.gov.au;

(d) Transport Canberra records timeliness across selected timing points along each bus route for the entire network, including day, night and weekends. This equates to recording over 6.4 million timing points each year;

(e) a Transport Canberra bus service is considered on-time when departing a nominated timing point within one minute early and four minutes later than scheduled;

(f) based on this strict methodology on-time running is currently at 73% (for the 2017-18 financial year up to 1 April 2018);

(g) on-time running of Transport Canberra buses is not adjusted for any road disruptions or any diversions that occur in the city;

(h) 99.6% of Transport Canberra bus services are completed as scheduled; and

(i) 85.3% of Transport Canberra bus services commence on-time;

(2) further notes that:

(a) Transport Canberra delivers 246 school special services across the day—95 during the morning peak and 151 in the afternoon peak;

(b) providing school services that are long, circuitous and share the road with other users can present a challenge in delivering reliable services consistently;

(c) the majority of school students who catch buses (around 60%) use the general network to travel to and from school, rather than specific school bus services; and

(d) school services are also designed to get students to school close to bell times, which is often when there is the most congestion on roads and around schools due to parents dropping students off;

(3) further notes that:

(a) the ACT Government undertook the first stage of consultation on a new bus network late last year; and

(b) the second stage of community consultation will be undertaken in the coming months and will include how school services are delivered; and

(4) calls on the Minister for Transport and City Services to report to the Assembly by Thursday, 23 August 2018 on:

(a) plans for the new bus network and feedback from the second stage of the community consultation;

(b) current on-time running, and steps to be taken to improve on-time running in the new network; and

(c) current performance of school services in meeting school start and finish times and steps to be taken to improve school service performance in the new network.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

(a) there is no agreed standard in the Australian public transport industry for the measurement of on-time performance of bus services;

(b) Transport Canberra buses are measured for timeliness through one of the strictest measures in the country using GPS technology through the MyWay ticketing system;

(c) Transport Canberra is a leader in providing open performance data and regularly publishes data on the ACT Government Open Data portal—www.data.act.gov.au;

(d) Transport Canberra records timeliness across selected timing points along each bus route for the entire network, including day, night and weekends. This equates to recording over 6.4 million timing points each year;

(e) a Transport Canberra bus service is considered on-time when departing a nominated timing point within one minute early and four minutes later than scheduled;

(f) based on this strict methodology on-time running is currently at 73% (for the 2017-18 financial year up to 1 April 2018);

(g) on-time running of Transport Canberra buses is not adjusted for any road disruptions or any diversions that occur in the city;

(h) 99.6% of Transport Canberra bus services are completed as scheduled; and

(i) 85.3% of Transport Canberra bus services commence on-time;

(2) further notes that:

(a) Transport Canberra delivers 246 school special services across the day—95 during the morning peak and 151 in the afternoon peak;

(b) providing school services that are long, circuitous and share the road with other users can present a challenge in delivering reliable services consistently;

(c) the majority of school students who catch buses (around 60%) use the general network to travel to and from school, rather than specific school bus services; and

(d) school services are also designed to get students to school close to bell times, which is often when there is the most congestion on roads and around schools due to parents dropping students off;

(3) further notes that:

(a) the ACT Government undertook the first stage of consultation on a new bus network late last year; and

(b) the second stage of community consultation will be undertaken in the coming months and will include how school services are delivered; and

(4) calls on the Minister for Transport and City Services to report to the Assembly by Thursday, 23 August 2018 on:

(a) plans for the new bus network and feedback from the second stage of the community consultation;

(b) current on-time running, and steps to be taken to improve on-time running in the new network; and

(c) current performance of school services in meeting school start and finish times and steps to be taken to improve school service performance in the new network.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

