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**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE**

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**2016–2017–2018–2019**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**No 112**

[**Wednesday, 18 September 2019**](http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2019/links/download.htm)

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**1** The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms J. Burch) took the Chair and made a formal recognition that the Assembly was meeting on the lands of the traditional custodians. The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

**2 petitions—MINISTERIAL RESPONSE—Response noted**

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

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning and Land Management), dated 13 September 2019—Response to e-petition No 19-19 and petition No 22-19, lodged by Ms J. Burch on 30 July 2019, concerning community engagement on proposed redevelopment of Chisholm Village.

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

Question—put and passed.

**3 Wanniassa Park and Ride access**

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

1. notes:
   1. the need for better footpaths in Wanniassa, given that more people are now dependent on the Wanniassa Park and Ride due to the removal of other local bus services from the suburb;
   2. the footpath from the Park and Ride car park to the bus stop traverses a floodway;
   3. whenever it rains, at its lowest point the path is covered with a moving stream and puddle which flows down the floodway to the new Wanniassa wetlands;
   4. the path also becomes muddy for some time after the rain, which, when added to the slope of the path, means it is slippery and challenging for all pedestrians, but especially for older people and those with mobility impairments; and
   5. in heavy rain and when the floodway is flooded, the path may become dangerous to use, with no other option for commuters to walk between the carpark and the bus stop; and
2. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. investigate ways to improve the path and general access to the Wanniassa Park and Ride stop to alleviate safety concerns; and
   2. report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2019 on options to improve the path and how and when that will take place.

Mr Steel (Minister for Roads and Active Travel) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes:

* 1. that, in 2017, the ACT Government invested in public transport infrastructure by building a new Park and Ride facility in Wanniassa including new bus stops, bus shelters, footpaths and a pedestrian crossing to help locals better utilise the public transport network;
  2. the importance of footpaths and shared paths across the ACT to provide connections to public transport and, in particular, for the residents of Wanniassa to access the rapid route bus stop on Athllon Drive from the Wanniassa Park and Ride;
  3. the footpath from the Park and Ride car park to the bus stop traverses a floodway;
  4. prior to its construction, Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) engaged Northrop to undertake an independent flood study to review the impact of storm flows on the pedestrian crossing from the Wanniassa Park and Ride to the bus stop on Athllon Drive. This study demonstrated that the two 1800 mm diameter stormwater mains that run below the swale and perpendicular to the floodway crossing, have sufficient capacity to ensure that the crossing will have minimal, if any, flooding over an average ten year period, but still recommended that signage be erected to advise of the risk to users in the event of a rainfall event and that alternate routes be provided;
  5. in line with these recommendations, a ‘Floodway Take Care’ warning sign was installed at both approaches to the footpath and an alternative path exists from the Park and Ride to the bus stops via Langdon Avenue, Atkins Street and Athllon Drive. However there are some safety issues with this path as currently arranged;
  6. in heavy rain or if the floodway is flooded, the footpath across it may become dangerous to use and pedestrians are encouraged to use this alternative path; and
  7. the footpath can also become dirty and muddy as a result of pedestrians walking down the grass slope from the eastern side of the carpark to the footpath. TCCS are investigating options to discourage this behaviour and have organised a clean-up of the footpath to remove the accumulated silt and mud; and

1. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. investigate ways to improve the path and general access to the Wanniassa Park and Ride stop to alleviate safety concerns; and
   2. report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2019 on options to improve the path and how and when that will take place.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

