

# Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

**Non-sitting and sitting weeks—5-16 August 2019**

**Issue 8/2019**

## Government Business

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

### Bills introduced

[Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Amendment Bill 2019](https://legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_60794/) *(presented 15 August 2019)*

*Summary*: This bill will amend the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012* to extend and enhance the operation of the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme. The amendments include defining the energy savings obligation as an energy metric instead of the current greenhouse gas emissions metric, amending how eligible classes of priority households are determined and allowing the scheme to offer transport activities.

[Health Amendment Bill 2019](https://legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_60797/) *(presented 15 August 2019)*

*Summary*: This bill will amend the *Health Act 1993* and the *Sex Work Act 1992*. The amendments will include nurse practitioners as a class of health practitioners that may be reviewed and credentialed for clinical privileges by a Scope of Clinical Practice Committee.

[Official Visitor Amendment Bill 2019](https://legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_60798/) *(presented 15 August 2019)*

*Summary*: This bill will amend the *Official Visitor Act 2012* and the five operational Acts of the ACT Official Visitor Scheme (*Children and Young People Act 2008*, *Corrections Management Act 2007*, *Disability Services Act 1997*, *Housing Assistance Act 2007* and *Mental Health Act 2015*). The amendments will give effect to the legislative recommendations from the 2017 Review of the Official Visitor Scheme, including removing restrictions on official visitors visiting other operational areas when required to allow for greater flexibility and coverage.

[Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2019](https://legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_60795/) *(presented 15 August 2019)*

*Summary*: This bill will amend the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to establish WorkSafe ACT as the Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner, an independent and separate entity under the Act.

### Bills debated

[Appropriation Bill 2019-2020](https://legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_60215)

*Summary*: This bill will appropriate money for the purposes of the Territory for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2019.

*Proceedings*: Debate resumed on 13 August and continued on 15 August with debate programmed to continue on 20 August.

[Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2019-2020](https://legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_60216)

*Summary*: This bill will appropriate money for expenditure in relation to the Office of the Legislative Assembly and officers of the Assembly for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2019.

*Proceedings*: The bill was debated together with the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 when debate resumed on 13 and 15 August, with debate programmed to continue on 20 August.

A full record of the debates can be accessed at [Hansard](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard).

### Ministerial statements

On 13 August the Minister for Health made a ministerial statement in relation to **hydrotherapy services in south Canberra**. During the statement the Minister tabled the report titled *Access to hydrotherapy in the ACT* and spoke on the recommendations contained in the report, which included that “Canberra Health Services and ACT Health engage quickly and in enough depth with Arthritis ACT to make clear the basis on which it has drawn its conclusions regarding the safety and fit for purpose condition of The Canberra Hospital pool. This should be a defined and time-bounded process, of weeks at most.”

On 15 August the Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety made an annual statement in relation to **asbestos related works across Canberra**. The Minister provided an update on the activities that have taken place in the last 12 months and stated that 973 of the 1 023 affected properties have been demolished as at 30 June 2019. The Minister also stated that WorkSafe ACT undertook 226 Mr Fluffy related inspections for removal and demolitions from 1 July 2018 to 31 May 2019 and that for the reporting period 2018-19, 2 550 notifications have been received for asbestos removal works in the ACT for both friable and non-friable asbestos.

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

## Private Members’ Business

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

### Bills introduced

[Planning and Development (Controlled Activities) Amendment Bill 2019](https://legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_60799/) *(presented 14 August 2019)*

*Summary*: This bill will amend the *Planning and Development Act 2007* to enforce strict inspection measures relating to controlled activity orders for unclean leaseholds.

### Motions debated

On 14 August Miss Candice Burch MLA moved a motion in relation to **cancelled weekend bus services**. The motion noted that since the commencement of Network19, Transport Canberra has failed to achieve its stated target of 99.5 per cent of total services delivered to completion on weekends. The motion also called on the Government to explain to the Assembly what the Government is doing to improve the provision of real-time information about cancelled services to customers. During debate the Government moved amendments which included noting that Transport Canberra are currently undertaking rolling recruitment for new drivers and that the average weekend reliability is 89 per cent which the Government has acknowledged is not meeting community expectations. The Government amendments were agreed to by the Assembly. The ACT Greens then moved amendments to the amended motion which called on the Government to release an action plan that includes examining how more timely cancellation information passengers could be provided and examining better ways of notifying passengers of service cancellations. The Opposition indicated they would not support the ACT Greens amendments to the motion as they did not actually call on the Government to improve notification about cancelled weekend services. The amendments were agreed to by the Assembly.

The amended motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

On 14 August Mr Pettersson MLA moved a motion in relation to **Stage 1 Light Rail services**. The motion noted that 20 per cent of all boardings across the entire public transport network are now on a Light Rail service and that public transport journeys starting in Gungahlin have increased 32 per cent compared to the same period last year. The motion also noted that due to the success of Light Rail, services are nearing capacity in peak periods, and called on the Government to work with Canberra Metro to explore the possibility of increasing services during the peak periods. The ACT Greens moved an amendment to the motion to report back to the Assembly by the end of its November 2019 sitting on the progress of this work. The amendment was agreed to by the Assembly.

The amended motion was agreed to by the Assembly.

Other motions debated on 14 August related to:

**Plans for hydrotherapy services in south Canberra**—Mrs Dunne MLA

**Personal services for NDIS participants**—Ms Cody MLA

**Buses on Anketell Street, Tuggeranong**—Ms Lawder MLA

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly [*Hansard*](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard) site.

## Papers Presented

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

* Access to Hydrotherapy in the ACT, prepared by the Nous Group, dated 2 July 2019. *(presented by the Minister for Health on 13 August 2019)*
* Electoral Boundaries Redistribution 2019— Redistribution report—Augmented ACT Electoral Commission. *(presented by the Speaker on 13 August 2019)*
* Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme—Implementation—Report— 1 January to 30 June 2019. *(presented by the Manager of Government Business on 13 August 2019)*
* Coroner’s Act, pursuant to subsection 102(8)—ACT Coroner’s Court—Annual Report 2018/19. *(presented by the Manager of Government Business on 13 August 2019)*
* Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—Container Deposit Scheme Price Monitoring—Final Report—Report 10 of 2019. *(presented by the Manager of Government Business on 13 August 2019)*

## Petitions

The following e-petition was lodged on 13 August—

* Roller derby facilities in the ACT—lodged by Ms J. Burch MLA.

The following ministerial responses to petitions were lodged on 14 August—

* Students with learning difficulties.
* Belconnen bus network changes.

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

## Committee Activities

### Committee reports presented

#### Scrutiny Committee

#### Scrutiny Report 33 *(presented 13 August)*

This report contained the Committee’s comments on 134 pieces of subordinate legislation and three Government responses.

### Committee statements

#### Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

#### The chair of the Committee made a statement on 15 August in relation to the consideration of statutory appointments by the Committee.

#### The Integrity Commission—Standing Committee

#### The chair of the Committee made a statement on 15 August in relation to a meeting that was held to address concerns raised by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts about interaction between Assembly Committees and the Integrity Commission, and provided an update on the establishment of the Commission.

### Committee referrals

#### Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

#### On 13 August, petition No 20-19 was referred to the Committee which requested that the Assembly urgently review existing roller derby facilities in both public and private ownership and to ensure that roller derby in the ACT has the required facilities for future growth and demand.

### Responses to committee reports

#### Estimates 2019-2020—Select Committee

#### Report—Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2019‑2020—[Government response](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1401986/Government-Response-to-Select-Committee-on-Estimates-2019-2020-tabled-2019-08-13.pdf) *(presented by the Treasurer on 13 August)*

#### Report—Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2019‑2020—[Speaker’s response](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1401987/Speakers-Response-to-recommendations-16,-17-and-18-contained-in-the-Estimates-2019-2020-Report-tabled-2019-08-13.pdf) *(presented by the Speaker on 13 August)*

## Education Activities

Information on our various program offerings are available on the Assembly’s [website](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/Explore-your-Assembly/education-programs) .

## Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

### Electorate of Brindabella

Ms Joy Burch (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Mick Gentleman (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Nicole Lawder (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Mark Parton (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Andrew Wall (Canberra Liberals)

### Electorate of Ginninderra

Ms Yvette Berry (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Tara Cheyne (Australian Labor Party)

Mrs Vicki Dunne (Canberra Liberals)

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Gordon Ramsay (Australian Labor Party)

### Electorate of Kurrajong

Mr Andrew Barr (Australian Labor Party)

Miss Candice Burch (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Elizabeth Lee (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Shane Rattenbury (ACT Greens)

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (Australian Labor Party)

### Electorate of Murrumbidgee

Ms Bec Cody (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC (Canberra Liberals)

Mrs Giulia Jones (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Caroline Le Couteur (ACT Greens)

Mr Chris Steel (Australian Labor Party)

### Electorate of Yerrabi

Mr Alistair Coe (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Deepak Gupta (Australian Labor Party)

Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

## Next Sitting

**Tuesday, 20 August 2019.**

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