9 Social housing stock

Ms Le Couteur, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

1. notes that:
   1. the Public Housing Renewal Program has successfully rehoused public housing tenants in high quality and accessible housing;
   2. approximately 38 percent of the public housing portfolio is more than 40 years old, as such, the need for further investment in housing renewal will continue;
   3. there are currently 1730 households waiting to access public housing. The average waiting time for applicants ranges from 274 days for those deemed eligible for priority housing and 983 days for standard applicants;
   4. since 2010-11 there has been a reduction of 387 public housing units in the ACT, dropping from 12 209 to 11 822 in that period;
   5. in 1991 public housing made up 12.4 percent of the ACT’s housing stock. By 2001 this had dropped to 10.2 percent. Public housing currently makes up 7.1 percent of the ACT’s housing stock;
   6. the Suburban Land Agency has identified 143 dwelling sites for public housing in 2017-18. During this period 4120 dwelling sites have been scheduled for release by the ACT Government, meaning that only 3.5 percent of this new housing stock will be public housing;
   7. public housing in the ACT is highly targeted, with 99 percent of allocations made to people in greatest need, against a national average of 74 percent. This results in a high level of rental rebate ($142 million in 2016-17) and lower ability to cross-subsidise Housing ACT’s operations from own source revenue; and
   8. the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA), currently being negotiated between the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments, will include a multilateral agreement as well as bilateral agreements, known as supplementary agreements. The legislation for the NHHA, currently before the Federal Parliament, notes that supplementary agreements require State and Territory governments to develop a housing strategy that “indicates the level of housing supply needed to respond to projected housing demand, and outlines the reforms and initiatives that contribute to meeting this need”; and
2. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. commit to growing social housing stock to at least maintain a minimum of 7.1 percent of the ACT’s housing stock as social housing, ie housing that is public housing or managed by a not-for-profit organisation and where rent is set at a maximum of 25 percent of tenants’ income;
   2. implement policies to further grow the supply of affordable rental housing where rent is set at a discount to market, and properties are targeted to low and moderate income households; and
   3. provide the Assembly with a report about the ACT’s participation in the NHHA during the first sitting period after it is signed, including information about:
      1. the methodology used for calculating the level of housing supply needed to respond to projected housing demand as part of the Territory’s bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth for the NHHA;
      2. which minister(s) and directorate(s) will be responsible for conducting this work; and
      3. initiatives that will contribute to meeting housing supply, as part of the Territory’s bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth for the NHHA.

Debate ensued.

Ms Berry (Minister for Housing and Suburban Development) moved the following amendment: Omit paragraph (2)(a), substitute:

“(a) commit to growing social housing stock in Canberra through development and purchases in both new and existing suburbs;”.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AYES, 11 | |  | NOES, 12 | |
| Mr Barr | Ms Orr |  | Miss C. Burch | Ms Le Couteur |
| Ms Berry | Mr Pettersson |  | Mr Coe | Ms Lee |
| Ms J. Burch | Mr Ramsay |  | Mrs Dunne | Mr Milligan |
| Ms Cheyne | Mr Steel |  | Mr Hanson | Mr Parton |
| Ms Cody | Ms Stephen-Smith |  | Mrs Kikkert | Mr Rattenbury |
| Ms Fitzharris |  |  | Ms Lawder | Mr Wall |

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and passed.

10 Blood donation procedures

Mr Steel, by leave, having amended his notice, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

1. notes that:
   1. there is a shortage of locally-supplied blood reserves in Australia, with the National Blood Authority increasingly importing blood supplies from overseas;
   2. last year, the overwhelming majority of Australians and almost three-quarters of Canberrans rejected legal discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning Australians;
   3. discrimination remains for gay men in relation to blood donation restrictions. In order to donate blood, men who have sex with men are required to remain abstinent for a 12 month deferral period, regardless of their individual risk and including those in low-risk monogamous relationships;
   4. all blood donations in Australia and other developed nations, regardless of the sexuality of the donor, are already automatically tested for HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases; and
   5. the recommendation to reduce the deferral period from 12 months to six months in the 2012 *Review of Australian Blood Donor Deferrals relating to Sexual Activity*, conducted by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, was rejected by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA);
2. also notes that:
   1. numerous medical advances, and the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) which was placed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme on 1 April 2018, and public awareness initiatives have significantly increased testing rates of HIV/AIDS;
   2. the ACT PrEP trial funded in the 2016-17 Budget is underway, to provide access to sexual health and blood borne virus vaccination, testing and treatment for vulnerable and priority populations in the ACT, with 315 participants at the start of March 2018;
   3. the window period between contraction and detection of HIV/AIDS has been dramatically reduced to an estimated 22 days, according to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, aided by rapid testing for HIV/AIDS;
   4. multiple countries have now significantly reduced or eliminated mandatory deferral periods for gay blood donors, including the United Kingdom, which reduced its deferral period from 12 months to three months in November 2017; and
   5. blood plasma can be kept for up to 12 months and therefore can be tested and placed in quarantine until the detection period has passed. France and Israel have therefore eliminated all deferral periods for plasma-only donations for gay men who have been in a monogamous relationship for the previous four months;
3. further notes that the ACT Government has, along with the Victorian Government, raised this issue in the Council of Australian Governments’ Health Council, and another Review of Australian Blood Donor Deferrals relating to Sexual Activity by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service will be undertaken; and
4. calls on the ACT Government to write, on behalf of the Assembly, calling on the TGA and Federal Minister for Health to:
   1. consider a reduction of the deferral period for non-plasma blood donations to three months, in line with the recent policy of the United Kingdom;
   2. consider the elimination of all deferral periods for plasma-only donations, in line with the policy of France and Israel;
   3. consider a greater role for individual risk-based assessments in the blood donation process; and
   4. adopt the recommendations of the expert panel undertaking the Australian Red Cross Blood Service Review of Australian Blood Donor Deferrals relating to Sexual Activity.