* 1. that, in 2017, the ACT Government invested in public transport infrastructure by building a new Park and Ride facility in Wanniassa including new bus stops, bus shelters, footpaths and a pedestrian crossing to help locals better utilise the public transport network;
  2. the importance of footpaths and shared paths across the ACT to provide connections to public transport and, in particular, for the residents of Wanniassa to access the rapid route bus stop on Athllon Drive from the Wanniassa Park and Ride;
  3. the footpath from the Park and Ride car park to the bus stop traverses a floodway;
  4. prior to its construction, Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) engaged Northrop to undertake an independent flood study to review the impact of storm flows on the pedestrian crossing from the Wanniassa Park and Ride to the bus stop on Athllon Drive. This study demonstrated that the two 1800 mm diameter stormwater mains that run below the swale and perpendicular to the floodway crossing, have sufficient capacity to ensure that the crossing will have minimal, if any, flooding over an average ten year period, but still recommended that signage be erected to advise of the risk to users in the event of a rainfall event and that alternate routes be provided;
  5. in line with these recommendations, a ‘Floodway Take Care’ warning sign was installed at both approaches to the footpath and an alternative path exists from the Park and Ride to the bus stops via Langdon Avenue, Atkins Street and Athllon Drive. However there are some safety issues with this path as currently arranged;
  6. in heavy rain or if the floodway is flooded, the footpath across it may become dangerous to use and pedestrians are encouraged to use this alternative path; and
  7. the footpath can also become dirty and muddy as a result of pedestrians walking down the grass slope from the eastern side of the carpark to the footpath. TCCS are investigating options to discourage this behaviour and have organised a clean-up of the footpath to remove the accumulated silt and mud; and

1. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. investigate ways to improve the path and general access to the Wanniassa Park and Ride stop to alleviate safety concerns; and
   2. report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2019 on options to improve the path and how and when that will take place.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

**4 Fertility preservation**

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

1. notes that many younger people can and will encounter cancer and other serious diseases in their lives, and that treatments, including chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgery and prolonged anti-hormone treatment, can impact a patient’s fertility or render a patient infertile;
2. notes that there is a range of fertility preservation options available for patients depending on their relationship status and including, but not limited to:
   1. freezing eggs;
   2. freezing embryos;
   3. freezing ovarian tissue;
   4. freezing sperm;
   5. freezing testicular tissue; and
   6. ovarian suppression drugs;
3. recognises that while discussions about fertility preservation should and often do form part of a broader, holistic approach to treating patients with cancer or another serious disease who are at risk of infertility due to treatment:
   1. decisions about fertility preservation potential are naturally complex;
   2. for patients with a cancer diagnosis, there is added pressure to undertake treatment quickly, adding to the complexity and stress of the decisions; and
   3. recent evidence suggests that women with cancer can fail to take up fertility care as a result; and
4. calls on the ACT Government to investigate the feasibility of establishing a Territory-wide fertility preservation service specifically for Canberra patients of reproductive age diagnosed with cancer or another serious disease that may impact on their fertility.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**5** **The Canberra Hospital—infrastructure programs**

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

1. notes the important services provided by staff at The Canberra Hospital (TCH) and Health Services to the people of Canberra and the region;
2. further notes that, in relation to Canberra’s emergency departments:
   1. people waited longer in the fourth quarter of 2018-19 to receive treatment within the clinically recommended timeframe in the emergency, urgent and semi-urgent triage categories;
   2. the median waiting time for patients in the urgent, semi-urgent and non‑urgent categories increased in the fourth quarter of 2018-19;
   3. the proportion of patients seen within four hours declined in the fourth quarter of 2018-19;
   4. the median waiting time for patients in the urgent category is longer than the median waiting time in the non-urgent category;
   5. that the winter beds strategy was not put in place at TCH until 11 July 2019 when the flu season had started in May;
   6. that 61 percent of the infrastructure at the Calvary Hospital is nearing the end of its useful life; and
   7. that the Government has been aware of the infrastructure problems at TCH for a decade and has failed to act; and
3. calls on the Minister for Health to report to the Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day of 2019, on the:
   1. progress on the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency project and its likely cost;
   2. progress in developing other significant health infrastructure programs such as plans to upgrade infrastructure at Bruce; and
   3. 2019 flu season and why the winter bed strategy was so late in being implemented.

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) moved the following amendment: Omit paragraphs (2)(f) and (g), substitute:

“(f) Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (Calvary) is an important part of the Territory-wide hospital network;

(g) the ACT Government has invested more than $1 billion in health infrastructure since 2009, including upgrading Calvary’s maternity ward, the expansion of TCH’s Emergency Department, the delivery of a new rehabilitation facility at the University of Canberra Hospital and the establishment of the nurse-led Walk-in Centre network;

(h) the ACT Government’s commitments to the expansion of Calvary’s Emergency Department and the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency (SPIRE) project at TCH will deliver increases in emergency department treatment spaces of almost 20 percent by winter 2020 and more than 50 percent over five years; and

(i) the fourth quarter report for 2018-19 showed that more than 92 percent of patients would recommend TCH to family and friends, while more than 93 percent of Calvary patients reported a positive experience and were satisfied with the care provided; and”.

Debate continued.

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 QUESTION ON NOTICE NO 2574—ANSWER—EXPLANATION**

Mr Wall, pursuant to standing order 118A, asked Ms Berry (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development) for an explanation concerning the answer to question on notice No 2574.

Ms Berry gave an explanation.

**8 The Canberra Hospital—infrastructure programs**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mrs Dunne, and on the amendment moved by Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health)—

Debate resumed.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

1. notes the important services provided by staff at The Canberra Hospital (TCH) and Health Services to the people of Canberra and the region;
2. further notes that, in relation to Canberra’s emergency departments:
   1. people waited longer in the fourth quarter of 2018-19 to receive treatment within the clinically recommended timeframe in the emergency, urgent and semi-urgent triage categories;
   2. the median waiting time for patients in the urgent, semi-urgent and non‑urgent categories increased in the fourth quarter of 2018-19;
   3. the proportion of patients seen within four hours declined in the fourth quarter of 2018-19;
   4. the median waiting time for patients in the urgent category is longer than the median waiting time in the non-urgent category;
   5. that the winter beds strategy was not put in place at TCH until 11 July 2019 when the flu season had started in May;
   6. Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (Calvary) is an important part of the Territory-wide hospital network;
   7. the ACT Government has invested more than $1 billion in health infrastructure since 2009, including upgrading Calvary’s maternity ward, the expansion of TCH’s Emergency Department, the delivery of a new rehabilitation facility at the University of Canberra Hospital and the establishment of the nurse-led Walk-in Centre network;
   8. the ACT Government’s commitments to the expansion of Calvary’s Emergency Department and the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency (SPIRE) project at TCH will deliver increases in emergency department treatment spaces of almost 20 percent by winter 2020 and more than 50 percent over five years; and
   9. the fourth quarter report for 2018-19 showed that more than 92 percent of patients would recommend TCH to family and friends, while more than 93 percent of Calvary patients reported a positive experience and were satisfied with the care provided; and
3. calls on the Minister for Health to report to the Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day of 2019, on the:
   1. progress on the SPIRE project and its likely cost;
   2. progress in developing other significant health infrastructure programs such as plans to upgrade infrastructure at Bruce; and
   3. 2019 flu season and why the winter bed strategy was so late in being implemented.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

9 LEAVE TO MOVE NOTICE LODGED BY ANOTHER MEMBER

Notice No 4, Private Members’ business, having been called on—

Mrs Dunne was granted leave to move the notice lodged by Mrs Kikkert.

**10 Out-of-home care review**

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

1. notes that:
   1. we demonstrate our value for vulnerable children in out-of-home care by making top-quality decisions and listening to their voices;
   2. the 2016 Glanfield Inquiry recommended that “A review should be undertaken of what decisions made by CYPS should be subject to either internal or external merits review. The review should have regard to the position in other jurisdictions and be chaired by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate”;
   3. earlier this year, a working group that was established to address this recommendation released a discussion paper titled *Review of Child Protection Decisions in the ACT*, with consultation open to public submissions;
   4. the Minister for Children, Youth and Families has also invited stakeholders within the child protection and legal systems and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to participate in face-to-face consultations; and
   5. the review process, as acknowledged by the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, has experienced delay;
2. further notes that *A Step Up for Our Kids*, the ACT Government’s out-of-home care strategy, promises to “embed a culture of listening to the voices of children and young people”; and
3. calls on the Minister for Children, Youth and Families to:
   1. remind the independent expert who is undertaking the consultation process that the voices of children and young people must be included; and
   2. update the Assembly no later than the last sitting day in September 2019 regarding:
      1. how the voices of children and young people are being included in the consultation process;
      2. the progress of this review and the consultation process, including when these are expected to conclude; and
      3. what steps will follow, and when these are expected to conclude.

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Children, Youth and Families), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

(1) Insert new paragraph (1)(f):

“(f) submissions on the discussion paper *Review of Child Protection Decisions in the ACT* will soon be publicly available on the Justice and Community Safety Directorate website;”.

(2) Omit paragraph (3), substitute:

“(3) calls on the Minister for Children, Youth and Families to update the Assembly no later than the last sitting day in March 2020 regarding:

(a) how the voices of children and young people are included in this consultation process;

(b) the progress and outcomes of this review and the consultation process; and

(c) what steps will follow, and when these are expected to conclude.”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

1. notes that:
   1. we demonstrate our value for vulnerable children in out-of-home care by making top-quality decisions and listening to their voices;
   2. the 2016 Glanfield Inquiry recommended that ‘A review should be undertaken of what decisions made by CYPS should be subject to either internal or external merits review. The review should have regard to the position in other jurisdictions and be chaired by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate’;
   3. earlier this year a working group that was established to address this recommendation released a discussion paper titled *Review of Child Protection Decisions in the ACT*, with consultation open to public submissions;
   4. the Minister for Children, Youth and Families has also invited stakeholders within the child protection and legal systems and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to participate in face-to-face consultations;
   5. the review process, as acknowledged by the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, has experienced delay; and
   6. submissions on the discussion paper *Review of Child Protection Decisions in the ACT* will soon be publicly available on the Justice and Community Safety Directorate website;
2. further notes that *A Step Up for Our Kids*, the ACT Government’s out-of-home care strategy, promises to ‘embed a culture of listening to the voices of children and young people’; and
3. calls on the Minister for Children, Youth and Families to update the Assembly no later than the last sitting day in March 2020 regarding:
   1. how the voices of children and young people are included in this consultation process;
   2. the progress and outcomes of this review and the consultation process; and
   3. what steps will follow, and when these are expected to conclude.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

**11 Sustainable building materials**

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

1. notes:
   1. forests have a major contribution to make in helping meet Australia’s commitment to limit global warming to two degrees or less;
   2. forests and wood derived from them are a renewable source of energy, and preferable energy source when compared to fossil fuels;
   3. wood products in building and construction offer a pathway to achieving zero net emissions, particularly when compared to other building materials such as cement and steel;
   4. wood products sourced from within Australia have lower transport emissions, in comparison with imported construction materials;
   5. forests help clean up carbon emissions with wood products forming part of the carbon cycle; and
   6. forests have other co-benefits providing habitat for flora and fauna and recreational and other opportunities;
2. congratulates the ACT Government for replanting the Ingledene Forest and thereby enhancing the local forestry industry, boosting conservation outcomes, providing new recreational areas for Canberrans as well as helping clean up the equivalent of 200 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide over the next 25 years; and
3. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. investigate the use of wood and other sustainable products in government infrastructure projects; and
   2. work with the building and construction industry to promote the use of Australian Forestry products.

Ms Cody, by leave, moved the following amendment: Add new paragraph (3)(c):

“(c) calls on the ACT Government to develop sustainability guidelines for the sustainable use of building materials in the ACT, in accordance with the *Building Act 2004.*”.

Amendment agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Mr Rattenbury, by leave, moved the following amendment to the motion, as amended: Omit all words after “notes”, substitute:

“(a) the importance of protecting native forests in Australia;

(b) the oversupply of softwood timber in Australia, making it unnecessary to log native forests;

(c) that re-establishing Ingledene Forest as a working plantation forest provides opportunities for job creation, recreation, and supports a sustainable plantation forestry industry in the ACT;

(d) the importance of improving the sustainability of building materials to assist the ACT to move towards zero net emissions, and to reduce the broader impact buildings have on sustainability and emissions outside the ACT’s border;

(e) plantation grown wood products can form part of the solution to improving building material sustainability, provided they are genuinely sustainable, taking into account issues such as the source of the wood, the distance it is transported, etc; and

(f) a variety of alternative sustainable building products have been developed or are emerging in the industry, such as 100 percent recycled plastic trusses and beams; and

(2) calls on the ACT Government to investigate the use of sustainable products in government infrastructure projects, and develop sustainability guidelines for the sustainable use of building materials in the ACT, as required under the *Building Act 2004*.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

1. notes:
   1. forests have a major contribution to make in helping meet Australia’s commitment to limit global warming to two degrees or less;
   2. forests and wood derived from them are a renewable source of energy, and preferable energy source when compared to fossil fuels;
   3. wood products in building and construction offer a pathway to achieving zero net emissions, particularly when compared to other building materials such as cement and steel;
   4. wood products sourced from within Australia have lower transport emissions, in comparison with imported construction materials;
   5. forests help clean up carbon emissions with wood products forming part of the carbon cycle; and
   6. forests have other co-benefits providing habitat for flora and fauna and recreational and other opportunities;
2. congratulates the ACT Government for replanting the Ingledene Forest and thereby enhancing the local forestry industry, boosting conservation outcomes, providing new recreational areas for Canberrans as well as helping clean up the equivalent of 200 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide over the next 25 years; and
3. calls on the ACT Government to:
   1. investigate the use of wood and other sustainable products in government infrastructure projects;
   2. work with the building and construction industry to promote the use of Australian Forestry products; and
   3. calls on the ACT Government to develop sustainability guidelines for the sustainable use of building materials in the ACT, in accordance with the *Building Act 2004.*”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

**12 Housing affordability**

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

1. notes that:
   1. after years of ACT Labor, thousands of Canberrans are priced out of the housing market;
   2. according to Domain’s June 2019 *State of the Market* report, the median rent in Canberra was $550;
   3. annual rent of more than $28 000 is out of reach for many of Canberra’s “working poor”;
   4. ACT Government rates and levies disproportionately impact poorer households; and
   5. the Government’s land supply, planning system and tax regime has stifled the supply of new rental properties; and
2. calls on the Government to bring down the cost of renting in Canberra by:
   1. stopping the unfair increases to rates and taxes;
   2. bringing clarity and confidence to the planning system;
   3. delivering certainty to the land supply; and
   4. ensuring that the rate of construction of townhouses and free standing homes keeps pace with demand.

Ms Le Couteur moved the following amendment: Omit all text after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes that:

* 1. thousands of Canberrans are priced out of the private rental housing market;
  2. according to Domain’s June 2019 *State of the Market* report, the median rent in Canberra was $550; and
  3. an annual private rent of more than $28 000 is out of reach for many on low incomes and people relying on Federal Government income support such as Newstart;

1. further notes that the Federal Government is responsible for many of Australia’s housing affordability problems, for example:
   1. as a result of Federal Government taxation policies and failures in banking regulations, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra have suffered chronic house price inflation since 1999, putting buying a home out of reach of many;
   2. the Federal Government no longer provides the historical level of financial support for states and territories to provide public housing and housing infrastructure, putting pressure on housing supply for the lowest income households; and
   3. Newstart and Rent Assistance are too low to cover reasonable costs of living, including rents, for unemployed Australians;
2. further notes that, within the limitations resulting from Federal Government policy, the ACT Government is taking action on housing affordability, including:
   1. delivering on a 2016 election commitment to develop a new ACT housing strategy in October 2018;
   2. investing in public housing by:
      1. committing $100 million to grow public housing;
      2. completing the renewal of 1288 homes under the Public Housing Renewal Program; and
      3. over the 10 years to 2024, investing more than $1 billion in public housing and renewed approximately 20 percent of the portfolio;
   3. under the Labor/Greens Parliamentary Agreement, the Government has broadened its affordable housing land release targets to cover community and public housing, as well as both greenfield and urban renewal land releases;
   4. commencing a ‘Housing Choices’ review of planning rules to encourage supply of ‘missing middle’ housing such as townhouses; and
   5. seeking a waiver of historical housing debts from the Commonwealth Government to redirect the savings into social and affordable housing, in line with deals reached with Tasmania and South Australia over their housing debt to the Commonwealth;
3. further notes that, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the ACT’s tax per capita is in line with the national average and significantly lower than New South Wales and Victoria;
4. calls on the ACT Government to further assist rental affordability by:
   1. extending the pilot land tax concessions program for property owners who make properties available at less than 75 percent of the current market rate while keeping the cap at 100 properties until an evaluation of the program is done;
   2. providing certainty for the community housing sector to grow by including a four-year pipeline of community housing land release in the 2020/21 Indicative Land Release Program and pricing this land appropriately considering conditions of sale; and
   3. commencing community consultation on the first draft Territory Plan Variation under Housing Choices prior to the end of 2019; and
5. further calls on the parliamentary leaders of ACT Assembly parties to write a joint letter to the Prime Minister to support the waiver of historical housing debts from the Commonwealth Government.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

1. notes that:
   1. thousands of Canberrans are priced out of the private rental housing market;
   2. according to Domain’s June 2019 *State of the Market* report, the median rent in Canberra was $550; and
   3. an annual private rent of more than $28 000 is out of reach for many on low incomes and people relying on Federal Government income support such as Newstart;
2. further notes that the Federal Government is responsible for many of Australia’s housing affordability problems, for example:
   1. as a result of Federal Government taxation policies and failures in banking regulations, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra have suffered chronic house price inflation since 1999, putting buying a home out of reach of many;
   2. the Federal Government no longer provides the historical level of financial support for states and territories to provide public housing and housing infrastructure, putting pressure on housing supply for the lowest income households; and
   3. Newstart and Rent Assistance are too low to cover reasonable costs of living, including rents, for unemployed Australians;
3. further notes that, within the limitations resulting from Federal Government policy, the ACT Government is taking action on housing affordability, including:
   1. delivering on a 2016 election commitment to develop a new ACT housing strategy in October 2018;
   2. investing in public housing by:
      1. committing $100 million to grow public housing;
      2. completing the renewal of 1288 homes under the Public Housing Renewal Program; and
      3. over the 10 years to 2024, investing more than $1 billion in public housing and renewed approximately 20 percent of the portfolio;
   3. under the Labor/Greens Parliamentary Agreement, the Government has broadened its affordable housing land release targets to cover community and public housing, as well as both greenfield and urban renewal land releases;
   4. commencing a ‘Housing Choices’ review of planning rules to encourage supply of ‘missing middle’ housing such as townhouses; and
   5. seeking a waiver of historical housing debts from the Commonwealth Government to redirect the savings into social and affordable housing, in line with deals reached with Tasmania and South Australia over their housing debt to the Commonwealth;
4. further notes that, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the ACT’s tax per capita is in line with the national average and significantly lower than New South Wales and Victoria;
5. calls on the ACT Government to further assist rental affordability by:
   1. extending the pilot land tax concessions program for property owners who make properties available at less than 75 percent of the current market rate while keeping the cap at 100 properties until an evaluation of the program is done;
   2. providing certainty for the community housing sector to grow by including a four-year pipeline of community housing land release in the 2020/21 Indicative Land Release Program and pricing this land appropriately considering conditions of sale; and
   3. commencing community consultation on the first draft Territory Plan Variation under Housing Choices prior to the end of 2019; and
6. further calls on the parliamentary leaders of ACT Assembly parties to write a joint letter to the Prime Minister to support the waiver of historical housing debts from the Commonwealth Government.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

**13 ADJOURNMENT**

Ms Berry (Deputy Chief Minister) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 5.48 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

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

\*on leave

**Tom Duncan**

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly