



Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

EIGHTH ASSEMBLY

11 APRIL 2013

www.hansard.act.gov.au

Thursday, 11 April 2013

Revenue Legislation (Tax Reform) Amendment Bill 2013.....	1513
Statute Law Amendment Bill 2013.....	1514
Road Transport (General) Amendment Bill 2013	1517
Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2013	1520
Community Housing Providers National Law (ACT) Bill 2013	1522
Order of the day—postponement.....	1523
Executive business—precedence	1523
Public Accounts—Standing Committee	1523
Standing orders—suspension.....	1524
Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2).....	1524
Public Accounts—Standing Committee	1525
Questions without notice:	
Ministerial arrangements	1526
Sport—ground maintenance	1528
Health—subacute care	1529
Youth—services	1532
Business—support	1534
Municipal services—Fadden	1536
Economy—trade mission	1537
Sport—community facilities.....	1539
Education—teachers	1540
ACTION bus service—Weston Creek	1544
Planning—Kambah group centre	1546
Answer to question on notice:	
Question No 76	1548
Supplementary answers to questions without notice:	
ACTEW Corporation Ltd—management.....	1548
ACTTAB—alleged fraud	1549
Business—support	1549
Sport—ground maintenance	1549
Municipal services—Fadden	1549
Papers.....	1549
Call-in powers—block 15 section 42 Griffith	1550
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body—report	1551
Economy—major events (Matter of public importance).....	1554
Adjournment:	
Evatt Primary School.....	1565
Answers to questions:	
Finance—investments (Question No 62)	1567
Transport—light rail (Question No 66)	1569
Schools—vandalism (Question No 67)	1571
Budget—lease variation charge (Question No 68).....	1575
Superannuation—expenses (Question No 69).....	1575
Economic Development Directorate—Tourism, Events and Sport Division (Question No 74).....	1576

ACTION bus service—enterprise bargaining agreement (Question No 76).....	1578
Education—Indigenous students (Question No 78)	1580
Economic Development Directorate—Venue and Event Services (Question No 79).....	1583
Economic Development Directorate—Venue and Event Services (Question No 80).....	1585
Sport—motor sport (Question No 81)	1585
Health— general practitioners (Question No 87).....	1587
Health—elective surgery (Question No 88)	1588
National Arboretum Canberra—replantings (Question No 90)	1588
Questions without notice taken on notice:	
Planning—Amaroo shops.....	1589
Schools—Blue Gum School.....	1590
Rivett shops—health and safety	1590
Rivett shops—health and safety	1590

Thursday, 11 April 2013

MADAM SPEAKER (Mrs Dunne) took the chair at 10 am and asked members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

Revenue Legislation (Tax Reform) Amendment Bill 2013

Mr Barr, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR BARR (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Tourism and Events and Minister for Community Services) (10.01): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am very pleased today to present the Revenue Legislation (Tax Reform) Amendment Bill 2013 to the Assembly. I announced the government's 20-year taxation reform plan—a fairer, simpler and more efficient tax system—in the 2012-13 territory budget. This package outlined the government's plans for the first five years of what will be a two-decade reform process for the territory. This 20-year time frame was chosen to ensure a staged and measured approach, allowing the territory time to adjust to the changes.

This reform is essential to ensure that the territory has a fairer, simpler and more efficient taxation system which is sustainable for the long term. This reform will ensure that the territory has a solid and stable revenue base upon which it is able to continue to fund essential services such as health and education into the future.

All Australian jurisdictions are aware of the importance of taxation reform. However, the ACT is the only jurisdiction to implement such important reform, in part due to our unique access to a broad-based land tax such as general rates. The government's reforms will support economic growth, make the territory's taxes sustainable in the long run and allow the government to maintain and enhance the high standard of living that our community enjoys.

The five-year reform plan introduced a raft of reform measures, including abolishing duty on insurance premiums and contracts over a five-year period, phasing out conveyance duty over a 20-year period, abolishing commercial land tax from 1 July 2012, making general rates more progressive, making residential land tax more progressive and reducing payroll tax for businesses operating in the territory.

The reform also included a range of targeted support measures to help Canberra households, including increasing the general rates rebate, expanding the pensioner duty concession scheme, increasing the income threshold for the homebuyer concession scheme, expanding the rates deferral scheme and amending the duty deferral scheme.

All of the reforms contained in the government's five-year plan have been implemented or commenced. However, this bill will give legal effect to the following measures introduced as part of the ACT taxation reform. Firstly, it will abolish all reference to commercial land tax in the Land Tax Act 2004. It will expand the eligibility criteria of the rates deferral scheme and will make changes to the calculation of general rates by removing the reference to the tax-free threshold.

This bill will formally abolish commercial land tax. This was a recommendation of the ACT taxation review, which found that this reform would simplify the tax system and reduce red tape for businesses. From 1 July 2012, no land tax has been levied on commercial properties. However, this bill will remove all reference to commercial land tax in the Land Tax Act 2004.

The ACT's rates deferral scheme allows eligible households to defer payments on their general rates, on which a relatively low rate of simple interest is charged. As part of the reform, the rates deferral scheme will be expanded to include non-pensioners, such as self-funded retirees, who satisfy age, asset, income and equity tests. The bill is seeking to make relevant changes to the Rates Act 2004 to allow access for non-pensioners who satisfy the eligibility criteria to access the scheme.

Both the review into Australia's future taxation system—perhaps best known as the Henry review—and the ACT taxation review concluded that general rates is one of the most efficient tax bases available. Under the reforms, the progressivity of the general rates system has been improved to ensure fairness and equity, similar to our nation's income tax system. In doing so, the formula for the calculation of general rates has been updated, removing the tax-free threshold from the calculation of general rates. This bill is seeking to make amendments to the Rates Act 2004 to remove all reference to the tax-free threshold in the calculation of general rates and the fire and emergency services levy.

The proposed amendments to the Land Tax Act 2004 and the Rates Act 2004 will further the government's tax reform agenda and help improve the implementation of these important reform measures. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Smyth**) adjourned to the next sitting.

Statute Law Amendment Bill 2013

Mr Corbell, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (10.06): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

The Statute Law Amendment Bill 2013 makes statute law revision amendments to ACT legislation under guidelines for the technical amendments program approved by the government. The program provides for amendments that are minor or technical, and non-controversial. They are generally insufficiently important to justify the presentation of separate legislation in each case and may be inappropriate to make as editorial amendments in the process of republishing legislation under the Legislation Act 2001. The program is implemented by presenting a statute law amendment bill such as this in each sitting of the Assembly and including further technical amendments in other amending legislation, where appropriate.

Statute law amendment bills serve the important purpose of improving the overall quality of the ACT statute book so that our laws are kept up to date and are easier to find, read and understand. A well-maintained statute book greatly enhances access to legislation and is a very practical measure to give effect to the principle that members of the community have a right to know the laws that affect them.

Statute law amendment bills also provide an important and useful mode for continually modernising the statute book. For example, laws need to be kept up to date to reflect ongoing technological and societal change. Also, as the statute book has been created from various jurisdictional sources over a long period, it reflects the various drafting practices, language usage, printing formats and styles used throughout the years. It is important to maintain a minimum, consistent standard in presentation and cohesion between legislation coming from different sources at different times so that better access to, and understanding of, the law is achieved.

This statute law amendment bill deals with three kinds of matters.

Schedule 1 provides for minor, non-controversial amendments proposed by a government agency that require approval from the Chief Minister.

Schedule 2 contains amendments of the Legislation Act 2001 proposed by the parliamentary counsel to ensure that the overall structure of the statute book is cohesive and consistent and is developed to reflect best practice.

Schedule 3 contains technical amendments proposed by the parliamentary counsel to correct minor typographical or clerical errors, improve language, omit redundant provisions, include explanatory notes or otherwise update or improve the form of legislation.

Schedule 4 contains repeals of obsolete or unnecessary legislation proposed by government agencies or the parliamentary counsel that have been approved by the Chief Minister.

The bill contains a large number of minor amendments with detailed explanatory notes, so I will not go through all of these now. However, I will highlight a number of matters.

Schedule 1 of the bill amends the Health Act 1993, section 106, which provides an arbitration process to resolve matters relating to establishing core conditions for service contracts for visiting medical officers that are not resolved by negotiations under section 103 or by mediation. Section 106(5)(b) of the act is amended in schedule 1 to broaden the field from which arbitrators can be selected and clarifies the reference to “appropriate experience”.

Schedule 1 of the bill also amends the Ombudsman Act 1989, section 23(2), which provides that a person who is 65 or older must not be appointed as Ombudsman, and the appointment of an Ombudsman must not extend past the Ombudsman’s 65th birthday. The amendment is necessary to enable the ACT to appoint an Ombudsman who is, or will be, 65 during the term of the appointment. It also brings the act into line with the commonwealth’s Ombudsman Act 1976.

The Road Transport (Third-Party Insurance) Act 2008, section 72, is amended in schedule 1 to exempt a person entitled to early payment for medical expenses under chapter 3 from the requirement to comply with the 30 working days time limit under that section while the complainant is under a legal disability. This brings chapter 3 of the act into line with chapter 4.

Schedule 2 contains minor, non-controversial structural amendments of the Legislation Act initiated by parliamentary counsel. The structural issues are particularly concerned with making the statute book more coherent and concise, and therefore more accessible. Strategies to achieve these objectives include avoiding unnecessary duplication and achieving the maximum degree of standardisation of legislative provisions consistent with policy requirements and operational needs.

In this bill, the definition of “scrutiny committee principles” in the Legislation Act 2001, section 31, is amended as a consequence of a change of name in the committee.

Schedule 3 includes amendments of acts and regulations that have been reviewed as part of an ongoing program of updating and improving the language and form of legislation. These amendments are explained in the explanatory notes and are routine, technical matters such as the correction of minor errors, improving syntax and omitting redundant provisions.

In particular, amendments have been made to a number of acts and regulations to bring references to Australian standards into line with current legislative drafting practice. A number of minor amendments have also been made to the Retirement Villages Act 2012 and to a range of road transport legislation to clarify provisions, update dictionaries or bring the legislation into line with current drafting practice.

Finally, schedule 4 of the bill repeals two redundant acts. The Annual Leave Act 1973 entitled an employee to annual leave at the end of every year of the employee’s employment and regulated the taking and payment of annual leave. The Truck Act 1900 is a New South Wales law that took effect as an ACT law on the establishment of the territory. The act provides for the payment of wages to employees. Both acts have no practical effect and have been superseded by the Fair Work Act 2009 of the commonwealth.

In addition to the explanatory notes in the bill, parliamentary counsel is, as always, available to provide any further explanation or information that members would like about any of the amendments made by the bill.

I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Seselja**) adjourned to the next sitting.

Road Transport (General) Amendment Bill 2013

Mr Corbell, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (10.14): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Road Transport (General) Amendment Bill 2013. This bill will amend the Road Transport (General) Act to change the definition of bicycle to allow the use of European style power-assisted cycles, known as “pedalecs”, in the Australian Capital Territory.

Firstly, I would like to explain the current regulatory environment for power-assisted cycles, also known as electric bikes.

In the ACT, all motorised vehicles including motorised bicycles must be registered under vehicle registration laws unless they are specifically exempt. The road transport legislation provides an exemption for bicycles with auxiliary motors if their maximum engine output power does not exceed 200 watts at the engine’s peak.

The main difference between a power-assisted bike and a moped or motorcycle is the way it is propelled. For a power-assisted cycle, human power is the main means of propulsion. The motor is auxiliary, operating as a form of assistance. Use of a power-assisted bike is not subject to the registration and licensing scheme for motor vehicles.

For a moped or motorcycle, the motor is the main means of propulsion. mopeds and motorbikes must comply with the registration and licensing requirements that apply to motor vehicles.

In May 2012, following a significant amount of work and encouragement by states and territories over a number of years, the commonwealth amended the Australian design rules to adopt a new vehicle category of “pedalec”. This category is a newer, higher performance category of electric bicycle with a maximum continuous power rating of 250 watts. Pedalecs are defined as vehicles meeting European standards for power-assisted cycles.

The change to the Australian design rules was the required first stage to enable pedalecs to be used in Australia, by authorising their importation for supply and marketing within Australia. However, the higher power output of pedalecs means that consequential amendments to the road rules, driver licensing regulations and vehicle standards regulations are required in each jurisdiction to allow these vehicles to be legally used on roads and road-related areas.

This bill gives effect to the change in the Australian design rules. It will enable pedalecs to be ridden in the ACT, including on the extensive network of community paths in the ACT and cycle lanes on roads. It mirrors similar changes that have already been made in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland and which are being progressed in Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The cycling industry and bicycle user groups have been supportive of these changes and have encouraged jurisdictions to make the necessary changes to allow pedalecs to be used.

The bill ensures that the road rules for bicycles, rather than motor vehicles, are applied to pedalecs. This means riders must follow the same rules for pedalecs as for pedal cycles without motors, such as wearing a helmet which meets the Australian standard and dismounting to cross a pedestrian crossing.

The introduction of pedalecs in Australia comes in response to changes in technology and a growing demand for low-powered, efficient and environmentally-friendly vehicles. The higher performance of pedalecs makes them a more robust alternative to current power-assisted cycles. In addition, they produce no tailpipe emissions and, provided they are recharged utilising green power, will be virtually emission free. Even those recharged utilising power sources that are not green will produce just a very small fraction of the emissions that a motorcycle or car would produce over the same distance.

A special benefit of pedalecs is that they may make cycling a more feasible option for many people, particularly those who may not be able to easily pedal a non-powered bicycle, such as seniors, people recovering from illness or injury, or those with disabilities. People who need to make longer journeys, who live in hilly areas, or who are simply interested in a less sweaty commute, will also benefit.

Pedalecs also have stringent safety requirements to prevent them posing a risk to other road users. Power assistance on a pedelec cuts out at 25 kilometres an hour, preventing users from coasting at high speeds. They also operate with a mandatory pedal-assist mode, which means that the pedals must be pushed to activate the motor above speeds of six kilometres an hour. The allowance for power application below seven kilometres an hour without pedalling will assist riders starting from rest, particularly when riding uphill.

These safety features of pedalecs mean that they are safe to be used in a cycling environment while at the same time allowing riders to travel further and ride with less effort.

As with the current bicycle rules, the pedalec rules also allow tricycles. This will continue to assist those riders who are not confident in balancing a two-wheeled bicycle.

The bill supports government efforts to increase cycling participation rates in the ACT by making cycling a more attractive transport option through improved cycling infrastructure and facilities.

Pedal Power ACT have released some pleasing figures, featured in the *Canberra Times* recently, about the growing number of people cycling into and out of Civic and the ANU. Since 2004, Pedal Power has conducted an annual cordon count in March of people riding to and from the Civic-ANU area. It has observed the number growing by an average of 10 per cent each year. This year, 3,194 riders were counted; almost double the number counted in 2004.

According to the commonwealth's *State of Australian Cities* report, Canberra as a whole has the highest rate of active travel of the eastern capital cities—around 22 per cent of the ACT population cycles during the week.

The introduction of legislation to allow pedalecs complements the government's transport for Canberra policy, which recognises the significant health, economic, environmental and social benefits that increased cycling participation delivers to the community.

One of the aims of the strategy is to encourage walking and cycling. Transport for Canberra has a target of seven per cent of journey to work trips being made by bicycle by 2026. Actions that we have already taken to achieve this target include:

- completing shared paths and developing a commuter cycle network with high quality infrastructure;
- investigating new types of infrastructure like shared spaces and segregated lanes;
- the release of an “active travel to school strategy” for students, teachers and school communities;
- prioritising active travel development for accessible bicycle infrastructure;
- delivering road safety awareness programs for cyclists and pedestrians to reduce crash rates; and
- exploring the establishment of a task force to promote and develop programs supporting physical activity.

Initiatives already underway implemented by the government include:

- the strategic cycle network plan;

- the launch of the free ACT and Queanbeyan walking and cycling map;
- the launch of the ride or walk to school program;
- the construction of secure bike parking at the Belconnen community station, Flemington Road, Athllon Drive and Melrose Drive, with two more parking facilities under design at the Kippax Centre and Cotter Road; and
- a promotional and marketing campaign to ensure access to bike parking is easy and uncomplicated.

The official opening of the first two stages of the Civic cycle loop occurred just recently by my colleague Mr Rattenbury, connecting Bunda Street, Northbourne Avenue, Barry Drive and the Lake Burley Griffin cycle path network via Rudd Street and Marcus Clarke Street. The next stages of the Civic cycle loop will connect western and eastern Civic along Bunda Street and Allara Street.

Through this bill the government recognises that power-assisted cycles will increasingly become a part of the transport mix in Canberra. The bill will promote the use of pedalecs and other power-assisted cycles as a safe and convenient form of transport, making the commute a more relaxing and less time consuming experience, and is part of the government's commitment to promote cycling as a legitimate transport choice.

I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Coe**) adjourned to the next sitting.

Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

Mr Corbell, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (10.24): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

This is the fourth bill to be introduced under the government's omnibus planning, building and environment legislation amendment bill process. This process manages all minor policy or technical amendments within the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate portfolio. This omnibus bill process provides an efficient avenue for the consideration of minor matters in a consolidated single bill.

The bill I present today proposes editorial, technical, consequential and minor policy amendments to the Building Act 2004, the Building (General) Regulation 2008, the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Regulation, Districts Act 2002, Electrical (Safety) Regulation 2004, Planning and Development Act 2007, Planning and Development Regulation 2008, Public Place Names Act 1989, Unit Titles Act 2001 and Water Resources Act 2007. The bill responds to needs identified by the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate and parliamentary counsel.

I will briefly deal with some of the specific technical and editorial amendments made by this bill. Clause 8 corrects an incorrect reference to the repealed Building Regulation 2004 in subsection 35(3) of the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Regulation 2004. This subsection defines a “relevant asbestos qualification”. The amendment corrects the reference so that the definition of “relevant asbestos qualification” refers to the current Building (General) Regulation 2008.

The amendment in clause 16 of the bill makes a similar correction. This clause amends the heading in section 51 of the Planning and Development Regulation which prescribes entities relevant for the preparation of scoping documents for an environmental impact statement. The heading incorrectly refers to subsection 212(3) of the Planning and Development Act. The heading has been amended to refer to section 212(4).

The bill also repeals redundant legislation. The Electricity (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Act 2004 and the Electricity (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Regulation 2004 supported the ACT greenhouse gas abatement scheme. This scheme ended on 1 July last year, with the commencement of a national price on carbon in the Australian government’s Clean Energy Act 2011. This bill repeals this legislation, which is no longer required.

The bill also makes minor technical amendments to improve administrative practice. For example, clause 12 inserts a new subsection 139(2)(b)(ii) into the Planning and Development Act. This subsection deals with development applications made by someone other than the lessee of the land.

The bill also includes two minor policy amendments. Clause 6 of the bill amends subsection 69(4) of the Building Act 2004. This section relates to certificates of occupancy for building work issued by the Construction Occupations Registrar. Under the existing act, if building work has been completed the owner of a parcel of land may apply to the Construction Occupations Registrar for a certificate to state that the work has been completed in accordance with the prescribed requirements under the act and is fit for occupation and use.

Subsection 69(4) is an evidentiary provision. It provides that certificates issued under some other acts are sufficient in and of themselves to satisfy prescribed requirements for building work. The minor policy amendment will mean that a certificate can be issued by the Construction Occupations Registrar to certify that gas-fitting work has been completed in accordance with prescribed requirements. This clause does not impose new requirements. It simply confirms in law what has been happening in practice.

This bill includes amendments that are technical, non-controversial and deliver minor policy changes, as an omnibus bill should. The bill demonstrates the government's commitment to using this process in a responsible way. The bill presents an opportunity for the Assembly to ensure that the territory's laws operate effectively and that changes to those laws are accessible to all Canberrans. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Wall**) adjourned to the next sitting.

Community Housing Providers National Law (ACT) Bill 2013

Mr Rattenbury, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Housing, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Ageing) (10.29): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Community Housing Providers National Law (ACT) Bill 2013, which will repeal part 4A of the Housing Assistance Act 2007 and apply the Community Housing Providers National Law. This will replace the current, similar ACT regulatory system with a national one, reducing the regulatory burden for those providers operating in multiple jurisdictions.

The object of this act is to apply, as a territory law, a national law for the registration and regulation of community housing providers under a national system of registration, facilitate investment in the community housing sector and ensure the protection of that investment, ensure that registered community housing is developed as a viable and diversified component of the ACT social housing sector, and support the provision of registered community housing for people on a very low, low or moderate income.

The regulatory powers will be vested in the registrar, who will be the director-general responsible for administering the act. There will be a registrar in each state and territory. The registrar will exercise the functions under the act subject to the control and direction of their state or territory minister.

The Community Housing Providers National Law empowers the registrar to register, monitor, intervene—which is referred to as “enforcement” powers—and deregister any housing providers. The consequence of deregistration would be the loss of any tied government assistance and publicly funded assets.

The national regulatory system includes three tiers of registration applied based on a risk management approach. Under the national regulatory system the national

regulatory code sets out the performance outcomes and requirements that must be met by registered community housing providers.

ACT providers and peak bodies have been consulted at workshops held on 30 November 2011, 9 December 2011 and 28 August 2012. Further briefings occurred with providers on 27 November 2012 and 19 March 2013. There is broad support for the introduction of the national regulatory system.

Implementation will start for participating jurisdictions on 1 July 2013 through a phased implementation. This will include six months of testing and evaluation of the registration processes and procedures to operate the system—that is phase 1—and registration under the national law to occur over an 18-month transition period from 1 January 2014—phase 2.

The Community Housing Providers National Law (ACT) Bill 2013 will safeguard the interests of vulnerable tenants, including women, older people and young people, as well as government and other investment in community housing. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Hanson**) adjourned to the next sitting.

Order of the day—postponement

Ordered that notice No 1 Assembly business be postponed until the next day of sitting.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Report 1—government response

MR BARR (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Tourism and Events and Minister for Community Services) (10.34): I present the following paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 1—*Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No. 2)*—Government response.

I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

I seek leave to make a short statement.

Leave granted.

MR BARR: I present the government response to the report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2). I

would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee and its support staff for its efforts and assessment of Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2). The government respects and values the critical role played by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in scrutinising its proposed expenditure.

The government welcomes the committee's two recommendations and agrees to the recommendation relating to the ACT land rent scheme, and supports the committee's final recommendation for the Assembly to pass Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2).

To conclude, Madam Speaker, the report of the standing committee and its recommendations do not raise any issues that would prevent the passing of the appropriation bill. On behalf of the government, I express thanks to the committee for its consideration of the bill and, of course, remind the Assembly of the important and essential investments being made through this second appropriation. I commend the appropriation bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Corbell**) adjourned to a later hour this day.

Standing orders—suspension

Motion (by **Mr Corbell**) agreed to, with the concurrence of an absolute majority:

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Assembly business, order of the day, relating to the Government response to Report No. 1 of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, entitled *Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No. 2)*, being called on and debated cognately with Executive business, order of the day No. 1—Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No. 2).

Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2)

[Cognate paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee report 1—government response]

Debate resumed from 14 February 2013, on motion by **Mr Smyth**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MADAM SPEAKER: I understand it is the wish of the Assembly to debate this bill cognately with the government response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts report on the bill. That being the case, in debating order of the day No 1, executive business, members may also address their remarks to the government response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts report on the bill.

MR SMYTH (Brindabella) (10.38): We live in interesting times. I never thought I would see a government response to a public accounts committee report where the government supported all the recommendations. Mr Seselja has scored the motser. He has got two out of two; he has got both recommendations up. One of the recommendations was simply to say that if the work has not already taken place that the government table in the Assembly a response to the post-implementation review

of the ACT land rent scheme, which the government has graciously agreed to. I am delighted at that. The committee recommended that the Assembly pass the approp bill and the government has said it will support that recommendation. So well done, chair of the public accounts committee, on bringing the government to account.

This appropriation bill is a total variation of \$231 million. It is in three areas: \$113 million comes from the federal government for ACT local hospital networks, there is some money for the Commerce and Works Directorate—\$113 million of cash will be converted into land—and there is about \$4½ million for the restructure fund, which will look at strategic asset management planning, accelerated land development, a whole-of-government gateway, a seamless national economy and some project advice. This is the appropriate way to get these extra funds to the government, not through the Treasurer's advance but appropriation bills such as this.

The Assembly referred the bill to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Through that process nothing controversial was identified. The committee's two recommendations, as I have said, have been agreed to. The opposition will be supporting the bill.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (10.40): The Greens will also be supporting the appropriation. I would like to thank the public accounts committee for their report, which I think summarises and analyses the issues raised by the additional appropriation very well. The appropriation bill is, of course, necessary to pass on commonwealth health grants. I think we are all in furious agreement that that is a good thing. In relation to the land rent scheme, the Greens' views on this scheme are very clear. We believe that it has an important role to play in the provision of affordable housing in the ACT.

That said, I think it is positive that the government has agreed to table the update as requested by the public accounts committee. With those brief comments, I will be supporting the bill today.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Report 1—government response

Debate resumed.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

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

Sitting suspended from 10.42 to 2.30 pm.

Questions without notice

Ministerial arrangements

MR HANSON: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, you have been publicly advocating for an enlarged Assembly, partly on the rationale that it would provide the opportunity for an expanded range of members available to join the ministry. Chief Minister, you have a four-member backbench. It is available now under the self-government act for the Assembly to enact for a sixth minister to be appointed from your backbench. Chief Minister, why have you not taken action to enact for a sixth minister?

MS GALLAGHER: I thank the Leader of the Opposition and welcome his interest in matters that I am currently considering. It does require legislative change. It would also require further appropriations. So it is not something that I can just do with the stroke of a pen. I welcome Mr Hanson's interest in all matters relating to the size of the Assembly. When I will—

Mr Hanson: What's wrong with your backbench, Katy?

MS GALLAGHER: There is absolutely nothing wrong with my backbench. None of them are in the departure lounge like yours are, Jeremy. Bring your glass of whiskey in, your slippers, on your way out? There is absolutely nothing wrong with my backbench. They are very hardworking members of the government team, very involved in the decisions that the government takes. Indeed, they have a much heavier workload than any other single member of your team, Mr Hanson. They are hardworking members representing their constituency, and I am very proud to be a leader of such a talented side.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Chief Minister, why have you appointed a Greens minister at the expense of someone from the Labor Party?

MS GALLAGHER: Have you got nothing better to do, Mr Hanson? Seriously, the final sitting day of an Assembly period and you are worried about this? Really? You are really worried about it?

I would draw your attention to the parliamentary agreement signed between Shane Rattenbury and myself back in November which consigned you guys to four more long years on the opposition benches. And it still hurts, doesn't it? It still hurts. It hurts so much that Mr Seselja has had to put his slippers on, sign his thankyou cards and get out of that door—at a time of his choosing, not yours, Mr Hanson, which we have all noticed.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Chief Minister, why are you insisting on a larger Assembly when you are not making full use of your existing members?

MS GALLAGHER: I thank Mr Smyth for the question. Again, I welcome the opposition's interest in the matters around the size of the Assembly. They are not just around matters to do with the executive, although that is central to some of the discussions that need to be had. I hope that the opposition does take the opportunity seriously when the report is provided to it to genuinely engage on the issues of governance and size of the Assembly and not just choose the easy option, on someone else's instruction, to play politics with it. It is easy to play politics with these matters, but if people and members of this place are genuinely interested in good governance and going forward—

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MS GALLAGHER: Every government in this place will need a backbench and every opposition will need a particular ratio of numbers and members. These are the genuine issues. I welcome the interest. It is easy to make fun of them. I am sure the easy option is to play politics with it.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MS GALLAGHER: Mr Hanson, as I said, you have got more problems on your backbench than I would ever have on mine.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, members!

Dr Bourke: On a point of order, Madam Speaker—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, members! Dr Bourke has a point of order. Ms Gallagher take your seat.

Dr Bourke: There is so much noise coming from over there that I cannot hear what the Chief Minister is saying. Would you do something about it?

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Could you stop the clock, please? Order, members! Mr Hanson, I have called you to order on a number of occasions. Chief Minister, I will ask you to comply with the standing orders and address the chair and not debate with the opposition. It is unparliamentary. Dr Bourke is right. It is impossible to hear what is going on in here. Have you got an answer to the question?

MS GALLAGHER: I think I have answered the question.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Chris, you did not miss much. She did not endorse you, mate. Chief Minister, is it not true you cannot appoint another minister because no-one on your existing backbench is up to the job of being a minister?

MS GALLAGHER: This line of questioning is contemptuous really of the Assembly's time—and to be having that from a man who is moving the wrong way down the front bench, frankly. What have we seen from Mr Smyth? We have seen him as leader. We have seen a number of election losses. We have seen him as deputy leader. Now I do not believe you are even a committee chair, are you? That is how valued you are on your side.

Opposition members interjecting—

MS GALLAGHER: That is what you are going to get back. That is what Mr Smyth will get back if he uses question time to be as disrespectful as he is. You will get it back, and you will get it back in spades.

Mr Hanson can only dream of a backbench like mine that have stayed committed to their constituents. You dream, Mr Hanson, of a backbench like mine. Look around. Look at your own.

Sport—ground maintenance

MR SESELJA: My question is to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services. Can the Minister explain why diesel is used for line marking on sportsgrounds in the ACT?

MR RATTENBURY: No, I would have to take some advice on that, Mr Seselja. It is clearly an issue where I am interested in why you want to know this. Perhaps if you want to provide me with some further details on the specific concern I can get that information and provide it to you.

Mr Barr: Madam Speaker, line marking on sports fields is actually my responsibility as Minister for Sport and Recreation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Barr, do you want to answer the question?

MR BARR: The answer to Mr Seselja's question is that it has been a longstanding practice to use diesel for line marking on ACT sportsgrounds. The principle reasons are cost related, because the costs associated with repeatedly painting lines would be significant for sport and recreation organisations. So the government's practice has been to utilise diesel for line marking.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Seselja.

MR SESELJA: Minister, are there any environmental impacts from the use of diesel on the subsoil and are there any potential impacts on human health?

MR BARR: Certainly, the environmental impact of the diesel is that the grass does not grow in that space, thereby creating the line. In the context of where the grass does not grow, this practice has been in place for some time. I have never received advice to suggest there are any risks to public health. However, as the member has asked the question, I will seek further reassurance that there are no risks.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, can you advise what other jurisdictions use diesel fuel to mark out sportsgrounds?

MR BARR: I am obviously not responsible for decisions of other jurisdictions. Sportsgrounds are generally the purview of councils rather than state governments in other jurisdictions. I am not going to embark on a nationwide research exercise on which councils do and do not, but certainly my experience over nearly 40 years on this planet is that I have seen this practice across most states and territories in Australia.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister—

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Doszpot has the floor. Mr Coe and Mr Barr, you will desist from discussion across the chamber. Mr Doszpot has the supplementary question.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, your memory is slipping. I understand that with alternative line markings no other area uses diesel. I would like you to check into that. But what alternative line markings are available to use on ACT sportsgrounds, and if we are the only jurisdiction using it, will you consider such usage?

MR BARR: Paint is an alternative option, although of course that requires frequent—as in possibly every week—reapplication, depending, of course, on the level of wear and tear on sportsgrounds. I am happy to take advice on whether there is another chemical that would stop the grass growing as effectively as diesel. But the point here is to ensure that all of our sportsgrounds have appropriate line marking. If the shadow minister has a preferred treatment that will ensure that the grass does not grow in that spot, I would welcome that input.

I will raise it with sport and recreation services, but I must say that this is not an issue that has ever been raised with me in the time I have been minister for sport. It is not something you have as a regular complaint in relation to sportsgrounds. Irrigation issues are raised. Different grass types are raised. Certainly there have been plenty of people raise concerns with me in relation to the opposition's proposal to cut funding for sportsground maintenance. But they have certainly not raised this issue.

Health—subacute care

DR BOURKE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister outline for the Assembly how the government is meeting the need for subacute care in the ACT health system?

MS GALLAGHER: I thank Dr Bourke for his interest in important matters like the ACT health system. The term “subacute” describes patients whose need for health care is predicted by their functional status rather than their principal diagnosis. The predominant goal is enhancement of the patient’s quality of life and/or improvement of his or her functional status. Examples of subacute care include rehabilitation, psychogeriatric care and palliative care.

In Canberra our subacute services operate on the Calvary hospital site and the Canberra Hospital site. At Calvary hospital it is funded through a purpose-built subacute facility—the Keaney Building. This has provided opportunity to free up beds in the inpatient general wards.

We also have a number of subacute beds which are offered throughout and open through the Canberra Hospital campus, which also involves services like rehabilitation as well as care for the elderly. The Canberra Hospital tries where possible to transition people from acute care to subacute care and then back into the community where appropriate.

Last week, or the week before, I was able to visit David Harper House at Monash for the formal opening. One of the great things about the visit was the opportunity to look at a recent agreement that the Health Directorate has had with Goodwin Homes to purchase eight subacute beds at David Harper House for people leaving hospital but not yet ready to go into residential aged care facilities. I was able to look around at the service offered at David Harper House—the single rooms with en suites which provide very nice amenity for people who are having long periods of time in a hospital-type environment but without the hospital attached to that. I think we will look at this partnership. It appears to be going well for the people who are leaving the hospital and going into David Harper House and it is also working for Goodwin Homes.

We are also due to open eight medi-hotel beds in late 2013 at the Canberra Hospital site. This will provide accommodation for people who do not require acute care but still require additional medical support. We also, through the budget, have announced an expansion of the hospital-in-the-home services. An additional 24 bed equivalents have been committed between 2013-14 and 2016-17. I am really pleased because hospital in the home is a very highly regarded service. In terms of patient feedback it is very positive, and I think more and more jurisdictions are looking to alternatives to hospital-based care and to providing their services, where they can, where people need them and where it is convenient, which is quite often in the home.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Can the minister update the Assembly on planning for a subacute hospital on the University of Canberra site?

MS GALLAGHER: I thank Dr Bourke, again, for the question. We made some announcements last year about planning for a subacute hospital on the University of Canberra site. When that project is completed, subacute patients from both Canberra

Hospital and Calvary hospital will transfer to UCPH, freeing acute bed capacity in both Canberra Hospital and Calvary.

The new University of Canberra public hospital, which is situated on the Uni of Canberra campus, will continue the expansion of health and hospital services in the ACT. The new facility will enable subacute services to be provided in a purpose-built, contemporary facility, with a focus on these services, without the pressure created by emergency and acute care needs. We are working with the University of Canberra on the capacity for clinical education and research to be included as part of that project.

We expect that the construction of the hospital will take two years, beginning within 18 months of the commencement of the design phase. So there are still a number of years to go before that service will be fully operational and able to be commissioned. Advertisements calling for the expression of interest will appear nationally on the weekend for the next stage, which is the preliminary sketch plans for the new facility. It is expected that those will be completed in February 2014 and made available for broad community and stakeholder consultation at that time.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Minister, how much will the hospital cost and when will it be open?

MS GALLAGHER: I have answered that question in terms of the construction timetable—so the fact that we expect it will take about two years to construct and that would begin within 18 months of the commencement of the design phase. I then went on to say that the design phase is moving into the next stage and the budget will be informed—

Mr Hanson: Madam Speaker—

MS GALLAGHER: It does not matter that you get out of your chair faster, Mr Hanson. I still get the same amount of time to answer the question. The design stage is reaching another point—

Mr Hanson: Madam Speaker—

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you taking a point of order?

Mr Hanson: Yes, I am, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: You need to say “a point of order”, Mr Hanson.

Mr Hanson: Yes, I understand that. I was just waiting to see whether the minister was going to actually provide an answer and she failed to do so. So on a point of order on relevance, I have asked the minister: when will it open and how much will it cost? The minister has been talking about different phases, but she has not identified when it will start and when it will finish. What I want to know is: when will it open and how much will it cost?

MADAM SPEAKER: Chief Minister, the standing orders require you to be directly relevant. It is a straightforward question.

MS GALLAGHER: It is a straightforward question, Madam Speaker. As I was saying before Mr Hanson jumped to his feet, both of those questions will be answered at the conclusion of the next stage.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Berry.

MS BERRY: Has the minister had the opportunity to view any other recently opened subacute hospitals in other jurisdictions?

MS GALLAGHER: Yes, I have. I thank Ms Berry for the question. Last Thursday, I visited two subacute hospitals in Victoria, and I do thank the Victorian government for giving me access to those sites. One of them is in Wantirna. The other is known as the Kingston Centre. This gave me the opportunity to see how modern subacute hospitals are designed, what facilities are included in those and the model of care in place.

It was a very interesting visit to both of those facilities. They were both 64-bed facilities. They took between, I think, three and four years for the projects. In fact, the Kingston Centre took 10 years, I think, from the original design to be completed because it required budget funding. They were 64-bed facilities that cost in the order of \$40 million.

We are looking at what happened in other jurisdictions in terms of what is an appropriate budget for this project. And we are using learnings from other jurisdictions to feed into the work that the cabinet will consider ultimately when we approve a budget for this type of facility.

The visits were very instructive. It is great to see how the subacute hospital systems are working in larger jurisdictions where they have been more established and I think there is great opportunity for us to partner with the university and deliver a very high standard of care for patients who are receiving subacute services but also make sure that we support the growth of the University of Canberra as the premier regional health university for this part of south-east Australia.

Youth—services

MR COE: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Children and Young People. Minister, changes have been made to the delivery of the youth support program, resulting in the closure of some drop-in youth centres in the ACT. Minister, has a review been undertaken to measure the impacts on other youth services of these closures? If not, why not?

MS BURCH: I thank Mr Coe for his question. I think you are referring to the change in the children, youth and family support program that did see some significant changes in the delivery of services for children, young people and families. Some of

that involved the closure of some of the drop-in centres, or the hours and operating style of drop-in centres, for youth around the city. We have moved through that. That change happened over the last year, and we are working with a range of service providers and indeed have a very clear focus on outreach. As I have said in this place, the bricks and mortar of youth drop-in are one part of the program, but certainly to go to where the children are and where the young people congregate is very much a key aspect of the changes we have made.

We have worked with the service providers since the implementation. In the 12 months of operation of the new service there has not been a great call to me about reopening those centres. You would also note, though, that in the election commitment we made a commitment of around \$600,000 a year to go to youth support services. There are also very clear indicators about enhanced support services to youth within the parliamentary agreement.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Minister, have you received any indication from youth service providers that they have seen an increase in the number of young people dropping in since the closure of some youth centres?

MS BURCH: I have not got the details of the numbers that have moved in and out over the last 12 months, but I will recall some of the youth drop-in centres had numbers of three in a week. It really did not make any sense for those services to continue to remain open, because clearly there were other programs that could have been more connective to young people in those areas.

As I have said, we have gone through a serious significant shift in this area. There have been problems, and I accept there were some problems with the implementation in the very early phases, but since we have worked through the first 12 months of operation there has been no comeback to me to say that there are significant and fundamental flaws. And when you have groups such as the PCYC delivering the programs they do for young people, and the strong outreach focus, I think it is hitting the mark and making a difference for young people.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Minister, what strategy does the government have in place to ensure other youth service providers are able to cope with the increased demand for services and space?

MS BURCH: I think the changes that we have put in place were to give some flexibility to service providers. There were options to have a response to the needs of young people that were bigger and broader than a youth drop-in centre. That was a bricks and mortar approach—particular afternoons and particular hours. Certainly, young people do not necessarily operate to those modes of hours, which is why we put these new changes into place. It was also in recognition that there is more work to do. That is why we made a commitment in youth services to enhance that and that is

why we have enhanced that again through the parliamentary agreement. That is in stark contrast, indeed, to what you or any of your party put forward to the community about supporting young people.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Gentleman.

MR GENTLEMAN: Minister, how important is it for the government to support programs or opportunities such as Youth Homelessness Matters Day?

MADAM SPEAKER: Sorry, could you repeat the question, Mr Gentleman?

MR GENTLEMAN: The question was: how important is it for the government to support opportunities such as Youth Homelessness Matters Day? The focus of the question is on youth.

Mr Wall: A point of order on relevance, Madam Speaker, the original question related to youth drop-in services.

MADAM SPEAKER: That is what I was thinking. It is a pretty tenuous link, but I think I will go with the youth on this occasion. I rule the question in order. Minister Burch.

MS BURCH: I thank Mr Gentleman for his question. Of course, as Mr Wall has recognised earlier in an adjournment debate, it is Youth Week this week, and I recognise that Mr Wall is also a youth homelessness matters ambassador. Well done to you, Mr Wall, for stepping up and taking on that role.

It is important that we support our youth across the city. It is important that we not only celebrate during Youth Week but also recognise that youth have a role in our future—indeed, they are our future. The youth of Canberra today will be those sitting in here in the decades and years to come. So it is important that we support youth in their ambitions and provide services for those who are at risk but also for those who aspire to be high achievers in academia, in sport and in other fields.

But in regard to youth homelessness matters, it is important we support that because it is with a level of sadness for me personally and certainly as a member of our community that homelessness exists in Canberra, as it exists in every other city in this country. It is important that we work with the housing providers, the homelessness services and groups such as the Youth Coalition to raise awareness of youth homelessness and to make sure we do not take our eye off the ball and we do all we can on such matters.

Business—support

MR SMYTH: My question is to the Minister for Economic Development. Minister, the half-yearly update noted that Canberra BusinessPoint's one-to-many advisory services had decreased by 66.2 per cent. However, officials in your directorate, upon being advised of the source of this figure, commented:

Our experience is that it has actually increased substantially. So I am not sure where that comment has come from.

That is from the public accounts hearing. Minister, what is the correct status of this government program?

MR BARR: I understand you may have placed a question on notice in the annual report hearings in relation to this. I am fairly sure that answer has been provided. I do not have it in front of me—

MADAM SPEAKER: That question is on notice.

MR BARR: Indeed.

MADAM SPEAKER: These are questions without notice. You are being asked a question now.

MR BARR: Indeed. I am suggesting I may have already been asked a question and provided an answer. I will check that and provide information to Mr Smyth, hopefully today, in relation to that. I think it would be the second time he has asked the question. I may not have been able to provide an answer yet. I will check. I know the question has been asked and I will seek information and get back to the member.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, why is it that senior managers and yourself were not aware of the figures published in the government's half-yearly update?

MR BARR: I do not think that that is in fact the case. I think it is a question of interpretation and some anecdotal evidence that you were putting forward, Mr Smyth.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mrs Jones.

MRS JONES: Minister, what will you be doing to ensure that senior managers in your directorate are aware of the performance of their programs, including yourself?

MR BARR: We are all doing our jobs, which is in contrast to those opposite.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, Mr Hanson! Dr Bourke has the floor. A supplementary question.

DR BOURKE: Minister, what benefits does this program bring to the ACT?

MR BARR: Significant benefits.

Municipal services—Fadden

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services. Minister, on 15 March I received a response to my letter which asked you to ensure footpath repairs were undertaken on Bramston Street in the suburb of Fadden. Your response stated:

These repairs should be completed by the time you receive this letter—weather permitting ...

Minister, as the repairs had not been commenced as of this morning and the weather has been fine over the past few weeks, are you now following in the footsteps of your predecessor and making promises that you are unable to deliver?

MR RATTENBURY: Mr Wall, I will check on that matter for you and provide you with an update.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: What other footpath repair programs are also running behind schedule?

MR RATTENBURY: None that I am aware of.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Minister, is it your practice to advise MLAs when they write to you when footpaths will be repaired?

MR RATTENBURY: Yes, it is. I seek, with assistance from the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, to provide as much information to members as possible. Members across the chamber will know that they send various requests through at times. Some of them we are able to action immediately because they are either the ones that are dangerous or that are presenting an immediate risk. They are dealt with as quickly as possible. That is whether it is footpaths, dangerous trees, litter—these sorts of things.

Some things take a little longer as they go into the program. But all of my responses seek to provide members with as accurate an update as possible. Clearly in the case that Mr Wall has described, something has not been delivered as quickly as intended. I will look into that matter and find out why it has not happened.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Seselja.

MR SESELJA: When will the repairs to the footpath on Bramston Street be undertaken?

MR RATTENBURY: I believe I just answered that. I will look into it and I will provide Mr Wall with an update.

Economy—trade mission

MS BERRY: My question is to the Minister for Economic Development. Could the minister update the Assembly on the purpose of his upcoming trade mission commencing on 20 April?

Opposition members interjecting—

MR BARR: I thank Ms Berry for the question and for the obvious interest that we are seeing from those opposite. I am pleased to advise those who are interested that I will be leading the ACT government's first-ever trade mission to Indonesia between 20 and 24 April. As I am sure members are aware, Australia and Indonesia are indeed significant neighbours with strong links that encompass political, security, commercial, environmental, cultural and people-to-people connections. As national capitals, the cities of Jakarta and Canberra are well placed to take the lead in nurturing and sustaining this relationship.

This mission will provide a unique opportunity for ACT businesses and our significant international education institutions to explore opportunities to build longer term economic relations with Indonesia. I am pleased to advise there has been a great response to this trade development opportunity. In fact we have a record number of ACT businesses taking part in the trip. The trade mission will build on this, and is themed around the ACT's significant competitive strengths in the areas of international education, knowledge intensive business services, ICT services and public administration.

The Indonesian trade mission has been proposed for some time by industry, and I am pleased to advise it has the extensive support of the International Business Taskforce of the Canberra Business Council, the ACT branch of the Australia Indonesian Business Council, and the ACT Exporters Network. Austrade has been engaged as a mission partner to provide in-market support and business matching for mission participants.

In the 2011-12 fiscal year, Australia's two-way trade with Indonesia approached \$15 billion and is achieving growth rates of approaching 10 per cent per annum. Indonesia is our fourth largest trading partner in ASEAN and the 12th largest trading partner overall for Australia. Indonesian investment in Australia has been increasing by more than 10 per cent per annum and in 2011 achieved a \$454 million investment figure.

These are indeed impressive statistics but there is no doubt there is considerable potential to grow this market. In particular, the ACT can take advantage of the size, proximity and complementarities of our economies to increase bilateral trade and investment. As much as the trade mission is designed to help boost ties and business between the ACT and Indonesia, the mission is also a broad way of telling a major international economic player that the ACT is open for business and that our businesses are thinking and acting globally.

I will also be using this opportunity to visit Singapore to progress tourism investment and international flight discussions.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Berry.

MS BERRY: How many businesses will be joining you on this mission?

MR BARR: Fifteen ACT companies have been approved to participate in the mission. This is a record number for an ACT trade mission. In addition, the ACT's significant international education providers, including the University of Canberra, the ANU, the Australian Catholic University and the CIT, will also be on the trade mission. The participants for the mission are drawn from industry organisations with expertise in education services, knowledge intensive business services, ICT services and capacity building around governance, projects and infrastructure. The mission will provide a unique and facilitated opportunity for ACT businesses and educational institutions to explore opportunities to build long-term economic relations in Indonesia.

Clearly, the trade mission is playing to the ACT's key strengths. I take this opportunity to commend all of the businesses and education institutions for joining this trade mission. Partnering with Asian firms, investing in Asia or doing business with foreign investors takes a lot of time and effort. There is no doubt that the rewards for these ACT companies and education institutes will be substantial.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Gentleman.

MR GENTLEMAN: Minister, what are the key objectives you are looking for from your visit to Singapore?

MR BARR: After visiting Jakarta, as I have indicated, I will be visiting Singapore. There are already considerable economic ties between Singapore and the ACT. In the lead-up to this trip, I have been delighted with the positive feedback the government has been receiving about the importance of this relationship. We will be building on those linkages in this upcoming trip. In Singapore I will be meeting with the Singapore government, tourism authorities and Singapore airport.

Arising out of the Aviation Taskforce, I will be discussing the potential for direct flights between Canberra and Singapore. With Canberra businesses exporting more and more to Asia, the economic and business linkages between the ACT and the south-east Asian region are growing. And with our educational institutions attracting increasing numbers of students from Asia, direct international flights would be a great addition for the territory, helping to enrich and expand the linkages between this region and south-east Asia.

Also in Singapore, I will be attending an InvestACT event, hosted by the Australian high commissioner, to help further boost ties between our business sectors and to promote the ACT as a great place for international investment.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Minister, how were the business representatives selected to go on the trip with you?

MR BARR: There is, of course, a selection criterion process associated with the mission. The key objectives, as I have outlined, are that businesses need to be in a position to take advantage of those key trade missions. The ACT Exporters Network and the Canberra Business Council have been actively involved in working with mission participants.

As I indicated in my earlier response, there has actually been a strong call from the ACT business community for a trade mission to Indonesia, and we are very pleased to be able to work with the Exporters Network, the Canberra Business Council, the Australia Indonesia Business Council and, indeed, our education institutions who have all expressed a strong desire to be involved in this mission.

Sport—community facilities

MR DOSZPOT: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation. Minister, a commentary in this week's *City News* quotes you as saying in respect of the promise in last year's election campaign to build a south side synthetic athletics track to stage major sporting events that:

... the site for the new facility hasn't been decided and it was never the plan to build a facility that would replace the AIS as the venue for major track and field events in Canberra.

Minister, when did you conclude that Woden is not confirmed as the site for the south side synthetic athletics track and that the facility will not be an elite facility for grand prix events?

MR BARR: I have never not confirmed that Woden would be the site. We undertook in our election commitments that we would investigate a south side synthetic track. We have undertaken an analysis and looked at five different options. The best option is Woden, and I have never said that it would be a replacement for the AIS facility in Bruce.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: I seek some guidance, Madam Speaker. My question was not directly answered. There were a couple of other facets to that as to when I asked about grand prix events. The minister did not answer that at all.

MADAM SPEAKER: The minister is supposed to be concise and directly relevant. If you feel that you have not been answered, you do have a supplementary question.

MR DOSZPOT: I have a supplementary question, which I would like to use as a supplementary question. I ask the direct question—

MADAM SPEAKER: Them's the breaks, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Okay. Minister, if Woden has not been determined as the chosen site, why did you advise athletic representatives that it was and that a tender was about to be awarded, and why did you advise Woden football club that they would need to re-locate their scheduled winter matches at Woden from June of this year?

MR BARR: I think Mr Doszpot is confused. I have been very clear that we had a process to assess five different sites and that process determined Woden as the preferred location. Woden is the preferred location. We are going ahead with that project. But construction will not commence on that site until the conclusion of the football season. There will be no disruption for football at that venue this season.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Minister, what is the proposed budget for this facility?

MR BARR: Around \$5 million.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Can you confirm that this facility will be an elite facility for grand prix events?

MR BARR: No. It will be an elite facility, but will not be for grand prix events.

Education—teachers

MS PORTER: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, last week was the cut-off date for teachers to be registered with the Teacher Quality Institute. How many teachers have been registered through the process and how does having teachers registered through TQI improve the education outcomes for ACT students?

MS BURCH: I thank Ms Porter for her question. I can advise that 7,142 teachers have just completed the renewal of their professional registration with the Teacher Quality Institute. With the additional 226 teachers who commenced teaching in the ACT this year, this makes a total of 7,368 teachers registered to work in ACT schools.

The ACT government established the Teacher Quality Institute to build the professional standing of all teachers in the territory through a registration requirement that recognises them as members of a profession, not just as employees of a school or education system. These requirements apply across all sectors of school education in the ACT—government, Catholic and independent. As the institute has been established as part of the ACT implementation of the teacher quality national partnership, its registration requirements align with the Australian national framework for the regulation of the teaching profession.

The registration of teachers is now a legal requirement in all Australian states and territories, as well as in New Zealand. The benefits of this regulatory framework will flow not only to members of the profession but to the community at large. In establishing the Teacher Quality Institute, the ACT government has successfully strengthened the foundations for improvement in the quality of the teaching profession across all schools in the territory. The Teacher Quality Institute has responsibility for the promotion and encouragement of improved levels of skill, expertise and professionalism of teachers.

The key factor in improving education for our students is teacher quality. Through their maintenance of professional registration teachers must now account for ongoing professional learning, work within the framework of professional standards and maintain professional conduct. This ensures that they work as a quality teacher so that their students receive quality education. The registration of teachers is also an assurance to the community that teaching in all ACT schools is being provided in a professional and competent way by approved teachers. The results of this professional registration and ongoing professional development continue to show through in survey after survey, confirming the high standard of education in the ACT and this government's approach to delivering quality education.

Whilst I am talking about quality teachers, I refer members to an article in the *Canberra Times* today. It referred to a report showing the high level of confidence ACT parents have in the quality of our schools. The report shows that, unlike in other states, Canberra parents are choosing government schools because they have high confidence in the quality of the education they receive. This confidence is born out in part because the government has put in place policies that ensure that being a teacher means more than simply standing in front of a class, but is a profession built on years of experience and learning.

Policies that reward our great teachers, that provide space for ongoing professional development and creating the TQI are all providing families confidence that the education of their child is not only the best in the country but also well placed internationally.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Porter.

MS PORTER: Minister, how has the Teacher Quality Institute been received by the education sector in the ACT—both government and non-government schools?

MS BURCH: The Teacher Quality Institute has just commenced its third year of operation. Since its commencement it has been successful in achieving positive working relationships and a high degree of collaboration with all sectors of school education in the ACT—government, independent and Catholic systems.

This partnership approach has supported the smooth introduction of teacher registration in the territory and a productive cross-sectoral focus on teacher quality. It underlines the fact that the government supports quality education for all children in all our schools, whether government or non-government. There has been a high

degree of compliance with the regulatory requirements of the legislation and a strong commitment from ACT principals and other stakeholders to the opportunities provided for cross-sectoral professional engagement.

The TQI has focused on an integrated approach to the improvement of teacher quality against professional standards. This ACT cross-sectoral approach to standards implementation has been recognised as best practice at a national level and is guiding the development of national standards processes.

The principals and governance bodies of both government and non-government schools know that the professional registration of teachers is not simply a regulatory exercise but an opportunity to learn from each other and provide the best experience and learning outcomes for all Canberra students regardless of the school which they attend.

I would like to pay recognition to the great crew out at TQI, because as I move across schools, I have unanimous support for the work that they do, both from principals of government schools and from the Catholic and independent schools. So well done to the crew at TQI.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Minister, what is the retention rate of newly qualified teachers in the ACT in the early years of their career, and how does this compare with other jurisdictions?

MS BURCH: As I understand it, I think we have a good retention rate of teachers here, and I think it is borne out by the programs that we have here to support. We have got a Teacher Quality Institute that has a clear focus on providing cross-sectoral support to teachers. We have strong support to professional development of our teachers here. As I understand—and I cannot talk for the Catholic or the independent systems—we have a very strong education system here that no doubt is reflected—

Mr Wall: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, it was a very simple question. What is the retention rate of newly qualified teachers in the ACT and the comparison to other jurisdictions? The minister has failed to articulate what that might be.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister Burch, standing orders require you to be directly relevant. Could you come to the answer to the question.

MS BURCH: As I said in my comments, I do not have that information in front of me, and I am not quite sure if Mr Wall is asking me to refer to the independents or the Catholics as well. But I think it is important that we pay attention to and recognise the work that we do here across the sectors to support our teachers.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, members! Dr Bourke has the floor.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, members! Mrs Jones. Mr Doszpot. Mr Coe. Dr Bourke has the floor.

DR BOURKE: Minister, what work does the TQI do in promoting ongoing professional development?

Mr Doszpot interjecting—

MS BURCH: Thank you, Mr Doszpot, for your continued interjection, and I draw that interjection to the attention of Madam Speaker.

ACT teachers are required to participate in ongoing professional learning as part of the maintenance of their registration. The Teacher Quality Institute provides a wide range of professional workshops for ACT teachers—

Members interjecting—

Dr Bourke: Madam Speaker—

MADAM SPEAKER: Sorry, I know where you are going, Dr Bourke. Mr Coe, sorry, that is being quite disruptive. I cannot hear Minister Burch. If you want to talk about Mr Barr's birthday you can do that some other place.

Mr Coe: In Lismore, perhaps.

MADAM SPEAKER: And we will not be having any more “dissing” of Lismore.

Mr Coe: Madam Speaker, I was hoping you would actually take a point of order earlier as to your recollections of Lismore in the 70s.

MADAM SPEAKER: That is highly disorderly, Mr Coe, as, too, would have been my interjecting on the subject. Ms Burch has the floor. Sorry, I should have stopped the clock.

MS BURCH: I do have the floor, and due to your interchange with members opposite my time has been ticking down, Madam Speaker. Can I say in the time I have left that the TQI has led a number of national projects with the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership aimed at promoting ongoing professional development within the framework of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

Members may be interested—or may not—to hear that next week an online professional learning module developed by the TQI will be launched nationally by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership.

ACTION bus service—Weston Creek

MRS JONES: My question is to the minister for transport. Minister, many constituents within the Weston Creek community—

Mr Corbell: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Sorry, Mrs Jones. We do not have a minister for transport.

MRS JONES: I apologise.

MADAM SPEAKER: To whom are you directing the question?

MRS JONES: My question is to the Minister for TAMS. Correct?

MADAM SPEAKER: Territory and Municipal Services maybe.

MRS JONES: Correct. Thank you; I am still learning.

Mr Coe: To her favourite minister.

MRS JONES: To my favourite minister: many constituents within the Weston Creek community tell me that they are deterred from using ACTION buses as they always need to travel via Woden or Civic. Minister, why are there no direct services from Cooleman Court to Belconnen or Tuggeranong?

MR RATTENBURY: I cannot offer you the historical reasons for that, Mrs Jones, although I am aware of those frustrations. What I can tell you is that we are currently in the process of starting to design a new network for ACTION, and there will be a level of community consultation. Members of the public have been and will be further invited to make suggestions about improvements in the network. That will be looking at issues of frequency, the current routes and whether further routes should be added. It is certainly my hope that we can improve bus services to Weston Creek so that people in that community have a more reliable, better service to get them to the places they need to go to.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mrs Jones.

MRS JONES: Can the minister commit to putting a high priority on direct services from Weston Creek to Belconnen and Tuggeranong as a part of the new consultation and the design of the new network?

MR RATTENBURY: We are not to the stage yet where we are able to confirm what services will or will not be offered as part of the new network. As I said earlier, I am aware of the concerns expressed by residents of Weston Creek—or their desire for improved services. We are, of course, receiving requests from numerous parts of Canberra for new and additional services. I will be working with ACTION—

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, members!

MR RATTENBURY: to do the best job we can to provide the best coverage with the highest frequency that we are able to within the constraints of the available resources.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Minister, what community feedback has the government received on bus services in Weston Creek? As minister for TAMS, are you going to be able to deliver 15-minute intervals for bus services?

MR RATTENBURY: I am not able to detail at this point all the specific feedback that ACTION has received, or TAMS for that matter, about bus services in Weston Creek. We have a number of channels for receiving feedback, as I am sure members are aware, whether it is Twitter, the various access points such as Canberra Connect, or feedback from ACT government websites. So there is a whole range of possible feedback. Some of them will be quite specific about individual bus services not arriving—unfortunately that does happen from time to time, and members of the public do express their frustration about that—through to general observations around bus stops needing perhaps an upgrade, people seeking footpaths to bus stops, through to suggestions about route improvements. So there is a whole range of feedback that we do receive. I can give you a general flavour of it. I obviously do not have the specifics to mind.

The second half of your question was about frequency. As I said in response to Mrs Jones's question, we are currently working on the network to look at what improvements can be made. I will be making announcements about that in the future.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Minister, what is the public transport plan for Weston Creek as Molonglo continues to develop, and will this be incorporated in network 2013?

MR RATTENBURY: As I just indicated in my last answer, where the work is still being done, there is no definitive plan at this point in time. That said, I am keen to see park-and-ride facilities in Weston Creek. I think this is an opportunity to assist people with not having to drive all the way to the city.

Members on your side of the chamber often raise the issue of the necessity of parents, particularly—and it is something that I am well aware of—to perhaps drop one child at preschool and another child at school and then go and get public transport. If we can do something like putting a park-and-ride facility on Cotter Road, parents would have the ability to do various things within Weston Creek, perhaps then park on Cotter Road and take a bus directly to the city, which can help avoid congestion on some key arterial routes such as Cotter Road, Adelaide Avenue or the Tuggeranong Parkway and Parkes Way. That is one area.

In other areas we need to ensure that we get bus services provided into the new suburbs of Molonglo as early as we can. As the populations arrive, we want them to have options for access to public transport as soon as possible. Again, the provision of a park-and-ride service, perhaps at the edge of the Weston Creek area, is also an option there in the short term while the population numbers remain low. It may be that the population numbers are not yet viable to sustain a full ACTION service. It may be that we run peak-time services and look at various options like that. That is work that is still in development but it is something that I am very conscious of.

Planning—Kambah group centre

MR GENTLEMAN: My question is to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development. Minister, I note that there is a draft variation to the territory plan currently on public notification relating to the Kambah group centre. Could you provide the Assembly with some details on that variation?

MR CORBELL: I thank Mr Gentleman for his question and for his interest in the Kambah group centre. Yes, the government is proceeding—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, members! Mr Seselja and Mrs Jones, order!

MR CORBELL: with a new draft variation to the territory plan, draft variation 317, that implements the zoning changes that arise out of the master plan for the Kambah group centre. I thank my Tuggeranong colleagues, in particular Mr Gentleman, but also my ministerial colleague Ms Burch, for their very strong interest in the planning process at the Kambah group centre.

The changes that are outlined in the draft variation are designed to address a number of zoning requirements that will be needed as a result of the master plan. These include recognising that the group centre currently has three separate commercial areas divided by roads and open space. The core area on the corner of Drakeford Drive and Marconi Crescent is currently zoned CZ1, commercial core. The service station to the north and the line of commercial blocks to the east are zoned C3, services zone, and the stormwater swale is currently zoned as PRZ1, urban open space.

The proposed zoning changes include the land adjoining the stormwater swale. It will be rezoned from urban open space to core zone commercial to allow for the reconfiguration of car parking and a road extension to Primmer Court. The blocks fronting Kett Street are to be changed from services zone to business zone to limit lower order commercial or industrial uses that may have an impact on future housing development.

These are important changes to strengthen the village feel and facilitate the other outcomes outlined in the master plan. These include providing better parking to the area immediately east of the group centre. They are also about facilitating more

residential development close to the group centre whilst still retaining the unique village feel of the Kambah group centre, a feel and atmosphere which is highly valued by residents, which the master plan has sought to protect and which will be embedded in these changes to the territory plan if they proceed to a final variation.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Gentleman.

MR GENTLEMAN: Minister, how will local residents benefit from the changes proposed in the draft variation?

MR CORBELL: Again, I thank Mr Gentleman for his question. Residents will benefit in a number of ways. As I mentioned, the rezoning allows, for example, for the changes to be made to create the new entrance to the village centre from the east, with dedicated on-street parking available on the eastern side of the village centre. This will allow people to enjoy the courtyard of the village centre at Kambah but at the same time have a better connection into the heart of the village centre.

It will also, in time, allow for the potential expansion of the supermarket at Kambah. I know that is a matter that is of interest to residents. The potential expansion of the existing supermarket there will provide a better retail offer for people who live in that area and use the Kambah Village centre. Finally, the rezoning changes mean that, with any residential development that occurs down the track in the area around the group centre, as we continue to encourage over time more people to live closer to retail facilities, they will not be impacted on by adverse uses that are currently allowed for under the territory plan.

These are very important changes and I am looking forward to hearing the public comment in response to this proposal.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Berry.

MS BERRY: Minister, what happens next in the planning process?

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Berry, would you like to rephrase that so that it relates to the material that we have currently been dealing with?

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, Mr Hanson! Ms Berry, would you like to rephrase the question?

Mr Seselja interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Seselja.

MS BERRY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. What happens next in this planning process?

MR CORBELL: I thank Ms Berry for the question. The next stage is for public comment to occur in relation to the draft variation. I look forward to hearing feedback

from residents and interested MLAs. Given all the comments opposite, I am surprised that Mr Smyth has not made his submission already in relation to the draft variation. Perhaps he will; perhaps he will surprise us. Of course, if he has not lodged one now and he does lodge one in future I will take it that is because I have prompted him to do so.

The other steps that will happen in the planning include, of course, the application of interim effect. Draft variation 317 does now have interim effect. That ensures that any proposed changes that are lodged prior to the completion of the territory plan variation process must be consistent with the proposed changes. That is very important. Of course, residents and other interested individuals or organisations have until 20 May to make a comment or suggestion or provide other feedback in relation to the draft variation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Minister, can you confirm what instigated this master planning process? In fact, was it a resolution of this Assembly based on a motion from Mr Smyth?

MR CORBELL: I think it would be fair to say that what really instigated this process were the views and interests of the people of Kambah and Tuggeranong, who were expressing a view about this. I must say that the only real representations I had from members in this place when the master planning process got underway were from my colleagues Ms Burch and Mr Gentleman. I have not had anything from Mr Smyth.

Ms Gallagher: I ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper.

Answer to question on notice

Question No 76

MR COE: Madam Speaker, under standing order 118A I seek an explanation as to why question No 76, which I enquired about on Tuesday, still has not been answered in spite of the response on Tuesday being that I would receive it yesterday.

MR RATTENBURY: As I undertook to Mr Coe on Tuesday, I did in fact receive the response to Mr Coe's question on Wednesday lunchtime. I signed it during the lunchbreak on Wednesday and submitted it before coming to question time. So beyond that I am unable to answer where it has got to, Mr Coe. But it was submitted before question time on Wednesday, as I undertook.

Supplementary answers to questions without notice

ACTEW Corporation Ltd—management

MS GALLAGHER: Yesterday in question time Mr Coe asked me around whether or not I would release or table the agenda for the ACTEW special general meeting to be held on Monday. I table the agenda now:

ACTEW Corporation Limited—General Meeting—15 April 2013—Copy of agenda.

ACTTAB—alleged fraud
Business—support
Sport—ground maintenance

MR BARR: In question time on Tuesday Mr Smyth asked me a question in relation to ACTTAB and the response to fraud investigations. I can advise that the AFP were requested to investigate the December 2010 and March 2012 fraud issues. Ernst & Young have been engaged to conduct internal investigations. ACTTAB has adopted control measures in result of those particular investigations. Ernst & Young have undertaken a data analytics audit of ACTTAB's primary computer systems to provide the board with additional assurance on the integrity of ACTTAB's data systems, and all recommendations relating to this audit review were immediately adopted by the board.

Mr Smyth asked me a question today in relation to business programs, and I said I recalled that being a question on notice. It was indeed. It was answered on 26 March. For Mr Smyth's benefit—he may have lost the answer—the one-to-many networking or group training activities did not achieve the level of attendance that was anticipated. However, the one-to-one client contacts, as I responded in my answer, remain strong and demand has been growing.

In relation to Mr Seselja's question on diesel, I have sought further information from sport and recreation services and am advised that it is regular practice around the country to use diesel; some councils add oxide to ensure that there is white within the diesel line marking, but this is standard practice across the country.

Municipal services—Fadden

MR RATTENBURY: Earlier today in question time Mr Wall asked me about a footpath in Bramston Street, Fadden. It seems there were two different matters addressed in the letter, and I will read the full paragraph. In my letter to Mr Wall, I said:

I am advised that an officer of Roads ACT has inspected the footpaths along Bramston Street and surrounding areas and identified two sections for immediate repair and eighteen sections for replacement. These repairs should be completed by the time you receive this letter, weather permitting. The replacement work has been scheduled for completion by August 2013.

I am advised that the repair work has been done. In fact it seems that the footpath was damaged again and, as it happens, Roads ACT has gone out this morning and repaired it again.

Papers

Madam Speaker presented the following paper:

ACT Legislative Assembly Secretariat—Annual Report 2011-2012—Erratum,
dated 10 April 2013.

Mr Corbell presented the following paper:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 242(2)—Schedule—
Leases granted for the period 1 January to 31 March 2013.

**Call-in powers—block 15 section 42 Griffith
Papers and statement by minister**

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development): For the information of members, I present the following papers:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 161(2)—Development
application No. 201222226—Block 15 Section 42 Griffith—

Statement regarding exercise of call-in powers.

Notice of Decision, dated 2 April 2013.

I ask leave to make a statement in relation to the papers.

Leave granted.

MR CORBELL: On 26 February this year, as Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development and under section 158 of the Planning and Development Act 2007, I directed the Planning and Land Authority to refer to me development application No 201222226. The development application sought approval for, among other things, the proposed redevelopment of block 15 section 42 Griffith into a multi-unit residential development and associated lease variation to permit the development.

On 2 April I decided to consider the development application and on the same day I decided to approve the application using my powers under section 162 of the Planning and Development Act 2007. In deciding the application, I gave careful consideration to the requirements of the territory plan and the advice of the Environment Protection Authority, the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, the ESA, ActewAGL, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, the ACT Heritage Council and the transport planning section and land and infrastructure planning section of the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, as required by the legislation and the Planning and Land Authority.

I also gave consideration to the representations received by the authority during the public notification period for the development application that occurred in October and November last year and to the response to those submissions by the development proponent.

I have decided to impose conditions on the approval of the development application that requires, among other things: environmental assessment and remediation;

stormwater management; sediment and erosion control; tree protection, particularly in relation to the trees on the adjoining Griffith oval; off-site works including additional footpaths and flood signage; verge management; and temporary traffic management.

The Planning and Development Act provides for specific criteria in relation to the exercise of the call-in power. I have used my powers in this instance because I consider the proposal will provide a substantial public benefit, particularly to the broader south Canberra community with the provision of adaptable housing to meet the changing needs of the community. The proposal will also have a substantial effect on the achievement of the object of the territory plan and objectives for the RZ4 medium density residential zone.

It is worth recalling the democratic process that resulted in the creation of the current planning policies for this site. On 18 May last year the zone for the site was changed from the commercial CZ6 leisure and accommodation zone to the RZ4 medium density residential zone to allow for medium density housing up to three storeys in height. This was preceded by a seven-week community consultation process for draft variation 307, as it then was, and the consideration of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services, which unanimously recommended the rezoning of the site, subject to a range of conditions. The government accepted those recommendations and the conditions.

This development is the result of a democratic process and delivers the clear policy objectives as prescribed by the variation approved by this place to the territory plan. Of particular note: 100 percent of the dwellings are designed to meet the relevant Australian standard for adaptable housing. The development retains the significant trees located around the perimeter of the site, and the development is well set back from the floodway to the north.

The use of my powers in this instance will also enable the timely commencement and completion of the proposed development by the Brumbies, assisting them to fulfil their plans to relocate their facilities to the University of Canberra.

Section 161(2) of the Planning and Development Act specifies that, if I decide an application, I must table a statement in the Assembly not later than three sitting days after the day of the decision. As required by that legislation, I have tabled that statement today, providing a description of the development, details of the land on which the development is proposed to take place, the name of the applicant, the details of my decision for the application and the reasons for the decision.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body—report Paper and statement by minister

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Housing, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Ageing) (3.45): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body—Third Report to the ACT Government—Government response.

I ask leave to make a statement in relation to the paper.

Leave granted.

MR RATTENBURY: Firstly, in the context of this speech, I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. I respect their continuing culture and cherish the contribution they make to the life of our city and our region. I am pleased and proud today to stand in the Legislative Assembly, as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, to table the ACT government response to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body's third report to the ACT government.

The elected body was established in 2008 under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008 to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT with a democratically elected voice. The elected body monitors and reports on the provision of services and programs delivered by government directorates and the outcomes achieved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT.

In May 2011, after the election of the current members of the elected body, an estimates style hearing process was held in the Assembly on 12 and 13 December. As part of that process, director-generals from across the ACT public service presented evidence supporting their respective directorates' spending and decision making in relation to service and program delivery to members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. A massive amount of information was gathered, analysed and collated following the hearings.

On 16 January this year I was delighted to receive the third report in the elected body's history, coming out of this hearings process. That report contains 24 recommendations.

I would also like to outline that, since the 2011 hearings, the elected body has finalised the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community priorities plan 2012-17, as well as developed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body strategic plan 2012-13. Both of these documents were informed by the 2011 elected body estimates hearings and subsequent community consultations.

The elected body have framed their recommendations and report around the Council of Australian Governments "closing the gap" building blocks that underpin reforms nationally. These building blocks are early childhood, schooling, health, economic participation, healthy homes, safe communities and governance and leadership.

The ACT government is committed to closing the gap in disadvantage between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people in our city. While many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans achieve much better life outcomes than elsewhere in Australia, we are determined to address and to measure progress in the significant areas of disadvantage where it persists in the ACT.

This, of course, requires concerted and sustained effort, the harnessing of available resources and remaining focused on a long-term generational commitment that will utilise the considerable expertise that exists within the ACT across all the building blocks. The ACT government's formal response to this third report to the ACT government commits all ACT government agencies to provide full and effective support to the elected body.

While there are 24 recommendations, the elected body has prioritised four initiatives it would like to progress in partnership with the ACT government in the remaining 15 months of its current term. These priorities include: firstly, the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged-care and respite facility in Canberra; secondly, housing and accommodation support for the aged and disabled in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community; thirdly, an independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled child welfare organisation; and, finally, an ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stand-alone legal service.

An ACT government election commitment will ensure respite, accommodation and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with high support needs, including the aged and those with a disability, under the broader commitment of housing the most vulnerable in our community. This initiative will see the provision of specific, culturally appropriate respite accommodation at one site to cater for the elderly, the infirm and people with a disability in the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It is acknowledged that there is a need for a dedicated service that deals with the particular issues that older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are facing.

Currently the ACT Community Services and Health directorates are working with the elected body to develop independent living and low care options. The Community Services Directorate is currently working with its New South Wales counterpart and the Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat in New South Wales to develop a regional Aboriginal child-care agency with a deep focus on child welfare. This model is currently being developed by New South Wales in partnership with Anglicare and a Queanbeyan-based Aboriginal corporation.

Finally, in terms of boosting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services, the parliamentary agreement for the Eighth Legislative Assembly provides an additional \$100,000 per annum to Aboriginal legal services. The provision of Aboriginal legal services is essentially the responsibility of the commonwealth government. However, the ACT government will continue to influence the Australian government in the establishment of a dedicated ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal service.

What this report, and the ACT government's response to it, essentially shows is that we are progressing work on reducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage through our partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body. Together, we are focused on pursuing equitable outcomes for members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It is about ensuring the progress that we are making in closing the gap on life outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans and other Canberrans is focused, direct and, most importantly, effective.

I formally commend and present the ACT government response to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body's third report to the ACT government to the Assembly and the community.

Economy—major events

Discussion of matter of public importance

MR ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Gentleman): The Speaker has received letters from Ms Berry, Dr Bourke, Mr Coe, Mr Doszpot, Mr Gentleman, Mr Hanson, Mrs Jones, Mr Seselja, Mr Smyth and Mr Wall proposing that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly. In accordance with standing order 79, the Speaker has determined that the matter proposed by Ms Berry be submitted to the Assembly, namely:

The importance of major events to the ACT economy.

MS BERRY (Ginninderra) (3.52): Hosting major events is becoming increasingly important to governments and cities around Australia. Through hosting and staging major events, an opportunity exists for government to create lasting legacies that provide Canberra with an improved public image, increased reputation across Australia, community pride and long-term economic development.

The ACT government's positive and active role has helped to attract major events to Canberra in a number of ways. One successful initiative from the ACT government is the special event fund. The fund, administered by Australian Capital Tourism, is a contestable, cooperative fund aimed at major attractions, cultural institutions, event organisations, event promoters, businesses, companies or associations. Minimum funding that can be requested from the special event fund is \$200,000 with a maximum request of \$500,000. All requests have to be matched with dollar for dollar support by the applicant, or by a sponsor of the applicant. Events supported by the fund have provided a significant return on investment to the ACT economy.

The National Gallery of Australia's *Renaissance* exhibition of some 70 masterpieces was exclusive to Canberra and recorded a total attendance of 213,000. Out of the total visitors who came to the exhibition, 80 per cent of those who attended were from interstate. Of those interstate visitors, 81 per cent travelled to Canberra specifically for the exhibition. The average length of stay for interstate visitors was 2.75 nights and the average spend per night per person was \$243. The NGA estimated that the total contribution to the ACT economy was about \$75 million.

The National Library of Australia's *Handwritten* exhibition of rare manuscripts spanning 10 centuries of human endeavour recorded a total attendance of 73,000. Forty-nine per cent of those who attended were from interstate, and 85 per cent of these interstate visitors stayed overnight. The average length of stay for interstate visitors was 3.8 nights and the average spend per night per person was \$154. The NLA estimated that the total contribution to the ACT economy was about \$18.6 million.

The NGA's *Toulouse-Lautrec: Paris & the Moulin Rouge* featured 120 works from more than 35 international collections. The exhibition recorded a total attendance of 170,201 visitors, 80 per cent of those from interstate, and contributed an estimated \$37 million to the ACT economy.

Since 2009 the ACT government has invested \$1.7 million in four blockbuster events. These exhibitions have delivered a combined economic impact to the ACT of over \$220 million, comprising \$94 million from *Masterpieces from Paris*, \$75 million from *Renaissance*, \$37 million from *Toulouse-Lautrec*, and \$18.6 million from *Handwritten*.

In addition, the National Gallery's *Turner from the Tate: the Making of a Master*, an international event supported through the special event fund, will show in Canberra this winter. The exhibition will draw from the Tate's extensive collection of Turner's work and will consist of 45 finished oil paintings, with a complement of 70 works on paper, including watercolours and sketches.

The exhibition will run throughout this coming winter, which is traditionally a lower visitation period, providing another significant reason to visit Canberra during its centenary year. The NGA estimate that the exhibition will attract in excess of 185,000 visitors, including 80 per cent from interstate and overseas, and achieve a minimum economic value of \$45 million for the ACT economy.

The ACT government has committed to continuing the \$1 million annual special event fund, to continue supporting major events that attract visitors to Canberra.

The ACT government is also responsible for delivering Canberra's best known and most highly acclaimed event. Floriade 2012 delivered the second biggest result since the introduction of turnstiles in 1999, in terms of both economic return to the ACT and overall attendance figures.

The total attendance figure for Floriade 2012 was 442,243—a 7.3 per cent increase on the 2011 figure of 412,024. The event recorded its highest ever attendance for a single day as well as the highest attendance over one weekend, with 35,200 and 87,299 visitors respectively.

The staging of the 2012 event generated additional direct expenditure in the ACT totalling \$27.6 million. This represents the second largest economic contribution to the region as a result of the event, adding \$40.4 million to the overall gross territory product.

A total of 122,759 interstate and international visitors, based on individual visits, came to Canberra specifically to attend Floriade or to extend their stay because of it. Of that total, about 56 per cent of visitors stayed for one or more nights in the ACT and visitors stayed for an average of 2.9 nights.

Floriade, and its night-time counterpart NightFest, took out the number one spot in the recent “Like Canberra” campaign. Almost 135,000 votes were cast in the “Like Canberra” online campaign to find the top 100 reasons why people enjoy living in the ACT.

This year’s Enlighten festival, staged from 1 to 9 March, continued its renewed focus on national attractions and was a centrepiece for the centenary celebrations. This year’s event featured late-night openings at 15 attractions, spectacular architectural projections and entertainment precincts within Canberra’s parliamentary triangle.

Enlighten added an array of night-time activities to Canberra’s birthday celebrations, providing a spectacular new perspective on some of Australia’s most famous attractions with fun and memorable experiences.

The evaluation report for the event is yet to be finalised. However, early results indicate that record crowds were achieved. Enlighten continues to grow in stature and is emerging as the backbone of a future major cultural event.

The National Multicultural Festival is another major event that boosts the ACT economy both directly, through visitor spending with local businesses and tourism, and indirectly, through the promotion of the ACT as a multicultural hub and preferred destination for international visitors and students.

The event attracts tens of thousands of attendees from Canberra and the local region, and in addition about 10,000 visitors stayed in Canberra and attended the festival. These visitors stayed for an average of nine nights. For interstate and international visitors who came to Canberra and attended the festival, the total expenditure is estimated at approximately \$2.1 million.

Over the last couple of years, the National Multicultural Festival has built up a positive brand presence, both nationally and internationally, through social media and word of mouth. Social media marketing has led to the National Multicultural Festival management team being approached by other Australian jurisdictions and international representatives keen to re-create the success of the festival elsewhere.

The National Multicultural Festival also works with international students to provide volunteer interpreting services. These international students then share their positive experience with friends and families, both in Australia and in their countries of origin.

While often not recognised as major contributors, amateur sport championships often provide huge boosts to our tourism industry. With participants and their entourages travelling from across Australia and overseas to compete, these events provide a boost to our restaurants, hotels, shops and attractions.

This year there are dozens of these events occurring in Canberra, and I would like to name a few. The Australian Masters Athletics Championships, held over Easter, attracted 640 participants, including 500 from interstate. The Australian Masters

Rowing Championships, which will have 900 participants, will be held from 25 to 28 April. The Australian Little Athletics Championships, which will have 200 participants—175 from interstate—will be held on 28 April. The Special Olympics Centenary Games, with 580 participants, coaches, carers and family members—522 from interstate and overseas—was held from 5 to 8 April. The Australian Futsal Championships in January 2013 had about 620 interstate participants staying in the ACT for five nights. The Kanga Cup is expected to attract several thousand people from overseas and interstate. And this weekend about 6,000 participants will take part in the Australian Running Festival, with 60 per cent of those coming from outside the ACT.

In addition, Sportenary is offering 100 community events over 50 weeks of this centenary year to showcase a diversity of sport and recreation activities, facilities and local attractions throughout the ACT to help get Canberrans off the bench and start participating in sport. Sportenary activities engage our many community organisations and elite sporting teams, bringing into play our local sportsgrounds, beautiful lakes and abundant nature parks.

As a catalyst for change, major events can elevate our city's national and global stature and accelerate its economic and social development. Events allow host cities the chance to accelerate infrastructure development, improve public image and foster collaboration between the public sector, the private sector and community organisations. For these reasons, the ACT government is continuing with its strategy to invest in infrastructure and support the hosting and delivering of major sporting and cultural events for Canberra.

MR SMYTH (Brindabella) (4.04): I thank Ms Berry for putting this issue down as a matter of public importance. It certainly is, but I think it is worthy of deeper analysis than just simply reading a list of “we have had these events and these people have attended”. You have to ask the question: what is the purpose and what does it bring to the community and, more importantly, what does it leave in the community? As a number of people have noted over time, often blockbusters do not make money for the organisation that puts them on—hence the need for sponsorship; we all understand that—but what is the impact on the local community? I will read part of an article from Michaela Boland, the national arts writer from the *Weekend Australian*, on 6 April. Michaela says:

ANU art history professor Sasha Grishin has seen the budgets and costings of some of the recent major art exhibitions. He says they often operate at a loss, but they are umbrella events around which merchandising and hotel rooms are sold.

“The economy of blockbusters changed dramatically about five years ago, when the budgets blew out,” he says.

Grishin is partially referring to the Canberra gallery spending \$13.1m to organise, host and promote the Masterpieces show, which generated ticket sales worth just \$7.7m but an estimated \$94m fillip for the economy.

“Blockbusters quite frequently lose money; it's the ramifications for the broader local community that matter,” he says.

I would have hoped that that was the discussion that we might have had today about what are the broader ramifications for the community, not just recite a list. It is very easy to recite lists. It is important that we get the broader issues right. The broader issues cover things like amenity for the local residents and whether, when we hold a big sporting event at Manuka, there is adequate parking and indeed, afterwards, whether there are adequate tables and chairs and places at the cafes and restaurants and bars and pubs for the visitors. It is about how we maximise the return.

In the old retail sense, you might think of a blockbuster, if you are doing it in a strictly commercial sense, as a loss leader. You get them into the city but then you reap the benefit of having people in the city. Of course, there are cultural dividends from the blockbusters that one would find very hard to put a value on. The value of having access to that art, to see that art, to inspire the young, is tremendous and we should never discount that.

The real question that I think needs to be addressed in this MPI is this: are we actually getting the best out of the blockbusters? Can we do more? You can only see from this side of the chamber, for instance, the call for parking strategies around these events to make sure there is adequate parking and adequate services to back the events up so people do not go away saying, “The exhibition was great, but it was hard to get there. It was hard to park. We couldn’t get a booking at a restaurant. We couldn’t get a room in a hotel.”

These are the things that need to be addressed. These are the things that the government has ignored for a very long time. I think Ms Berry is quite right when she says that major events are important to our economy, but I do not think Ms Berry understands how her party gets it so wrong so often. That is why for about four of five years now we have been calling for the government to have an events strategy. A blockbuster fund, which is welcomed and which we have said is a good thing, is not a strategy. Where is the strategy to ensure that everyone gets the maximum flow-on effect that we can get from the blockbusters that the National Gallery stages? Where is the strategy to make sure that, for instance, the local arts community and the local arts providers—whether it be a local, privately owned gallery or indeed some of the facilities, for instance, at Bungendore—get the benefit? There was a public forum hosted by the Childers Group in April last year. Mrs Dunne is quoted as saying:

... the forum produced some constructive discussion about the future of Canberra’s arts scheme.

A recurring theme was the fact that smaller-scale aspects of Canberra’s arts scene were often overshadowed by events at large institutions.

“A big message was there’s no connection between tourism, business development and the arts ... [and] the extent to which the tourism bodies won’t advertise home-grown arts on their websites or won’t promote it as part of the experience of coming to Canberra,” Mrs Dunne said.

“They will promote the blockbuster arts tourism, but there’s no spin-off about what else you might do while you’re in Canberra of an artistic nature.”

That is from a *Northside Chronicle* article of 24 April 2012. This is making sure that what is at the heart and soul of Canberra actually flourishes and that we get a benefit from it as a community but the nation gets a benefit from it as well. With a tourism industry worth approximately \$1.3 billion, on 2012 figures, to the ACT, it is important that we get this right. You only have to look, for instance, at the difference MONA—the Museum of Old and New Art—is making to Tasmania. MONA has almost single-handedly been credited with an enormous turnaround in the economy of Tasmania because it is new, it is vibrant, it is interesting and it is different. It is confrontational and it is challenging, but it is causing people to say, “Hey, let’s go and have a look at that.” That is having a deeper impact on the Tasmanian economy.

How do we achieve that in the ACT? There is only one way to achieve it, and that is to integrate it. That is why, as I have said, we have called for an events strategy for the last four years. We have called for an accommodation strategy and we have called for an attractions strategy to make sure that we get the benefit that we deserve from these blockbusters.

It is interesting to look at the recent ABS figures. We have actually seen the worst hotel occupancy rates in four years. They are the worst since the GFC. If you look at last year’s figures in particular, there is a decline in the occupancy rate and there is a decline in the return to the community in terms of turnover and, therefore, jobs, the provision of services and revenue to the government. We need to look seriously at that. It has an impact on all of us, whether it be one of our young ones starting out as a waiter, waitress or room service person or whether you work in the supply company, driving the truck that delivers the goodies to the gallery of the hotel, pub or whatever it is.

We need to make sure that we get it right. This is why it needs to be integrated. If the Childers Group can see that then surely it is time for the government to admit that we do need an events strategy—not just a blockbuster fund but a strategy that says, “How do we plug the holes?” We all know where the holes are. At the end of November the Convention Centre more or less shuts down for a little while. December, January and early February is a very quiet time. Apart from Summernats—of course Summernats was snubbed by the government in its centenary celebrations for reasons unknown and it is a shame that that occurred—in January, there is not a great deal in that period. The same can be said about July when there is certainly a dead spot.

Ms Berry mentioned Enlighten. She said it was emerging as the backbone of a future cultural event. I would love to know who wrote that—“emerging as the backbone of a future cultural event”. That is what it was meant to be. It was actually set up as a stand-alone event. A hallmark event is what it was said it would be. It was not and it failed. That is why it got wrapped into the Canberra Day celebrations. That it might emerge as a hallmark event later on is probably a good thing, and we will see. But I think you can look it and say that, for what it was set up as, it failed. These things do take time, and we are aware of that, but you would have to say that it failed.

I think there needs to be some analysis and some work done on the types of visitors. If we have had some blockbusters with record visitation, particularly the *Masterpieces*,

and good visitation with *Toulouse-Lautrec*—the blockbusters are holding up their end—then what is happening in the rest of the sector when usage of our hotel accommodation is down? There is a dilemma there. Some of it may well be the abject failure of the federal government, that people just do not bother coming to Canberra any more to lobby them because they are not worth lobbying. Hopefully it will pick up after September.

Let us face it: the biggest event in Canberra every year is budget week. You cannot get a room from Cooma to Goulburn. It is chockers with people here to participate in the annual federal budget. They are here to lobby, to find out and to seek influence. If you have been up in parliament for that week, as I have and as Mrs Jones has—

Mr Barr: If they are trying to seek influence to lobby after the budget—

MR SMYTH: Well, they do come to lobby after it. They do not get what they want. They are up there belting on doors. They are here for meetings and they are here to give their commentary. You have got that one week—the biggest event of the year. If people have no faith in the federal government, that might be part of it. Hopefully it will change and people will want to come and talk to a new government. It is important that we get it right. There needs to be some drill-down on why occupancy rates are dropping in that manner and how we address it. Of course, that goes to the long-term issue of how do you increase the length of stay of any tourist that comes to the ACT so that we can get those benefits?

I thank Ms Berry for the matter of public importance. I think it deserved more than just a repetitious list of what goes on. It is time that we had a decent discussion about this issue.

MR BARR (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Tourism and Events and Minister for Community Services) (4.14): I thank Ms Berry for raising this matter today. Indeed the strategic plan for Australian Capital Tourism for the period 2009 to 2013 had a particular focus on events, with three key elements: increasing the economic value of tourism events to the territory, increasing the contribution of events to destination brand and perceptions and increasing partner support for events to allow Australian Capital Tourism to play a more strategic role in events more broadly.

I am very pleased to see in the evolution of the blockbuster fund, the events assistance program, the festival fund, the coming together in the Economic Development Directorate, the establishment of Events ACT, that all of those key elements of the 2009-2013 strategic plan for tourism and events have come to fruition, and, as Ms Berry indicated in her speech, with a major economic contribution to the territory economy from those blockbuster events—but not just those events.

The range of other events supported through the events assistance program, the festivals fund and indeed other specific government investments in cultural activities, in sporting activities and in a diverse range of infrastructure within the territory certainly is going to change perceptions of the national capital. The centenary year

obviously has a particular focus for us in that task of destination marketing, brand awareness and changing perceptions, and I certainly look forward later in the year to the launch of the new Canberra brand.

In November of last year I announced that Australian Capital Tourism will lead the development of an industry focused strategic plan for the ACT and region's tourism sector from 2013 to 2020. So we are at the conclusion of the five-year strategic plan that encompasses events, tourism, accommodation—all of those areas that Mr Smyth has been calling for—and we are about to embark on a new strategic planning process for seven years, 2013 to 2020.

I can assure the shadow tourism minister, because he has obviously not paid much attention to these developments, that the government is committed to ensuring that the region continues to provide world-class experiences for visitors, and as such this strategic plan will ensure that the ACT can take advantage of the opportunities that the centenary year presents, including the legacy of what is, I think without doubt, the biggest year in events the city has ever seen, to capitalise on significant infrastructure projects, probably the most significant of which for tourism and events is the \$420 million Canberra airport redevelopment, and I have spoken in question time about next steps to pursue international flights.

The strategic plan will focus on implementing programs that align strongly with the federal government's tourism 2020 vision, which has an ambitious target of doubling overnight expenditure in Australia and consequently in each jurisdiction by 2020. The strategy will consider both the supply and demand issues that need to be focused on, including labour and skills, investment and regulatory reform, boosting demand domestically and from key international markets such as South-East Asia and New Zealand, and focusing importantly on our industry's digital capability.

Australian Capital Tourism will be undertaking an extensive consultation process in preparation of the strategic plan and will of course be working directly with key industry groups.

In his comments Mr Smyth observed some observations from the shadow arts minister in relation to there allegedly not being promotion of local arts events, community activities, on ACT government tourism promotion websites. But a quick look at the Visit Canberra website and the Events ACT website demonstrate that that is far from the truth and that a large number of local events are publicised extensively, both in our digital presence and in written material that is available for visitors to the city through the visitors centre and other information booths.

The program of events coming up in this centenary year is significant. This weekend, of course, there is the Australian Running Festival, as Ms Berry indicated. For the first time the Australian Rugby League team will be playing in Canberra the following weekend. We have the British and Irish Lions. We have the AFL hall of fame dinner. It will be the first time that dinner has not been held in Melbourne; it is going to be here in Canberra in our centenary year. We have a netball test match between Australia and New Zealand and of course we have already successfully hosted the women's Australian golf open and a one-day international between Australia and the West Indies.

It is the biggest year in events for our city. We had the very successful major exhibition at the National Gallery, *Toulouse-Lautrec*. We look forward to *Turner from the Tate* over the winter period. That is a fantastic opportunity for the National Gallery to compete with the National Gallery of Victoria in terms of winter exhibitions. It is a risk for the gallery and they have acknowledged that, but normally that winter period has been held by the NGV with their Winter Masterpieces but we believe that the opportunity with an exhibition of the quality of *Turner from the Tate* will be one that will be strongly supported.

I would also particularly like to highlight the National Folk Festival as a premier event for our city. More than 50,000 patrons attended. Round one of the national capital rally championship was held from 1 to 3 March, the first time in five years, and was a very successful event for the city. The Rugby League test match, the AFL hall of fame and the netball dinner are all coming up in a very strong program for 2013.

Importantly, though, we need to build on the legacy of this centenary year and look ahead to the opportunities that are there for Canberra, particularly to take advantage of the infrastructure that we have. The new lights at Manuka Oval of course now offer the possibility of Canberra being a venue for the 2015 Cricket World Cup. We have already secured our involvement in the 2015 Asian football cup; we will host six pool matches and a quarter final. That is a big outcome for Canberra and for Canberra Stadium.

We were looking not just to this centenary year but beyond, and through the strategic planning work that is underway for the establishment of a dedicated events unit within the Economic Development Directorate I believe we have a very strong basis for a future events program that will continue to drive visitors to our city. But equally—and I think this is another important element, given that it is ACT taxpayers' funding that goes to support these events—events in the territory provide the opportunity for Canberrans to experience world-class art, sport and culture. It is a fantastic opportunity for our citizens to enjoy all that is on offer.

Finally in the time that remains I will just make some observations on that quarterly data in relation to tourism accommodation. I do note, and it is pleasing to see, that there has been nearly a seven per cent increase in the number of rooms available in the territory in the December 2012 quarter compared to the December 2011 quarter.

Australian Capital Tourism were able to provide me with some historical information in relation to hotel occupancies over a period of time. Even in that December quarter, which, yes, was down on the previous quarter, we still had the highest hotel occupancy rate of any jurisdiction in Australia. We have consistently been above the national average. The peak, it would appear, over 10 years in terms of room occupancy was in the March quarter of 2010—that aligned with the *Masterpieces from Paris* exhibition—when there was 80 per cent hotel occupancy.

I looked back on what it was like in the Olympic year. In the December quarter in the Olympic year hotel occupancy was 59 per cent. In 2012 it was 65.8. I looked at

takings in the Olympic year. The industry over the entire Olympic year had \$117 million in takings. In 2012 it was \$225 million in takings. So, even accounting for inflation, we have seen very strong growth in this sector. It is great to see new hotel rooms coming on. It is fantastic to see continued investment and I will be seeking even more, particularly from Singaporean investors whom I will be meeting with in a couple of weeks.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Housing, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Ageing) (4.24): I welcome this matter of public importance today and I think it is an interesting discussion on the importance of major events to the ACT economy. I think it is clear from the debate that there is no dispute in the Assembly about the importance and value of these events. The discussion really is about how we can maximise the impact of them and how we can get more of them here.

Major events like Floriade, the *Masterpieces from Paris* exhibition and other National Gallery blockbusters are clearly recognised as things that bring people to Canberra. Mr Smyth's observation about the economies of those events was very interesting, although I believe the most recent one at the National Gallery did actually turn a profit. If I recall the press correctly, the Director of the National Gallery was observing some surprise at that. I think it proves the exception to the rule, but it was interesting to see that that was the case.

Enlighten has become very successful, after perhaps some shakier early starts. I recall the debates during the last term. On the warmer weekend of the two—the two weekends were quite a contrast; on one there was perhaps a slightly lesser crowd—which was the second weekend, you could not move in the parliamentary triangle. It was an extraordinary success, I thought.

Ms Berry spoke about the National Multicultural Festival and the vast numbers of people that that attracted, and the involvement of over 100 ethnic communities. With an event like that, as word gets out, people from outside Canberra will begin to realise that there are some really interesting things going on in this city and that it is well worth a visit. But I think a lot of other smaller events bring a lot of people, too, and they do have great flow-on effects for the economy.

I would like to talk firstly about business events. Business tourism accounts for around 30 per cent of visitor nights in Canberra. We know it is a high spending sector. This is a discussion Mr Barr and I have had about which sectors represent more value to the ACT economy. And the business sector is a growing sector. The surveys show that business visitors are staying longer. Research commissioned by the Canberra Convention Bureau shows that business events attract people to Canberra who would not otherwise have come, more than half of the delegates bring someone with them and they stay an extra night after their conference. So once they are here, they think, "I'd better have a look at Canberra," and the survey showed they in fact then come back, and sometimes bring their family back, once they realise the level of attractions available in Canberra and how interesting so many of them are.

Something that I am very keen on—again, there has been some discussion on it today—is the value of sporting events as major contributors to the economy. In the last two years to January 2013 the total expenditure from sporting events confirmed by the Canberra Convention Bureau was over \$11½ million. A couple of examples from that survey include the Burley Griffin Regatta in 2012 where \$260,000 was spent on accommodation. The Rowing Australia 2013 masters rowing championships, which starts in two weeks, is expected to generate \$1.4 million to the ACT economy. With respect to the world 24-hour mountain bike championships in 2013, over \$4 million is expected from team and solo events.

It is good to recognise the simple economic value of these events, as well as the fact that, again, they attract people to Canberra who might not otherwise have come. Of course there are great social benefits from these events as well, with all the volunteers who help out, the local clubs who participate, the young people who get involved and the young people who might be inspired to take up a sport or some other activity as a result of seeing some of these high-class participatory events taking place in Canberra.

It is also worth noting that a number of these events take place in the summer, a time of year that is traditionally a tough one for our hospitality sector, be it the hotels or the restaurants and cafes around town. Having these events in summer, when of course many of these outdoor sports take place, is particularly valuable to the local economy.

For me, that highlights the importance, across the ACT government, of all of our directorates being very mindful of how they facilitate these events. That probably particularly applies to my directorate, Territory and Municipal Services, but also to the Economic Development Directorate and a few others. Often these events are run by volunteers or with a bit of paid help but a large volunteer committee. We do not want people getting caught up in significant government processes in order to make these events happen. Our agencies need to think about how they can ensure these events run more smoothly.

As I have spoken about before in this chamber, unfortunately some of the problems we have had with the lakes have had an impact on the ACT attracting and hosting these events or our reputation around the hosting of these events. As I have spoken about previously, certainly within the triathlon community Canberra's reputation as a host for such events has diminished because of the problems we have had with hosting swims in the past.

Lake Burley Griffin is a significant tourism asset. We need to deal with all of our lakes, but certainly the central lake is the one that captures the public imagination. Having the backdrop of Old Parliament House, new Parliament House and the various national institutions for some of these events is extraordinary for people who do not come from Canberra. In fact I am always inspired myself, and I live here every day.

Turning to the arts, we know that our cultural venues and events are a great drawcard for visitors. Canberra is home to many artists and smaller arts and our vibrant arts scene in its own right can attract many visitors. There have been some great arts

events during the centenary celebrations, things like the You are Here festival and the Village Glebe Park. Again, these are the sort of things that will attract a different crowd to Canberra and they will stay and do other things.

We need to continue to seek to support these events. I do not mean by way of just direct financial support; it can be by way of a facilitation process as much as anything else. The government and the government sector need to really think about how we can facilitate those events taking place. Smaller events also fill hotels during the off-peak period, which is important for diversification of our tourism market.

The final thing I would like to say today, so that hopefully I will leave time for Mr Coe to speak, is that one of the things we need to think about is how people will get here. I was excited today to see the new report about high-speed rail, which would vastly open up access to our city and bring Canberra within 64 minutes of Sydney, consolidating our position as a major regional centre. I am very pleased that Canberra has been identified as the preferred first route for this east coast high-speed rail network. That is something the Greens have lobbied hard for. Of course it has been my federal colleagues who have got this issue back on the federal government's agenda.

I am disappointed at the proposed time frames. The report projects that the first leg to Canberra could be completed by 2035, 22 years from now. It is an extraordinary delay. I did note, in doing a bit of research this morning, that Malaysia and Singapore have just announced a joint partnership to develop a 350-kilometre high-speed rail link between their two countries and they expect to have that completed by 2020. So I think we can be a little more ambitious than having a completion date of 2035. I think such an event would do wonders for assisting in the promotion of major events in the ACT economy.

Discussion concluded.

Adjournment

Motion (by **Mr Barr**) proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Evatt Primary School

MR COE (Ginninderra) (4.32): I rise today to pay tribute to the community at Evatt Primary School in my electorate of Ginninderra. Evatt Primary School was founded in 1974 and has grown to around 350 students from preschool to year 6. The school is led by Principal Susan Skinner and the chair of the board is Adam McEvoy. Ngaio Buck is the parents representative on the board and Alex Cairns is the staff representative.

Evatt Primary School seeks to actively foster and teach respectful relationships within its community and seeks to encourage the development of positive and effective relationships in the context of a supportive learning environment.

The school maintains a good website at www.evattps.act.edu.au. It has an active SRC, a SUPA Club, a good newsletter and many extracurricular and community activities happening throughout the school year.

I would like to pay tribute to the P&C, which is an integral part of the school. In particular, I would like to thank the president, Erica Harris; the vice president, Belinda Muller; the treasurer, Morgan Gibson-Hamilton; the vice treasurer, Karen Mobbs; the canteen treasurer, Michelle Willacy; the secretary, Kelly Speirs; the fundraising committee of Steve Walker, Morgan Gibson-Hamilton, Jacki Boutcher, Belinda Muller and Felicity Kelly; and the preschool reps, Steve Walker and Morgan Gibson-Hamilton.

Last Friday I was pleased to attend the Environment Fair at Evatt, along with several other members of this place. The Environment Fair is an opportunity for the school community to come together and enjoy a meal, enter competitions, visit—and of course show off their wonderful school. Visitors to the Environment Fair have plenty of activities and stalls to enjoy. Many of the stalls had an environmental theme and there were also stalls with cakes, crafts, plants, household goods, toys and clothing, in addition to demonstrations by the students.

I congratulate the teachers, support staff, parents, carers, grandparents and the local community who contributed to the success of the Evatt Primary School's Environment Fair and the ongoing positive culture at the school.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 4.35 pm until Tuesday, 7 May 2013 at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Finance—investments (Question No 62)

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 14 February 2013:

- (1) Can the Minister specify the years when the Territory produced an investment prospectus over the last four financial years.
- (2) In the years where the Territory produced an investment prospectus, can the Minister provide the (a) date of publication, (b) internal or external production and type of procurement if external, (c) cost/budget of production, (d) distribution targets, (e) distribution numbers and (f) investment leads generated.
- (3) Will the Territory be producing an investment prospectus in 2013; if so, can the Minister specify the (a) anticipated date of publication, (b) internal or external production and type of procurement if external, (c) cost/budget of production, (d) distribution targets, (e) distribution numbers and (f) investment leads generated.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|---------|-----|
| (1) | 2009-10 | No |
| | 2010-11 | Yes |
| | 2011-12 | No |
| | 2012-13 | No |

Note: Three versions of an Investment Prospectus have been produced since 2007. I have aligned the information requested in (2) for these three publications:

- *Investing in Australia's Capital / Doing Business and Living In Canberra (2007-2008)* was published in early 2007 to support, in particular, trade mission activity through that year. Content and titling was framed in such a way as to support use in both 2007 and 2008 calendar years.
- *Investing In Canberra, Australia's Capital '08-'09* was published in 2008 to cover activity needs through 2008 and 2009. Content and titling was framed in such a way as to support use in both 2007 and 2008 calendar years.
- *See Your Business in Canberra, Australia's Capital 2010-2011* was published in mid 2010 to support various international outreach activities over the two title years including trade missions to China timed around the Shanghai World Expo.

- (2) **Note:** The cost data produced below is the Directorate's best endeavour attempt to reconcile information from various supplier invoices, quotes and internal planning documents. Given the time elapsed, changes in record keeping practice and accounting systems, staff turnover and so on, it is not possible to provide figures with 100% accuracy. However, the Directorate believes the information is an accurate reflection of the costs to produce the various versions of the prospectus and associated collateral.

Investing in Australia's Capital / Doing Business and Living In Canberra (2007-2008)

- a) January/February 2007 (precise date not recorded).
- b) **Internal** research and writing. **External** graphic design and print production.
- c) **Internal** costs to produce not recorded. Cost information on external graphic design and print production was not retained. However, we estimate these costs to be approximately \$15,000. A Chinese language version was produced (translation, print production) at a cost of \$10,307.
- d) Distribution target: Companies in early stage of new investment decision making (potentially local, national and international businesses), business research providers to the investment community, investment facilitator organisations such as lawyers, accountants, business advisors.
- e) Print run, 1,000 in total English language, 1,000 Chinese Language of Prospectus.
- f) Investment leads generated: A Prospectus is a high level general selling and positioning tool. It is not a lead generation device. The Directorate has not attempted to capture the information sought.

Investing In Canberra, Australia's Capital '08-'09

- a) May/June 2008 (precise date not recorded). This version was an update of the 2007 Prospectus, undertaken to reflect data changes, testimonial content and design improvement. It was prepared in the lead up for a mission to the USA/Canada that year.
- b) **Internal** research and writing. External graphic design and print production.
- c) **Internal** costs to produce not recorded. External graphic design and print production \$20,970. CD version \$1,029. Separate Chinese language version \$9,806 (translation, graphic design, print production).
- d) Distribution target: Companies in early stage of new investment decision making (potentially local, national and international businesses), business research providers to the investment community, investment facilitator organisations such as lawyers, accountants, business advisors.
- e) Print run 3,000 in total.
- f) Investment leads generated: A Prospectus is a high level general selling and positioning tool. It is not a lead generation device. The Directorate has not attempted to capture information at this level.

See Your Business in Canberra, Australia's Capital 2010-2011

- a) July/August 2010 (precise date not recorded). Major update for various trade/investment uses in 2010, with focus on ACT's sponsorship commitment to Australian Government around Shanghai World Expo.
- b) **External** research and writing, which also included new data series and preparation of 12 stand alone industry sector fact sheets. External graphic design and print production.
- c) Research and writing for both general Prospectus and industry facts sheets, \$17,404. Graphic design, print production, proofing and translation to produce both English language and Chinese language versions, \$30,630.18. In addition to the above:

- a. Translation and printing of industry facts (English and Chinese language versions), \$9,321.55.
 - b. Later reprint of 2,000 English language versions of general Prospectus, \$12,700.64.
 - c. Carry bags and folders, \$2,660.
 - d) Distribution target: Companies in early stage of new investment decision making (potentially local, national and international businesses), business research providers to the investment community, investment facilitator organisations such as lawyers, accountants, business advisors.
 - e) Print run, 4,000 in total English language, 1,000 Chinese Language of Prospectus. 2,000 in total English language fact sheets, 1,000 Chinese language fact sheets.
 - f) Investment leads generated: A Prospectus is a high level general selling and positioning tool. It is not a lead generation device. The Directorate has not attempted to capture information at this level.
- (3) The ACT Government will not be producing an investment prospectus in the 2012-13 financial year, in the format that has been used in the past. Decisions on investor engagement material going forward – either printed or on-line format – have not been finalised.

Previously, the ACT Government investment prospectus has been a high level document that aligned with a broadly focussed, non-dedicated investment attraction approach. *Growth, Diversification and Jobs – A Business Development Strategy for the ACT*, was announced by the Government in April 2012 and included the development of a dedicated investment facilitation function, InvestACT. As a result, the ACT investment strategy for the future will be based around more targeted approaches. To achieve that, it is necessary to produce marketing collateral that is tailored to the information needs of specific investor types. Accordingly, collateral is likely to be heavier on detail for the investor and more relevant to the investments they are considering.

Transport—light rail (Question No 66)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 14 February 2013 (*redirected to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development*):

- (1) In relation to the Government's commitment to construct light rail, what is the expenditure to-date, broken down by financial year, on external sources including consultancies, reports and studies.
- (2) What is the internal expenditure to-date, broken down by financial year, on internal sources and the number of public service staff working on the project and in what agencies.
- (3) What is the timeline for the decision making and construction progress.

- (4) What is the expected cost to taxpayers of pre-construction and construction.
- (5) What is the predicted patronage, running costs and staffing once operational.
- (6) What is the population within reasonable walking distance of a light rail stop.
- (7) What plans are there for park and ride facilities.
- (8) What are the financial models for funding the project.
- (9) What feedback was received from Infrastructure Australia as a result of the 2008-09 federally funded proposal.

Mr Corbell: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) \$0.913 million was spent in 2011-12 and to date \$0.076 million has been spent in 2012-13 on external sources.
- (2) Two full time and two part time staff worked on this project within the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate. The total pro-rata staffing costs were \$0.164 million in 2011-12 and \$0.128 million to date in 2012-13. There has also been a team of three staff and an executive working part time on the project within the Economic Development Directorate, with pro-rata salary costs of \$0.145 million to date in 2012-13.
- (3) The 8th Parliamentary Agreement identifies 2016 for the commencement of laying tracks. Construction is anticipated to take approximately 3 years.
- (4) Preliminary cost estimates have been prepared in accordance with the National Best Practice Cost Estimation Standard for Publicly Funded Road and Rail Construction to a project scoping level. The construction cost is estimated to be around \$500 million and the indirect costs, including preliminaries, design and government costs, are estimated to be in the vicinity of \$112 million.
- (5) Initial studies indicate patronage during the morning peak (7am to 9am) towards the City for 2012 and 2031 at approximately 4,500 and 7,500 respectively, however these figures will be remodelled and refined as part of current network integration studies.

The operational arrangements and parameters for Capital Metro are being defined; therefore it would be premature, at this stage of the project, to provide an accurate operational cost estimate.

- (6) The assumed population for the Gungahlin to City corridor is 104,199 by 2031. The detail on stop and station locations has not yet been determined, and will be subject to further studies and consultation.
- (7) Planning has already been completed for two park and ride locations within the corridor: Gungahlin Town Centre and Well Station Drive. Further work will be undertaken in the Capital Metro Light Rail Integration Study to identify other suitable locations within the corridor for park and ride, bike and ride, and kiss and ride facilities.

- (8) Work to identify potential financial models appropriate for the project is underway, and once finalised, recommendations will be brought to Government for consideration.
 - (9) The proposal was short listed in the Report to the Council of Australian Governments (December 2008) and identified as a project for further analysis.
-

Schools—vandalism (Question No 67)

Mr Doszpot asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 27 February 2013:

- (1) How many ACT public schools experienced property damage due to vandalism attacks for the 2011 and 2012 calendar years.
- (2) What schools were the subject of vandalism attacks.
- (3) What was the estimated cost of damage for each of the affected schools.
- (4) What security measures were in place for 2011 and 2012.
- (5) Was it a contracted security arrangement; if so, what company supplied security and at what cost.
- (6) How many ACT public schools suffered property damage due to vandalism attacks, for the 2012-2013 summer holiday period.
- (7) How many schools were attacked.
- (8) What is the estimated cost of repair in respect of each affected school.
- (9) What security arrangements were in place.
- (10) Who supplied those services referred to in part (9) and what was the cost of their contract.
- (11) How many schools had security patrols.

Ms Burch: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) 70 ACT public schools experienced property damage due to vandalism attacks for 2012 compared to 78 in 2011.
- (2) – (3) Schools which were the subject of vandalism attacks and estimated costs are provided at **Attachment A**.
- (4) The security measures that were in place for 2011 and 2012 included:
 - electronic alarm systems, security lighting, and external motion detectors/strobe lighting
 - electronic monitoring of all school sites
 - the installation of security fences in some schools

- the use of targeted patrol services
 - improved visibility of school grounds
 - liaison with ACT Policing
- (5) The Education and Training Directorate contracts the services of Wilson Security and SNP Security to provide response and patrol services while ADT Security provides the electronic security monitoring service for all ACT public schools. The contracted security arrangement is in the order of \$0.5 million for both 2011 and 2012.
- (6) 11 ACT public schools reported property damage due to vandalism attacks for the 2012-2013 summer holiday period.
- (7) Refer response to question 6 above.
- (8) The estimated cost of repair in respect of each affected school is:

Amaroo School	\$1,170
Garran Primary School	\$620
Giralang Primary School	\$300
Harrison School	\$300
Kingsford Smith School	\$48,630
Maribyrnong Primary School	\$1,260
Miles Franklin Primary School	\$1,670
Ngunnawal Primary School	\$2,490
University of Canberra High School Kaleen	\$2,400
Wanniassa School Senior	\$11,700
Waramanga Preschool	\$1,700

- (9) The School Holiday Targeted Patrol program was in place for the 2012-2013 summer holiday period which provides random patrols for participating schools.
- (10) Wilson Security supplied the security services referred to in part (9). The price for this service was \$20,734.00.
- (11) 48 school sites had security patrols under the School Holiday Targeted Patrol program for the 2012-2013 summer holiday period.

ATTACHMENT A

SCHOOLS VANDALISM EXPENDITURE FOR 2011 AND 2012

COLLEGES	2011 (\$)	2012 (\$)
1 Canberra	-	224
2 Dickson	3,411	4,071
3 Erindale	2,842	4,579
4 Gungahlin	1,623	3,899
5 Hawker	3,339	-
6 Lake Tuggeranong	18,672	3,653
7 Narrabundah	3,169	2,309
8 University Of Canberra Lake Ginninderra	7,990	2,198
Subtotal	41,046	20,933

HIGH SCHOOLS	2011 (\$)	2012 (\$)
9 Alfred Deakin	5,022	6,159
10 Belconnen	16,478	14,832
11 Calwell	12,006	25,225
12 Campbell	1,554	2,443
13 Canberra	21,346	7,961
14 Lanyon	8,836	11,032
15 Lyneham	10,372	6,982
16 Melrose	11,479	9,993
17 Stromlo	26,326	22,545
18 University of Canberra Kaleen	2,846	6,058
Subtotal	116,265	113,230

SPECIAL SCHOOLS	2011 (\$)	2012 (\$)
66 Black Mountain School	1,366	-
67 Cranleigh	-	233
68 Malkara Special	370	-
69 Woden Special	1,855	3,063
Subtotal	3,591	3,296

Early Childhood Schools	2011 (\$)	2012 (\$)
70 Isabella Plains	929	1,052
71 Lyons	304	-
72 Narrabundah	120	350
73 O'Conner Cooperative		
74 Southern Cross	10,036	2,399
Subtotal	11,389	3,801

COMBINED SCHOOLS	2011 (\$)	2012 (\$)
75 Amaroo School	3,118	6,852
76 Caroline Chisholm School	5,509	8,827
77 Gold Creek School	7,840	7,058
78 Harrison School	320	1,502
79 Kingsford Smith School	3,414	8,343
80 Melba Copland Secondary School	9,853	6,463
81 Namadgi School	4,360	8,601
82 Telopea Park	1,407	454
83 Wanniasa School	31,369	9,815
Subtotal	67,190	57,915

PRIMARY SCHOOLS	2011 (\$)	2012 (\$)
19 Ainslie	3,022	5,137
20 Aranda	2,871	304
21 Arawang	10,546	3,158
22 Bonython	724	357

23 Calwell	1,987	1,391
24 Campbell	1,748	-
25 Chapman	2,414	4,866
26 Charles Conder	3,466	1,549
27 Charnwood-Dunlop	336	3,449
28 Curtin	466	4,560
29 Duffy	1,177	225
30 Evatt	848	1,590
31 Fadden	259	175
32 Farrer	1,154	708
33 Florey	137	1,346
34 Forrest	193	1,634
35 Fraser	1,285	-
36 Garran	2,675	2,364
37 Gilmore	2,812	4,707
38 Giralang	4,288	6,015
39 Gordon	2,675	2,862
40 Gowrie	1,962	239
41 Hawker	389	164
42 Hughes	736	-
43 Kaleen	7,871	5,258
44 Latham	5,188	628
45 Lyneham	3,663	820
46 Macgregor	304	2,820
47 Macquarie	5,286	-
48 Majura	1,488	1,040
49 Maribyrnong	5,511	877
50 Mawson	8,029	-
51 Miles Franklin	478	-
52 Monash	954	905
53 Mount Rogers	2,148	1,277
54 Ngunnawal	711	3,404
55 North Ainslie	2,081	5,137
56 Palmerston	3,494	5,060
57 Red Hill	1,057	1,692
58 Richardson	2,278	253
59 Taylor	6,718	-
60 Theodore	722	1,000
61 Torrens	18,141	3,668
62 Turner	3,456	1,236
63 Wanniasa Hills	-	683
64 Weetangera	-	-
65 Yarralumla	200	922
Subtotal	127,948	83,480
TOTAL	367,429	282,655

**Budget—lease variation charge
(Question No 68)**

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 28 February 2013:

Can the Treasurer detail why the Lease Variation Charge was revised downwards by \$3.9 million in the budget review for the current year, however, the forward estimates remain unchanged.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

The 2012-13 revenue forecast for the Lease Variation Charge was revised downward from \$23.484 million to \$19.499 million in the Budget Review. This revision reflects the timing of payments for prior year determinations.

The forward estimates will be revised as part of the 2013-14 Budget.

**Superannuation—expenses
(Question No 69)**

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 28 February 2013:

- (1) Can the Treasurer detail the elements that make up Other Superannuation Expense, as per the 2012-13 Budget Review, \$353 million in the 2013 year and can he provide a financial breakdown of these elements.
- (2) Can the Treasurer detail the elements that make up Superannuation Interest Expense as per the 2012-13 Budget Review, \$264 million in the 2013 year and can he provide a financial breakdown of these elements.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

	2012-13 Estimated Outcome \$'000
Superannuation Service Cost	256,952
Agency Superannuation Expenses	96,537
Total Other Superannuation Expense	353,489

Other Superannuation Expense on the operating statement is the employer cost from actual employee service in the current reporting period.

This is split between defined benefit and accumulation (defined contribution) superannuation arrangements.

- Defined benefit superannuation expenses in relation to CSS and PSS Scheme membership is an estimated expense of \$257 million for the 2012 13 financial year.

- Accumulation scheme related expenses (i.e. PSSap and fund of choice) is an estimated expense of \$96.5 million for the 2012 13 financial year.

	2012-13
	Estimated Outcome
	\$'000
Superannuation Interest Cost	264,214
Total Superannuation Expense	264,214

The expected superannuation interest cost of \$264.2 million relates to the defined benefit CSS and PSS superannuation liabilities.

The interest cost reflects the interest accrued on superannuation liabilities for former and existing employees that were accrued in previous years. It is the increase in the current period in the present value of the defined benefit superannuation liability, which arises because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

Economic Development Directorate—Tourism, Events and Sport Division (Question No 74)

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 28 February 2013:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a current organisational chart of the Tourism, Events and Sport Division, including information on (a) organisational structure, (b) number of staff (full-time equivalent (FTE) and headcount), (c) corresponding pay grades and (d) position titles.
- (2) Can the Minister provide an organisational chart of this division prior to implementation of “One Government” initiatives, including information on (a) organisational structure, (b) number of staff (FTE and headcount), (c) corresponding pay grade and (d) position titles.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member’s question is as follows:

- (1) (a) The organisational structure for Tourism, Events and Sport Division is at attachment A
- (b) The number of staff as of the last pay in January 2013 for the Tourism, Events and Sport Division was FTE = 111.12 and Headcount = 115.

Classification	(b) FTE	(b) Headcount	(c) Salary	(d) Position Titles
Apprentice	1	1	\$18,115 to \$41,887	Apprentice Grounds Officer
ASO2	4.6	7	\$46,372 to \$51,422	Visitor Services Officer, CRVC Distribution Officer, CRVC
ASO3	4	4	\$52,818 to \$57,004	Retail Stock Coordinator, CRVC Reservation/volunteer Coordinator, CRVC Administration Assistant Operations Assistant

ASO4	8	8	\$58,870 to \$63,917	Administration Support Officer Events Assistant Partnership Development Officer PR and Media Visits Officer Digital Marketing & Social Media Officer Campaign Marketing Officer Digital Database Officer
ASO5	11.54	12	\$65,660 to \$69,623	Booking and Admin Support Program Officer Grants Officer Executive Assistant Athlete Services Officer Events Coordinator Program Officer Campaign Marketing Officer
ASO6	21.75	22	\$70,913 to \$81,460	Senior Project Officer Business Support Officer ACE Advisor Events Officer Communication Executive Senior Digital Development Officer Supervisor, CRVC Partnership Executive Venue Administration Officer Compliance & Safety Officer Membership & Conference Coordinator Event Production Coordinator
SOGC	12.6	13	\$89,786 to \$96,809	Assistant Manager Senior Officer Senior Officer, Major Projects & Govt Coordination Manager, Canberra & Region Visitors Centre Industry Development Manager Research and Consumer Insights Manager Business Support Manager PR & Media Services Manager Campaign Marketing Executive Digital Marketing & Creative Manager Venue Manager, Canberra Stadium Venue Manager, Manuka Oval Venue Manager, Stromlo Forest Park
SPOC	1	1	\$89,786 to \$96,809	Manager, Performance Nutrition Officer
SOGB	13	13	\$106,086 to \$119,426	Manager, Production and Delivery Manager, Strategy & Major Projects Manager, Marketing & Communications Group Marketing Manager Senior Manager, Events & Operations Project/Facility Manager

SOGA	4	4	\$123,208	Deputy Director, S&R Deputy Director, Tourism Senior Manager, Events Senior Manager, Venues
GSO 3/4	4	4	\$40,973 to \$44,935	Grounds Officer
GSO 5/6	1	1	\$45,647 to \$50,446	Grounds Officer
GSO 7	3	3	\$52,078 to \$55,114	Plumber
PO1	3.61	4	\$49,452 to \$69,377	Strength and Conditioning Coach ACTAS/S&C Admin Support
PO2	3	3	\$70,913 to \$81,460	Head of Strength and Conditioning Sports Psychologist
RNG1	3	3	\$46,372 to \$51,420	Sportsground Ranger
TO2	2	2	\$52,078 to \$59,939	Supervisor
TO3	3	3	\$61,148 to \$69,377	Management Officer Ground Manager, South
TO4	2	2	\$70,913 to \$81,460	Venue Technician
TEO6	1	1	\$70,913 to \$81,460	Senior Creative Services Officer
Executive	4	4	\$161,550 to \$197,663	General Manager Director Executive Director
TOTAL	111.12	115		

(2) No, as the Tourism, Events and Sports Division was not in existence at this time.

(A copy of the attachment is available at the Chamber Support Office).

ACTION bus service—enterprise bargaining agreement (Question No 76)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 28 February 2013:

- (1) In relation to the ACTION Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) 2010 2013, how many employees received bonus payments (excluding the EBA sign-on bonus) under Section C4 at the commencement of the Agreement and what was the total amount of bonus payments paid.
- (2) How many employees received the EBA sign-on bonus and what was the total amount paid.
- (3) What percentage of employees have arrangements in place for payroll deductions for union fees.
- (4) How much money has ACTION paid to unions.

- (5) How many employees were performing higher duties, as of 27 February 2013, and what is the total amount of Higher Duties Allowance paid under the Agreement.
- (6) How many employees are eligible for penalty rates under C9.1 and C9.2 and what is the total amount payable under each rate.
- (7) How many employees have been provided relocation reimbursement and what is the total amount of relocation reimbursement paid under the Agreement.
- (8) How many employees are eligible for a Mature Age Payment and what is the total amount paid under the Agreement.
- (9) What is the total amount of money that has been recovered after employees have ceased employment and from how many employees.
- (10) In how many cases has the Head of Service waived the recovery of outstanding money and what is the total amount of debt that has been waived.
- (11) How many employees are employed at each classification and grade.
- (12) How many employees are employed under a Special Employment Arrangement.

Mr Rattenbury: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Section C4 of the agreement refers only to the sign on bonus. No other bonuses were paid as a result of the ACTION Enterprise Agreement 2010-2013.
- (2) A total of 843 staff received the sign on bonus payment with a total value of \$547,950.
- (3) As of the pay period ending 27 February 2013, 676 employees or 73.60% have a union deduction from their salary.
- (4) ACTION does not pay any money to unions. However, as of the pay period ending 27 February 2013, union deductions from employee salaries totalled \$14,215.77
- (5) As of the pay period ending 27 February 2013, a total of 27 staff were performing higher duties within ACTION. The total value of HDA payments for the pay period ending 27 February 2013 was \$11,860.40
- (6) ACTION shift workers are paid a composite rate of pay in lieu of penalty payments. Therefore no amounts are payable under the penalty rates in section C9.1 and C9.2 of the ACTION Enterprise Agreement.
- (7) No employees were provided with a relocation reimbursement.
- (8) As of the pay period ending 27 February 2013, there were no ACTION employees receiving mature age allowance payments.
- (9) Any overpayments or monies owing are recovered prior to employees ceasing their employment. The total money recovered from final entitlements during the 2012-13 financial period to 27 February 2013 was \$2,580.67. This amount was from four employees.

(10) There are no cases where the Head of Service has waived the recovery of outstanding money due to the over-payment of monies to employees.

(11) ACTION employees employed at each classification and grade is as follows:

Classification	Total	Classification	Total
ASO2	4	SOA	2
ASO3	1	SOB	11
ASO4	5	SOC	8
ASO5	4	STOC	4
ASO6	15	TO3	1
CE	1	TO4	5
GSO2	14	APWS	12
GSO4	32	BO	637
GSO5	24	BOT	34
GSO6	7	TOG2	5
GSO7	52	TOG3	32
GSO8	1	TOG4	4
GSO9	3		
		Total	918

(12) There are two staff receiving SEA payments. These payments total \$766.78 per fortnight.

Education—Indigenous students (Question No 78)

Mr Wall asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 19 March 2013:

- (1) How many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were enrolled in the 31 focus schools identified in the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan, by school, in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012.
- (2) How many Indigenous Education Workers were employed in each school identified in part (1) in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012.
- (3) How many students in all ACT primary schools identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012.
- (4) How many Indigenous Education Workers were employed in all ACT primary schools in (a) 2010, (b) 2011 and (c) 2012.
- (5) What was the total amount of additional funding provided by the (a) Commonwealth and (b) ACT Governments for all students identified in part (1).

Ms Burch: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- 1) The table below provides a summary of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments at each focus school by year.

Focus School	2010	2011	2012
Ainslie School	14	14	7
Amaroo School	8	7	9
Arawang Primary School	18	14	9
Caroline Chisholm School ¹	n.a.	n.a.	11
Charles Conder Primary School	26	26	23
Charnwood-Dunlop School	5	13	17
Curtin Primary School	12	6	7
Florey Primary School	10	8	10
Fraser Primary School	14	13	14
Gilmore Primary School	28	25	20
Gold Creek School	15	14	17
Jervis Bay Primary School	58	57	61
Kaleen Primary School	16	18	15
Kingsford Smith School	26	24	28
Latham Primary School	14	12	10
Lyneham Primary School	10	9	6
Macgregor Primary School	14	11	9
Majura Primary School	10	15	17
Monash Primary School	9	12	11

Namadgi School	n.a.	29	43
Narrabundah Early Childhood School	38	39	29
Ngunnawal Primary School	46	46	47
North Ainslie Primary School	11	21	14
Red Hill Primary School	16	15	13
Richardson Primary School	28	46	52
St John Vianney's Primary School ¹	7	2	n.a.
Taylor Primary School	22	17	14
Theodore Primary School	18	22	26
Torrens Primary School	16	17	13
Urambi Primary School	17	n.a.	n.a.
Wanniassa Hills Primary School	18	14	16
Wanniassa School	38	41	53
Weetangera Primary School	9	7	9

n.a. not applicable

¹ At the beginning of 2012, the Catholic Education Office advised the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Education and Training Directorate that the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in St John Vianney's Primary School had declined and requested that the school be removed from the list. That school was replaced by Caroline Chisholm School in 2012.

- 2) In 2010 there were two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Workers one at Ngunnawal Primary School and one at Richardson Primary School.

In 2011 there were three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Workers one at Wanniasa Hills Primary School, one at Richardson Primary School and one at Gilmore Primary School.

In 2012 there were four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Workers, one at Ngunnawal Primary School, one at Gilmore Primary School, one at Richardson Primary School and one at Wanniasa Hills Primary School.

- 3) The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in all ACT primary schools (including preschools) were:

2010	908
2011	971
2012	1,013

- 4) In 2010 there were two Indigenous Education Workers employed in ACT primary schools, in 2011 there were three and in 2012 there were four.

In addition to the four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Workers employed in primary schools in 2012, seven Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officers are based in high schools and also support primary schools. The focus of these officers is to work with school staff to improve attendance of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students, support primary to high school and high school to college transitions, establish connections and build relationships between schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officers are located at: Calwell High School, Wanniasa Senior Campus, Melrose High School, Stromlo High School, Telopea Park School, Lyneham High School and Melba Copland Secondary School.

- 5) Data is not available in the form and at the level of disaggregation requested without diversion of significant resources from the Education and Training Directorate's ongoing business.

Economic Development Directorate—Venue and Event Services (Question No 79)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Tourism and Events, upon notice, on 19 March 2013:

- (1) Since the Venue and Event Services was formed in February 2012, what have been the improvements in the Territory's management of sporting events, facilities, and programs.
- (2) How much did the creation of this branch cost the Territory.
- (3) Have there been any efficiencies that have been created and what is the value of these efficiencies.

(4) Have there been an increase in program deliveries; if so, what are they; if not, why not.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

(1) Both Territory Venues and Events and Events ACT were in operation prior to the formation of Venue and Event Services. Since the formation of Venue and Event Services there has been improved management of sporting events, facilities and programs through better utilisation and sharing of staff resources, skills and experience between the two business units. This has led to improvements in areas such as marketing and the broadening of tourism exposure for major sporting events such as the One Day International Cricket match in February 2013.

(2) Nil.

(3) Venue and Event Services was formed in February 2012 following a restructure of Australian Capital Tourism and Territory Venue and Events. The following table represents the net effect of the restructure in terms of FTE for Venue and Event Services only:

FTE Net Effect to TVE	FTE Net Effect to Events ACT	FTE Net Effect to Tourism	FTE Net Effect to Directorate
-1	3	-4	-2
	(includes 4 positions transferred from Tourism and the creation of one new position)	(4 positions transferred to Events ACT)	

The value of efficiencies achieved through employee expenses is approximately \$279,000 including on costs.

(4) Venue and Event Services manage and deliver an annual program of existing sporting events, facility programs and major events. New programs delivered by Venue and Event Services since its formation include:

- Establishment and administration of the Events ACT website,
- Establishment and administration of the Event Coordination Group,
- Establishment and administration of the Event Coordination Planning Group,
- Coordination of Canberra's bid as a host venue for the 2015 Cricket World Cup,
- Installation of the Manuka Oval broadcast lights,
- Hosting of the One Day International cricket match played at Manuka Oval on 6 February 2013,
- Coordination of Canberra's bid and subsequent hosting of the Rugby League Test Match between Australia and New Zealand to be held at Canberra Stadium on 19 April 2013.
- Coordination of Canberra's bid and subsequent hosting of the Centenary Netball match to be played at that AIS Arena on 13 October 2013, and
- Coordination and delivery of the 10th Anniversary of Canberra Fires event held on 18 January 2013,

**Economic Development Directorate—Venue and Event Services
(Question No 80)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Tourism and Events, upon notice, on 19 March 2013:

Did the annual report, on page 143, note that one of Events ACT's aims is to increase opportunities for community engagement and social inclusiveness through the staging of significant celebratory events; if so, why has there only been two community engagement projects for Territory venues and events.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Venue and Event Services was formed in February 2012. The new Venue and Event Services branch consists of two groups: Territory Venue and Events (TVE) and Events ACT.

The annual report notes that one of Events ACT's aims is to increase opportunities for community engagement and social inclusiveness through the staging of significant celebratory events. This is distinct from community engagement activities where the community's views are sought on a specific subject.

- (2) I draw your attention to page 143 of the annual report that outlines the highlights, events and programs undertaken by Events ACT in 2011-12.

The two community engagement projects reported under Territory Venues and Events (page 160) refer to instances where the Directorate is providing targeted and specific information to members of the community and seeking feedback.

**Sport—motor sport
(Question No 81)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Tourism and Events, upon notice, on 19 March 2013:

- (1) Has the Government spent approximately \$108 525 for various motorsport clubs to develop a "Strategic Business Planning Process"; if so, what does this include and what future viability issues have been identified.
- (2) What findings have the Government identified in relation to the environmental and economic feasibility studies that have been conducted.
- (3) Have noise issues been considered in the overall planning process for motorsports.

Mr Barr: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Yes. The first round of the Community Motorsport Development Program in 2010-11 provided financial assistance to eligible community motorsport clubs to enable them to access professional expertise and assistance with business and management planning to assist them to maintain their organisational viability. The funding was

provided for business and operational reviews, the development of good governance structures, business models, business and operational plans, and strategic plans. Each club is different and they identified different needs including succession planning, governance structures and business planning. Nine community motorsport clubs sought and received funding through this publicly advertised program with grants payments of up to \$12,500 provided.

- (2) These studies related to the proposed off-road recreational motorcycle riding facility at Pierces Creek. Preliminary assessment was conducted on Pierces Creek and the site was found to be a suitable option for further analysis. The site was considered to have the following beneficial characteristics, but not limited to:
- Little to no visual impact of surrounding areas.
 - Limited to only 4-5 rural properties in proximity.
 - Desktop noise assessment low.
 - Good access and within 25km of CBD.
 - Adequate size, configuration and terrain to create challenges for riders.

The initial assessment concluded that the Pierces Creek site presented a good option for such a facility subject to more detailed consideration.

Further analysis was undertaken including, but not limited to:

- Stakeholder engagement, (26 government and four non-government organisations).
- Planning Review – Report reviews relevant planning requirements concerning Pierces Creek.
- Biodiversity Assessment.
- Environmental Constraints Report.

Environmental and planning reports prepared state that if the recommended design considerations are implemented during design and construction, the condition of the site will most likely be improved.

Environmental issues and recommendations include, but are not limited to:

- Addressing existing and potential soil erosion and ensuring water quality through the retention of sediment within the site.
- Bio-diversity; control of existing natural and introduced weed species.
- Noise management.
- Limiting new tracks where possible and to avoid drainage lines.
- Environmental monitoring programs.

In addition to the environmental issues above, planning specialists recommend design considerations to include, but not limited to:

- Design of entry and location of trails to minimise clearing of native vegetation.
- Design and construct trails to recognised standards.
- Wheel cleaning bay to minimise the risk of weed transportation.
- Landscape and remediation of the site.

The economic and financial considerations included a range of potential management models; governance structures; on-going land management requirements; risk management and insurances and accountability. Further assessment of management options is being undertaken in 2012-13. The QLD Moto Park is considered as a benchmark facility for a similar operation in the ACT in terms of management arrangements and environmental considerations.

- (3) The impact of noise is a significant issue for motorsports in the ACT and elsewhere. Noise impacts and mitigations are considered in motorsports planning at both Fairbairn Park and the proposed Pierces Creek facility.
-

Health— general practitioners (Question No 87)

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 21 March 2013:

- (1) In relation to the 2011-12 GP Development Fund, page 125 of the annual report, how many applications for grants were received in the fifth round of the fund.
- (2) Who successfully received these grants, and how much funding did each recipient receive.
- (3) Was there a common theme surrounding applications that were not successful.
- (4) How many grants were for new general practitioners from interstate opening a practice.
- (5) How many of these grants were used to make accessing a general practitioner more affordable.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Forty two applications were received from twenty four practices across the ACT.
- (2) Please see **Attachment A**.
- (3) Unsuccessful proposals were listed as either marginal or 'out of scope'. In the GP Development Fund Round 5 Guidelines, under section 3.3: *What will not be funded?* there is a list of what will not be funded. This includes:
 - i. Any activity or event that does not occur within the ACT
 - ii. Applications that primarily fund research
 - iii. The purchase of vehicles
 - iv. Salaries or recurrent costs
 - v. Major capital works
 - vi. International travel for conferences and courses
 - vii. Recruitment agency fees
 - viii. Costs of equipment considered to be part of the normal operational requirements within a general practice.
 - ix. Projects that have already occurred or costs that have already been incurred.
 - x. Proposals for the continuation of already existing projects were considered.
- (4) In GP Development Fund Round 5 no grant funds were awarded for new general practitioners from interstate opening a practice.
- (5) The purpose of the GP Development Fund is to support, sustain and develop GPs working in Canberra by providing one-off incentive payments to GP practices serving

the ACT community. Indirectly, many of these grants may assist to make accessing a general practitioner more affordable.

(A copy of the attachment is available at the Chamber Support Office).

**Health—elective surgery
(Question No 88)**

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 21 March 2013:

- (1) In relation to the Strategic Indicators on pages 112 to 119 of the 2011-12 annual report, out of the 11 300 people removed from the elective surgery waiting list, how many (a) were due to have surgery in the ACT public system, (b) were due to have surgery in the private health system and (c) opted not to have the surgery.
- (2) What is the capital consumption indicator for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- 1a) Of the 11,300 people removed from the elective surgery waiting list in 2011-12, 11,300 were due to have surgery in the ACT public system.
 - 1b) Of the 11,300 people removed from the elective surgery waiting list in 2011-12, none were due to have surgery in the private system.
 - 1c) Of the 11,300 people removed from the elective surgery waiting list in 2011-12, none opted not to have the surgery.
 - (2) The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reported the capital consumption ratio for the ACT in 2010-11 was 3.84. The AIHW have not published data for 2011-12. The data published by the AIHW cannot be replicated by the Health Directorate.
-

**National Arboretum Canberra—replantings
(Question No 90)**

Mr Smyth asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 21 March 2013 *(redirected to the Chief Minister)*:

- (1) How much money has the Government spent on replanting trees at the National Arboretum that were unsuccessful in getting established.
- (2) In relation to the replanted trees referred to in part (1), can the Minister provide a breakdown of the (a) year and (b) number of replanted trees (i) native and (ii) not native, to the ACT and cost.

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) Planting of trees in the National Arboretum has been undertaken on a contractual basis. These contracts cover site establishment, irrigation, tree planting, tree guards,

watering rings and mulching. Once the trees have been planted they are placed on warranty for a 12 month maintenance period during which time the contractor is required to maintain the trees and replace any that die at no further cost to the ACT Government.

Under this arrangement, contractors have replaced approximately 2,677 trees since the establishment of the National Arboretum.

Since the trees were handed over from the contractors, the ACT Government has replaced 1,420 trees at an average estimated cost of \$50 per tree. The overall cost to the ACT Government since the establishment of the Arboretum is approximately \$71,000.

- (2) A breakdown of the trees replanted by the ACT Government has been provided in the table below. The Arboretum does not have any trees native to the ACT.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 (as at 21 March 2013)	Total
No. Trees Replanted	200	0	230	180	762	48	1,420
Cost	\$10,000	0	\$11,500	\$9,000	\$38,100	\$2,400	\$71,000

Questions without notice taken on notice

Planning—Amaroo shops

Mr Corbell (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Jones on Thursday, 21 March 2013*): The work currently underway at the Amaroo Group Centre is for the subdivision of the entire site, construction of roads, associated infrastructure, utility services and landscaping.

This is in accordance with the Estate Development Plan (EDP) that was lodged on the 24th February 2012, publically notified from the 5th March to 26th March 2012 and approved on the 3rd May 2012.

This EDP approval consisted of seven commercial mixed use sites, two community facility sites (one capable of accommodating a childcare facility), two multi-unit residential blocks, 19 single dwelling residential blocks and three open space blocks for parkland.

Any future building works on the subdivided blocks will be subject to individual Development Applications.

The Land Development Agency has advertised an expression of interest that closed on the 28 March 2013 for a block created by the EDP (Block 3 Section 106). This block is being released as a supermarket site with mixed use development opportunity.

Schools—Blue Gum School

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Seselja on Tuesday, 26 February 2013*): When an application is received by the ACT Property Group, applicants are advised that there is limited space and that they will be contacted when a suitable site becomes available.

In relation to the Blue Gum School application, discussions were held between ACT Property Group and Blue Gum School in early 2012 regarding the space and no commitments were given at that time on the future use of the Hackett Community Centre. The area at Hackett Community Centre did not become available until Friday 9 November 2012 when the previous tenant vacated.

In January 2013 ACT Property Group advised Blue Gum that, due to the redevelopment of the Downer Business Park Precinct, priority for this space would be given to the displaced community groups from Downer.

An offer has been made, and accepted, by a community group being displaced from the Downer Business Park. This group will be taking up occupancy this month.

As this group is not taking all the space ACT Property Group subsequently met with the Blue Gum School on 27 March 2013 and offered the remaining area to the school. The school is currently considering the offer and will get back to ACT Property Group in the coming weeks.

Rivett shops—health and safety

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mrs Jones on Thursday, 14 February 2013*): The area in question is leased land and consequently not maintained by the ACT Government. However, the Director-General of the Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate has written to the shop owners and operators regarding the issue.

Rivett shops—health and safety

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to supplementary questions by Mr Hanson on Thursday, 14 February 2013*): The awning at the Rivett Shops is not the responsibility of the ACT Government. The area in question is leased land and consequently not maintained by the ACT Government. However, the Director-General of the Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate has written to the shop owners and operators regarding the issue.