Mrs Dunne moved the following amendment: Omit all words after (4), substitute:

“(4) refers the matter to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services for inquiry and report.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—put and passed.

11 PRIVILEGE—Alleged breach—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER—Papers

The Speaker made a statement concerning an alleged breach of privilege raised by Ms Cody concerning certain aspects of the conduct of Miss C. Burch and Ms Lee, as well as the use of a Liberal Party website to transmit submissions to a Standing Committee on Public Accounts’ inquiry.

*Papers:* The Speaker presented the following papers:

Privilege—Alleged breach—

Copy of letter from Ms Cody to the Speaker, dated 22 March 2018.

Copy of letter from the Speaker to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, dated 29 March 2018.

Copy of letter from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to the Speaker, dated 11 April 2018.

Having considered the matter, the Speaker informed the Assembly that she was prepared to allow precedence to a motion under standing order 276(e).

12 Privileges 2018—Select Committee—Proposed establishment

Ms Cody, pursuant to standing order 276(e), moved—That:

1. this Assembly notes:
   1. the letter distributed to Canberra residents in the names of Miss C. Burch and Ms Lee titled *Inquiry into the methodology for determining rates and land tax for apartments*;
   2. the letter calls upon residents of the Australian Capital Territory to make submissions to an inquiry of an Assembly committee via the haveyoursay.net.au website;
   3. the “haveyoursay” website is not operated by the committee secretariat, but by the Liberal Party of Australia ACT Division, with a registrant contact name of Alistair Coe;
   4. the letter and the “haveyoursay” website may combine to create a false impression that they are proceedings of the Assembly or its committees;
   5. submissions made via the “haveyoursay” website will not be covered by privilege. Authors of submissions being sent to the “haveyoursay” website are not being correctly cautioned as to the nature of privilege;
   6. as political parties are not subject to the *Privacy Act 1988* (section 6C), there is no law governing how any information collected in the name of the Assembly, but by the website, will be used, or that all submissions made were accurately forwarded to the committee; and
   7. the possibility that submissions to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts were biased, and hence the course of the inquiry has been corrupted;
2. pursuant to standing order 277, a Select Committee on Privileges be established to examine whether there has been a breach of the standing orders by contempt of the committee individually, or by a conspiracy of Mr Coe, Ms Lee and Miss C. Burch in relation to matters noted and any other relevant matters, including whether the conduct constitutes;
   1. interference with the Assembly;
   2. improper influence of Members in their committee work;
   3. molestation of Ms Lee and Miss C. Burch by Mr Coe as the leader of their party;
   4. false reports of proceedings of a committee;
   5. disobedience and obstruction of orders; and
   6. interference with or molestation of witnesses;
3. the Committee shall report back to the Assembly by the last sitting week in 2018; and
4. the Committee shall be composed of:
   1. two members nominated by the Government; and
   2. two members nominated by the Opposition; and
   3. one member nominated by the Crossbench;

to be notified to the Speaker by 4pm Thursday, 12 April 2018.

*Papers:* Ms Cody, by leave, presented the following papers:

Copy of Whois Domain.

Inquiry into the methodology for determining rates and land tax for apartments—

Copy of letter from Ms Lee and Miss C. Burch, undated.

Copy of Have Your Say—An initiative of the Canberra Liberals, posted on 7 March 2018.

Ms Cody addressing the Assembly—

*Adjournment negatived:* It being 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.

Ms Cody continued.

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

13 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 6.20 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

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

\*on leave

**Tom Duncan**

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly