



Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD
SEVENTH ASSEMBLY

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

11 MAY 2009

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Monday, 11 May 2009

The Assembly met at 10 am.

MR SPEAKER (Mr Rattenbury): At the beginning of this sitting of the Assembly I acknowledge that we are meeting on the lands of the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians. I respect their continuing culture and the unique contribution they make to the life of this area. I ask members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

Ladies and gentlemen, former members and guests, welcome to this ceremonial sitting for the 20th anniversary of self-government for the Australian Capital Territory.

20th anniversary of self-government

MR STANHOPE (Ginninderra—Chief Minister, Minister for Transport, Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Business and Economic Development, Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Minister for the Arts and Heritage) (10.03): I move:

That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that today, 11 May 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of self-government for the Australian Capital Territory;
- (2) acknowledges the responsibilities of this and future Assemblies in ensuring strong, democratic and responsible government for the people of the Territory;
- (3) expresses appreciation for the assistance given to the Assembly by other parliaments and their respective governments within Australia, most of whom are represented here today by their presiding officers and clerks; and
- (4) expresses its appreciation for the work of former members and officials of the Legislative Assembly and its preceding bodies and the community associated with achieving democratic government for the Territory, some of whom are present in the public gallery today.

The motion that I have the privilege of moving this morning as Chief Minister in this Seventh Assembly recognises that it was 20 years ago today that the very first ACT Legislative Assembly was convened. That occasion marked a genuine rite of passage—the day the ACT became self-governing, with all the opportunities and all the responsibilities associated with a state of self-determination.

Today, 20 years on, we perhaps mark another rite of passage—a “coming of age”, a maturity that allows us to look back with some justifiable pride on those first two decades, and look forward, as a mature and confident legislature, to the next 20 years.

I warmly welcome to the chamber today past and present members of this parliament. I welcome those who have had the honour of being a part of executive government, and those who have sat on the opposition and crossbenches.

In a unicameral parliament such as ours, where minority government is the norm rather than the exception, there are opportunities for individuals and parties to exert considerable influence, from any seat in this chamber, from any office in this building. They have done; they do today; they will do so tomorrow. That is the nature of what has been created here.

The 60 men and women who have represented their fellow Canberrans in this Assembly over the past two decades would each be able to point to some aspect of our communal identity, some physical or social reform, some legacy large or small, to which they have lent the power of their arm or for which they have raised their voice.

Mr Speaker, one of the distinguishing features of our small parliament has always been the success of its women. Rosemary Follett was not just the first Chief Minister of this territory; she was the first woman elected head of government in her own right in any Australian state or territory. Kate Carnell became the second. It was not until 2001 that another Australian jurisdiction had a woman elected in her own right as head of government, when the Northern Territory's Clare Martin lengthened the territorial lead over the states. It took until 2009 for the states to catch up, with Anna Bligh elected in her own right as Queensland Premier earlier this year.

Women have held other senior positions regularly over the past two decades. Roberta McRae was Speaker in the Second Assembly. Both Rosemary Follett and Kate Carnell served as opposition leaders. Katy Gallagher is Deputy Chief Minister in this Seventh Assembly and both she and Kate Carnell have been the architects of ACT budgets, as ACT Treasurer. Women hold 41 per cent of seats in the Seventh Assembly, equalling the record of our fifth, and comparing well with the 30.7 per cent achieved across all Australian parliaments.

Of course, in this as in so many areas, our Assembly reflects our community—progressive, thoughtful, comparatively free of prejudice, reluctant to stereotype, unafraid to innovate and unafraid to lead. Indeed, one might say it was that independence of spirit that led, in those earliest of years, to such colour in our proceedings, such novelty and eclecticism in the issues pursued by members.

Let us remember that, in the very first Assembly, almost a quarter of the elected members were voted in on a platform of abolishing their own jobs. But, notwithstanding party allegiance or philosophical bent, all those who have participated in the activities of the Assembly have worked, first and last—which is not necessarily the same as consistently and exclusively—for the betterment of the ACT and the people of Canberra.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge, with regret, the absence among us today of one of the most influential figures of those early years, Trevor Kaine, who followed Rosemary Follett as Chief Minister and who helped to establish the administrative and financial foundations upon which successive Assemblies have built. Trevor's death last year signalled another rite of passage for us as a legislature.

We ought not forget that the challenge confronting Rosemary Follett, Trevor Kaine and those other MLAs in the first Assemblies was a considerable one. There was no

template for a legislature that combined municipal with state functions. There was no-one we could ask, no-one to whom we could turn. What we had was a piece of legislation that was not even our own, yet which called us into existence. In the words of the then federal territories minister, the Hon Clyde Holding, our birth as a self-governing territory conferred on ACT residents “the same democratic rights and social responsibilities as their fellow Australians”.

Over the past 20 years, we have come to understand that this is not entirely so. And perhaps this anniversary is an opportunity to join with the commonwealth in a review of the self-government act to see whether it serves this community as well as it might, to see whether it is equal to our maturing needs as we hit our 20s and 30s.

This Seventh Assembly, elected in the months leading up to our 20th birthday, has resulted for the first time in a chamber devoid of any of the “original” MLAs from the First Assembly. As recently as last year we did have, from that first intake in those early years, Wayne Berry and Bill Stefaniak. Now there are none. Indeed, with the passage of time, some who have served here have been lost to our community forever: Trevor Kaine, Terry Connolly and Hector Kinloch. Today is a day to remember them.

Like any parliament, ours depends for its smooth running on the expertise, the corporate memory, the hard work and the skill of the Secretariat—the Clerk, his staff and their predecessors in each of the preceding Assemblies. Without their courteous and efficient support of us all, our jobs would be more difficult, our slips more public and our veneer of knowledgeability more quickly rubbed away in the hurly-burly of politics.

We have also, all of us, over the years had the benefit of the counsel and assistance of colleagues from across the parliaments of the Australian federation and their secretariats—and even the help of some from beyond our shores. Our ceremonial mace, symbolic of the authority of the Speaker, was a gift from the regional commonwealth parliaments in 2004.

Despite being the youngest self-governing jurisdiction in the commonwealth, the ACT has made contributions to public policy and legislative history that belie the size and youth of our parliament. There have been contributions that have in some cases led the way in social reform, responded first to environmental challenges, enshrined rights and elevated the vulnerable into our sights.

We have enacted significant pieces of legislation that have had resonance beyond our borders and allowed us to play a leadership role in areas such as the protection of human rights, the decriminalisation of abortion, responsiveness to terrorism and the conferring of equal rights on gays and lesbians.

We have never taken what we do for granted or assumed that our methods are the best possible. We have refined our voting system more than once. At the 10-year mark, the Pettit review into the governance of the ACT led to reforms that have added further to the distinctiveness of our body politic, including the introduction of fixed four-year terms. That review highlighted other matters that continue to generate debate in the community—matters that go to our relationship with the commonwealth and the basis and extent of our self-determination. Perhaps now, another decade on from the Pettit

review, is the time for a mature conversation on those outstanding issues. I imagine that the conference that begins this evening, and which is hosted by you, Mr Speaker, may touch upon some of these.

I alluded earlier to the distinctiveness of our hybrid Assembly—a city state like no other in the nation. This reality has both imposed constraints and conferred opportunities on successive Assemblies. The range of our responsibilities, colliding with our modest size, has created challenges, but has also enforced an intimacy with the reality of the lives of the Canberrans that we serve. Each fortnight we have a reminder of this, during Chief Minister talkback—a reminder that sometimes what matters most, agitates most and affects the quality of life of an individual most is the cracked footpath, the aggravating neighbour, the overhanging tree, the obscured stop sign.

Each day in this Assembly is a reality check of this kind. Yet each day is also a new opportunity to make lasting change—change that will outlast the repaired pothole, change that will outlast this government and future ones, change for the betterment of our community, change for the better. That is true not just for those who put themselves forward each four years in the hope of serving the electorate but for every one of the fine public servants who find reward and recompense in seeing their work make a material difference in the life of others.

A major strength of our system has always been the strength of our public service. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellence and dedication shown by those in all agencies of the ACT public service, which shares its own 20th birthday with that of the Assembly.

There is a temptation on occasions such as this to dwell on the past—to raise an eyebrow again at metre-long ballot papers, parties with preposterous names, the more colourful days and characters, and the stoushes. Adversarial politics, it seems, pits not just politician against politician, but the body politic itself against the self-styled observers of the press, the letters page and radio talkback. But days such as these are also times for looking forward, for imagining who we might choose to be, as a collective, at what we must choose to become, as a community, and how we might creatively meet the big challenges of the future: climate change, our ageing population, water security, the need to remain a knowledge-based community and the insatiability of demand on our health system.

We are not alone in our challenges, nor do we have to feel as though we must tackle them alone. But tackle them we must, and not by looking backwards but by looking forward. Canberrans have shown themselves willing to gaze forward, over the past 20 years. They are proud of this city's history and its ceremonial status as the nation's capital. But they see it also as home, and as a place where ordinary folk can make an extraordinary contribution.

Our responsibility, in this Seventh Assembly, as it was the responsibility of those that preceded us, is to allow our community to fulfil its potential, to create a place where great things happen and great and fulfilled lives are led. I commend this motion to the Assembly.

Distinguished visitors

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Stanhope. Members, before I call the Leader of the Opposition, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of a number of former members. I acknowledge:

Wayne Berry
Kate Carnell AO
Bernard Collaery
the late Terry Connolly, represented by his wife, Helen Watchirs
Greg Cornwell
Roslyn Dundas
Annette Ellis MP
Mick Gentleman
Senator Gary Humphries
Norm Jensen
the late Trevor Kaine, represented by his wife, Sandie Kaine
the late Hector Kinloch, represented by his wife, Lucy Kinloch
Carmel Maher
Karin MacDonald
Michael Moore
Bill Stefaniak
Helen Szuty
Lou Westende OAM
Bill Wood.

On behalf of all members, I extend a warm welcome to the former members and thank them for joining our celebrations.

20th Anniversary of self-government

MR SESELJA (Molonglo—Leader of the Opposition) (10.16): Mr Speaker, it is not as a matter of course all that often that I rise to speak in wholehearted support of a motion put forward by the Chief Minister; but today for this occasion it is my honour and my privilege to do so.

The motion we are debating today raises four areas which are well worth endorsing and elucidating. The first is that this day marks the 20th anniversary of self-government for the ACT. That really is some achievement. The early cynicism has largely been replaced by the steady stream of voices from those who see the Assembly for what it is: the forum for the people of the ACT to determine their own destiny.

There is no doubt that it was a rocky start. There was the bizarre situation that a sizeable portion of the First Assembly of self-government was made up of no-self-government parties, who realised with a shock that a protest vote could end up with not only a seat at the table but in some cases a place in the ministry as well. This is fairly extraordinary and of course we know that some of the options in the early days included candidates from the Party! Party! Party! Party, the Sun Ripened Warm Tomato Party and, of course, the Surprise Party. Their particular platform was never particularly clearly enunciated; presumably we would have found out what it was if they had ever gained office. There was, as is well recorded, a raft of the various no-self-government parties, several of whom actually did gain office on the platform of not having an office to gain.

We remember when the ballot papers were longer than some members, whether sitting or standing. This extraordinary event led some to think that the modified d'Hondt system would have been better called the "don't" system, and I shudder to think what those with the modern sensitivity to recycling paper would have thought of the acres of paper required to print ballot papers that were over a metre long—another sign that times change and we change with the times.

There was also a very volatile era, after the initial flurry and fury had settled down, when the beginnings of a genuinely workable, democratic Assembly began to take shape. I use those words advisedly because for those who were part of those times I am sure they felt like anything but settled. Ms Follett, for example, had two terms as Chief Minister in that first term of government; there were three governments in three years; and the list of opposition leaders shows just how tenuous that position can be. In the 20 years of self-government there have been 16 changes to the position of Leader of the Opposition.

Personally, I was pleased when I got through my first six hours, knowing that I would not be the shortest ever serving opposition leader in the history of the ACT. That honour, of course, is held by Craig DUBY, who found himself recorded as Leader of the Opposition for one day, 21 June 1991. This, of course, is not a fault of or slight on Mr DUBY but a sign of the turbulent times I was speaking of earlier.

We had to find our way through the eddies of electoral options until we settled on the Hare-Clark system which we now use. In the last 10 years or so, the system has settled down to become a genuinely responsive and responsible seat of government as the people of Canberra realise the role the Assembly plays, which leads me to the second part of the motion.

The Legislative Assembly of the ACT has a unique set of responsibilities and a unique structure within which it enacts those responsibilities. We are a unicameral parliament; we have no upper house to check, scrutinise or reject. For a population our size, this is appropriate. Even for larger jurisdictions, their upper houses can be so removed from either the day-to-day lives of the citizens of their state or the management of the business of parliament or the executive government that many people in those states do not even know that they have upper houses in their state legislatures. However, it does place a particular responsibility on those 17 of us who sit in this chamber. We must be our own watchdogs, our own guardians.

In some ways, the Hare-Clark system works well in this regard, in that it can produce, in the end, a result that can reflect the broad wishes of the people. Of the seven Assemblies that have been sworn into this place, only one of those has been a majority; all the others have required a minority arrangement to be established. Therefore, by the cross-checks and balances that that negotiation necessarily requires, a version of the scrutiny of a bicameral system comes forward.

Of particular importance in this regard is the role and responsibility of the committee system within a one-chamber structure. The committees play a vital role within our Assembly, allowing an open, accountable forum for scrutiny and information-gathering, using a multiparty approach. There is no doubt that the committee system can place burdens on both politicians and public servants, but it is a truly integral link in the chain of responsibility which binds us all.

The ACT is unique in its approach when compared to other state governments as it provides services direct to the community. Not only does the ACT government run the hospitals and the schools; it also runs the services that local councils administer in larger states. That is what is unique about this ACT arrangement. As a result, a territory parliament, when working at its best, is much more engaged with the community. The intimate relationship formed between the elected members and the broader community has resulted in a stronger, more relevant Legislative Assembly. While we have this relevance and responsibility, we do continue to extend our prominence in the community.

The role of the Chief Minister is one that many are aware of and recognise in its importance to the governance of the territory. Similarly, the executive enjoy high-profile positions. The work and role of the Assembly as a whole is perhaps less well known and understood. The role this Assembly plays as both legislature and carrying out those functions usually ascribed to the third-tier governments such as councils is a unique arrangement with unique responsibilities. Far from belittling this Assembly, I believe this extended responsibility is a strength of our system of governance in that it reduces duplication found elsewhere and keeps the Assembly and the executive in touch with actual outcomes of their decisions.

The third part of this motion expresses appreciation for the assistance given to us by other parliaments and their respective governments within Australia, and I offer my recognition of their representatives here in the chamber today. I would like to extend that notion to include the parliaments around the world who have helped shape and assist this Assembly, whether directly or indirectly. Many of the practices we use are inherently based on the Westminster tradition of Britain, although our chamber does work in some significantly different ways—many of them, I dare to venture, improvements on some of the somewhat archaic practices of the mother country.

I remember, just this term, the bewilderment of you, Mr Speaker, when introduced to the Speaker's chair. Historically, the Speaker's role attended significant personal jeopardy. Therefore, the successful nominee had to be dragged, struggling, into the chair in protest. This is still reflected in modern Westminster parliaments, including ours. The current Speaker did manage to get dragged to the chair, escorted by his colleagues, to utter his first words as Speaker, which I believe were to the effect of

“what an odd tradition”. I note that another odd tradition perhaps has been adopted by the Speaker with the donning of the traditional neckwear chosen by men for formal occasions. We congratulate you on your tie, Mr Speaker.

Sometimes, though, tradition has a role to play and indeed a very important one. Even the notion of addressing this Assembly through the chair of the Speaker reminds us of the importance of the matters we debate and discuss in this place and that we are representing our people and our parties as well as our personal views.

We can also learn from our traditions and our other parliaments to form a better functioning and more flexible parliament for the people. In this Assembly we have extended the hours we sit and the processes that govern that sitting, to move towards more direct representation. We have a particularly busy schedule during private members' day to offer counterpoint proposals to those of the government. In this Assembly we have seen question time standing orders modified to encourage ministers to answer the question instead of giving a stump speech of their choosing; we are still working on that one. It is all designed to make this a parliament of openness and accountability that continues, I think, to serve the people of Canberra better than many other jurisdictions of a similar size.

The 20-year anniversary is a time to reflect on where we have been and where we wish to go. What is the ideal size of the Assembly? There is no correct answer. While it will inevitably grow in the future, when should this occur, and how many members is the correct number?

Similarly, it is now time to have a look at the self-government act, that piece of legislation which operates as a de facto constitution. There is no doubt that a number of provisions within it are archaic. The ongoing restriction on the Assembly determining its composition is problematic, for example. However, any move to allow the Assembly this freedom needs to come with some checks and balances, such as the need for a special majority. It is time for the ACT Assembly to have more autonomy while recognising the important democratic principle of checks and balances. Now is the time, however, to have the debate.

The Chief Minister mentioned a number of things that we have to be proud of. He mentioned the number of women who have played prominent roles in this Assembly and that is something indeed in which we take great pride. We have also seen a number of firsts, which have been mentioned, including one which has not been mentioned, which was that it was a female Chief Minister, Kate Carnell, who led this Assembly as the first jurisdiction to apologise to the stolen generations. That is a moment of which we can all be very proud.

The last part of this motion speaks to the thanks we would like to extend to the work of former members and officials of the Legislative Assembly and the bodies that preceded it. It is true that this is the official marking of the 20th anniversary of self-government in the ACT. This obviously did not occur overnight. It was a long process, and some of my former colleagues and the forebears of the Liberal Party in Canberra were an integral part of that process that finally got self-government going in the ACT. To those who pioneered the way I offer my congratulations and gratitude. Although all have deserved recognition, I would particularly like to recognise my

Liberal forebears as leaders: the late Trevor Kaine, Kate Carnell, Gary Humphries, Brendan Smyth and Bill Stefaniak.

No parliament can work without specialised and professional support from the staff of the Assembly. The attendants we see every day, the services that are provided and the necessity of all staff in the building are important and valued contributions to the process.

I would also like to once again recognise and show my respect for the community of Canberra itself. The story of the growing up of the Assembly in some ways matches the growing story of Canberra as a city that is rightly proud of itself, that is able to stand on its own two feet, that is the equal in democracy, free speech and accountable administration of any jurisdiction in the country. It is indeed a great privilege to be a member of this place.

Mr Speaker, members, visitors: this is an important day in the history of Canberra, not just in the history of this chamber. It marks yet another step forward for us as a community, a city and a territory. As the centenary of the territory approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my fellow members, my colleagues and the city and citizenry of Canberra. Well done. It is my pleasure to support this motion and I commend it to the Assembly.

Distinguished visitors

MR SPEAKER: Before I call Ms Hunter, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of a number of visiting presiding officers. I acknowledge:

Hon Nick Griffiths MLC
President—Legislative Council
Western Australia

Hon Grant Woodhams MLA
Speaker—Legislative Assembly
Western Australia

Hon Jane Aagaard MLA
Speaker—Legislative Assembly
Northern Territory

Hon Richard Torbay MP
Speaker—Legislative Assembly
New South Wales

Hon Sue Smith MLC
President—Legislative Council
Tasmania

Hon Bob Sneath MLC
President—Legislative Council
South Australia

Hon Ann Barker MP
Deputy Speaker—Legislative Assembly
Victoria

Hon Lisle Snell MLA
Speaker—Legislative Assembly
Norfolk Island

I wish to give a special acknowledgement to the Speaker of our twinned parliament, the Hon Taomati Iuta MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Parliament of Kiribati. As well, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of a number of clerks from other Australian parliaments, as well as the Kiribati parliament. On behalf of all members, I extend a warm welcome to the presiding officers and clerks, and thank them for joining us for our celebrations.

20th Anniversary of self-government

MS HUNTER (Ginninderra—Parliamentary Convenor, ACT Greens) (10.30):
Mr Speaker, I have great pleasure in speaking to and supporting this motion on behalf of my Greens colleagues, as it recognises the history, the nature and the importance of this Assembly.

I wish first to acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the lands of the ACT and pay my respects to the elders, families and ancestors.

The Greens have been a part of the ACT Assembly since 1995, and I would like to acknowledge Lucy Horodny, Kerrie Tucker and Dr Deb Foskey. I am pleased that we can continue the work of our Greens predecessors in contributing to the development of an Assembly that takes democratic and participatory approaches to its operations.

I do believe that the way a parliament is run will inform how well it does its job, and as a Canberra resident I am proud of the way this Assembly, over the last 20 years, has developed its own responsible, accessible and considered approach.

With a new alignment of the parties in the Assembly, and some big challenges globally and locally before us, we have an important opportunity to continue the process of connecting the Assembly to its constituents and ensuring a strong, democratic and responsible government for the people of the ACT.

Twenty years ago, many in the ACT may not have chosen self-government for themselves; however, in my mind, self-government for the ACT was, and still is, an important opportunity to have the unique needs of Canberrans adequately represented.

Initial resistance to self-government led to undeniable volatility in the Assembly and a very mixed response, including derision at times, from the public. The Greens would like to recognise and thank those MLAs, their staff, government officers and, probably most importantly, the staff of the Assembly itself, for taking on the responsibility of that pioneering work to establish the Assembly during those demanding times. We have all benefited from their response to these challenges, then and in the years that have followed.

It is clear that the staff of the Assembly—the Clerk’s office, chamber support, the committees, attendants and corporate services, the Hansard and Communications team, the library and the parliamentary counsel’s office—have all maintained a strong commitment to building the capacity and upholding the reputation and integrity of the Assembly over the past 20 years.

The principles and practices of the current Assembly have developed over the last six terms, since 1989, through a sequence of minority governments of greater or lesser authority and a majority government of one term. The most recent election, in October 2008, has seen a change in the balance again, for the Seventh Assembly, with three parties now substantially represented.

That election also delivered the Labor-Greens parliamentary agreement, which incorporates a number of reforms, including the formal adoption of the Latimer House principles, the investigation into establishing an oversight or integrity branch, a more rigorous approach to answering questions without notice in the Assembly—although sometimes you would not know it—and a commitment to improved freedom of information. The reforms in this agreement give all members the opportunity to make a more substantial contribution to the work of this parliament.

The Greens are committed to making this Assembly work well for the people of Canberra, and I concur with my predecessor, Dr Deb Foskey, when she spoke of what an honour and privilege it was to be a member of the Assembly, to gain such a deep understanding of Canberra’s places and people, to be so involved with and connected to life here. To be a member of this Assembly involves a significant responsibility in a very immediate way regarding people’s lives, as Canberra is still a relatively small community. This intimacy also offers members the chance to make a difference at a personal level.

The Assembly standing and select committees play a very important role in strengthening the connections between active members of our community and the members of the Assembly. However, the challenge is to build on that interest so that there can be more engagement before important decisions are made.

The key role of any legislature is legislation, which is why elected members are often called lawmakers. So it is noteworthy that this Assembly was the first to support the introduction of a human rights act.

The contract that the Assembly has in regard to making law is with the people of the ACT. While we are informed about, and presumably responsive to, changes that are happening in other states and other parts of the world—and the development of the law reflects that—we are accountable to the electors, at the end of the day. Indeed, the Speaker in effect brings ACT legislation into force, not a governor or the Governor-General, and I would say that the commonwealth’s existing power to override any law in the ACT via the Prime Minister and the Governor-General is inappropriate, and this situation needs to be changed.

The purpose of legislation and the rule of law, however, is to emphasise the reciprocity of that agreement between government and citizen—that the law applies to all fairly, that it is designed in response to community need and that it takes account of the social reality of the people it affects.

This Assembly is strong on ensuring appropriate scrutiny of law, and some of the recently revised standing orders ensure that legislation cannot be easily rushed through. It is not just the members of the Assembly who should be trusted with that scrutiny. It is important that the processes and time available provide for wider input from civil society and from the oversight agencies of government itself.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to the three-cornered shape of the present Assembly. So many of the procedures and operations of our parliaments reflect the adversarial nature of oppositional politics. It is continually challenging for us here to organise the Assembly in a way that draws on the strengths of the three perspectives that the parties represent. And with always more than two sides to an issue, we owe it to our constituents to explore the range of possibilities available more thoroughly.

If we are as a society to face up to big issues and find some general agreement to profound change which, as the times suggest, we should, then this Assembly has the chance to break the mould even more in the next few years, to build in more consciously our civil society and our evolving media, and to make the debates over important decisions both accessible and meaningful.

The history of this Assembly is a proud one. The notion of a local and regional government makes more sense in many ways than those of the larger states. This recognises the exemplary work that has been, and is still being, done to make the ACT Assembly function responsibly and effectively, in support of the members and executive and in the interests of the Canberra community.

The challenge of democratic institutions is to remain stable and yet to be responsive enough to meet the aspirations and expectations of the changing ACT community. Those expectations include: the expectation that the parliament will be truly representative of all the people; the expectation that, as elected representatives of all residents of the ACT, we will work to heal any divisions in our society; in particular, the expectation that the voices of the disadvantaged will be heard; and the expectation that our natural environment will be protected and preserved for the future.

All of us who are privileged to hold public office, be it elected or appointed, owe a duty of trust to the present and future generations of residents of the ACT, and to put the pursuit of the common good above personal gain or ambition. I and my colleagues from the ACT Greens are honoured to be a part of this evolving Assembly which strives to connect meaningfully with the Canberra people while offering leadership in facing the challenges before us in order to secure a positive and sustainable future for the territory.

MR STANHOPE (Ginninderra—Chief Minister, Minister for Transport, Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Business and Economic Development, Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Minister for the Arts and Heritage) (10.40), in reply: I thank my colleagues the Leader of the Opposition and the Parliamentary Convenor for the Greens for their contributions to the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Adjournment

Motion (by **Mr Corbell**) agreed to:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 10.40 am until Tuesday, 16 June 2009, at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Courts—sentences (Question No 29)

Mrs Dunne asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 10 February 2009:

- (1) How many criminal sentence judgements, by type of case, were made by the (a) Magistrates and (b) Supreme Courts in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07 and (iv) 2007-08.
- (2) In relation to the case of judgements in the Magistrates Court listed in part (1), how many, by type of case, were appealed to the Supreme Court.
- (3) Of those judgements listed in part (2), how many sentences did the Supreme Court (a) confirm, (b) reduce or (c) increase.
- (4) In relation to the case of judgements in the Supreme Court listed in part (1), how many, by type of case, were appealed to the Court of Appeal.
- (5) Of those judgements listed in part (4), how many sentences did the Court of Appeal (a) confirm, (b) reduce or (c) increase.

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

- 1(a) The number of criminal sentences passed in the Magistrates Court over the last four financial years is as follows:

	Total sentences
2004-05	3185
2005-06	3627
2006-07	3072
2007-08	3243

- 1(b) The number of criminal sentences passed in the Supreme Court over the last four financial years is as follows:

	Total sentences
2004-05	100
2005-06	118
2006-07	98
2007-08	126

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 4513.0 - Criminal Courts

The court does not have easy access to data about criminal sentences by type of case and I am not prepared to authorise the use of the very considerable resources that would be involved in providing the detailed information required to answer the Member's question. Consequently type of case information in relation to the questions asked has not been provided.

2. The number of cases appealed from the Magistrate's Court to the Supreme Court are as follows. The cases for each year do not necessarily correlate with criminal sentences passed in the Magistrates Court in the same year – some may relate to prior years.

	Criminal appeals from Magistrate's Court
2004-05	50
2005-06	51
2006-07	47
2007-08	79

3. Data is not kept on the outcomes of appeals. It would be necessary to check each finalised criminal appeal file to answer this question.

4. The number of cases appealed from the Supreme Court to the Court of Appeal are as follows. Again the cases for each year do not necessarily correlate with criminal sentences passed in the Supreme Court in the same year – some may relate to prior years.

	Criminal appeals from Supreme Court
2004-05	15
2005-06	28
2006-07	16
2007-08	22

5. Data is not kept on the outcomes of appeals, it would be necessary to check each finalised criminal appeal file to answer this question.

ActewAGL—directors (Question No 51)

Ms Hunter asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 12 February 2009:

- (1) Who is a director on more than one board in the group of ActewAGL companies.
- (2) How many boards have John McKay and Michael Costello sat on in the past five years.
- (3) How many boards do John McKay and Michael Costello sit on now.
- (4) Have John McKay and Michael Costello drawn salary for these directorships while being paid employees of any of the ACTEW companies; if so, what salary has been drawn for each directorship.

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

- (1) The following information is provided to outline the structure and ownership arrangements of ActewAGL.

ActewAGL is not a company. It is a joint venture which comprises two partnerships: ActewAGL Retail Partnership and ActewAGL Distribution Partnership. The partners in the Retail Partnership are ACTEW Retail Limited (ARL), a wholly owned subsidiary of ACTEW Corporation Limited (ACTEW); and AGL ACT Retail Investments Pty Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of AGL Energy Limited (AGL). The partners in the ActewAGL Distribution Partnership are ACTEW Distribution Limited (ADL), a wholly owned subsidiary of ACTEW; and Jemena Networks (ACT) Pty Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Jemena Limited.

ActewAGL is directed by a Partnerships Board which comprises three members appointed by the ACTEW partners and three members appointed by the AGL/Jemena partners. The Partnerships Board is not a company board.

The current members of the Board are:

- John Mackay (ACTEW)
- Michael Easson (ACTEW)
- Mark Sullivan (ACTEW)
- Jim Galvin (AGL)
- Lim Lay Hong (Jemena)
- Lim Howe Run (Jemena)

The directors of ARL and ADL are Michael Costello, Kerry McIlwraith and Simon Wallace.

I am advised that Ms Lim Lay Hong and Mr Lim Howe Run are directors of Jemena Networks (ACT) Pty Limited and Jemena Limited.

(2) In respect of ACTEW, its subsidiary companies and ActewAGL:

Mr Mackay has been a Director and Chairman of ACTEW since July 2008, Chairman of the ActewAGL Joint Venture Partnerships Board since July 2008, and a Director of ACTEW China Pty Limited (ACPL) since May 1998.

Mr Costello was appointed a Director of ACTEW in August 2002 and Managing Director in November 2003. He was appointed a member of the ActewAGL Joint Venture Partnerships Board in June 2003. He resigned from all three positions in June 2008. Mr Costello has been a Director and Chairman of ACTEW's three subsidiary companies, ACPL, ADL and ARL since September 2003.

(3) In respect of ACTEW, its subsidiary companies and ActewAGL:

Mr Mackay is a Director and Chairman of ACTEW, a Director of ACPL, and a member and Chairman of the ActewAGL Joint Venture Partnerships Board.

Mr Costello is a Director and Chairman of ACPL, ADL and ARL.

(4) No.

**Legislative Assembly—library
(Question No 81)**

Mr Seselja asked the Speaker, upon notice, on 26 February 2009:

- (1) What is the progress of negotiations to transfer the Assembly library to the Legislative Assembly Secretariat.
- (2) Will the transfer of the Assembly library be completed within six months of the first sitting of the current Assembly on 5 November 2008 as specified in the Labor / Greens agreement; if not, when will the transfer be completed.
- (3) What changes will be made to the library to facilitate assistance for members as specified in the Labor / Greens agreement

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

- (1) Officers of the Secretariat have arranged several meetings with officers of the Department of Territories and Municipal Services commencing in December 2008. On Thursday 26 February I also had a meeting with officers of the Department. Those discussions have identified that a complication for the transfer involves how the "government" segment of the current library should be managed.
- (2) I am keen for the transfer to occur in the time specified in the agreement, although there are several issues that remain to be clarified for the transfer to occur before that date.
- (3) As the Assembly library has not yet been transferred, I am not in a position to identify precisely what changes will be made, but I will be seeking, in due course, improved resources for the Assembly library as specified in the Agreement

**Gungahlin Drive extension
(Question No 83)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 26 February 2009:

- (1) What is the progress of design work for the duplication of the Gungahlin Drive Extension.
- (2) When will this work be completed.
- (3) When will construction (a) start and (b) be completed on this project.
- (4) What is the estimated cost of the duplication.
- (5) Has the Government received any representations from the Greens asking for the cancellation or deferral of this project.

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

1. The preliminary design is expected to be completed in April 2009. Design documentation for construction contracts will be progressively completed between May and December 2009.
 2. In December 2009.
 3. Work is expected to commence in August 2009 and completion of construction is scheduled for June 2012.
 4. \$83 million. This cost includes the normal allowances for contingencies and cost escalations for a major roadworks construction project to be delivered over a three year period, however, it should be noted that the proposed works have not yet been designed and this estimate may be subject to revision.
 5. No.
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**Environment—tree register
(Question No 91)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 26 February 2009:

- (1) How many trees were placed on the tree register in 2008.
- (2) How does the figure in part (1) compare to the number of trees placed on the tree register in 2007.

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

1. In 2008, significant work was undertaken to transfer a number of trees listed on heritage registered sites into the Tree Register. That process resulted in 347 heritage listed sites being incorporated into the register. Following further investigation of those sites, the Tree Register now contains 41 sites identifying in some instances, more than one potentially registerable tree. A further process of fully identifying and assessing individual trees on each site is ongoing work being undertaken by the Tree Protection Unit.
 2. No trees were entered onto the Tree Register in 2007. All regulated trees were protected under the Tree Protection Act in 2007.
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**Planning—development applications
(Question No 92)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice, on 26 February 2009:

- (1) How many development applications of each track has the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) received that are not yet processed.
- (2) What are the (a) average, (b) minimum and (c) maximum waiting times for approval of the various tracks of ACTPLA development applications from 1 December 2008 to 28 February 2009.

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

- (1) On 19 March 2009, ACTPLA had 252 merit track DAs and 22 code track DAs not determined.
- (2) For merit track DAs, (a) the average time to determine is 38.5 days; (b) minimum time is 15 days; and (c) maximum time has been 179 days.

For Code Track DAs, (a) the average time to determine is 3.9 days; (b) minimum time is 1 day; and (c) maximum time has been 18 days.

Environment—energy efficiency ratings (Question No 93)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice, on 26 February 2009:

- (1) Who is currently the Senior Energy Advisor for the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA).
- (2) Will the Minister make the 2008 ACTPLA discussion paper on the Home Energy Ratings Scheme available to the Assembly.
- (3) Will the Minister provide the documents which have been given to the building certifiers on the new energy efficiency rating (EER) software, telling them that it will be compulsory from May 2009.
- (4) Given that the first generation software can't be upgraded and is no longer commercially supported, what will be the validity of the first generation software after 1 May 2009.
- (5) What qualifications will ACTPLA/Department of Justice and Community Safety (JACS) accept for the use of second generation EER software.
- (6) Where can energy efficiency raters get new stamps to certify the energy assessments.
- (7) Will the new second generation energy efficiency rating software, which will be compulsory in May 2009, be able to differentiate between new and existing houses.
- (8) Are EERs undertaken before or after lighting and insulation has been installed.
- (9) Do ACTPLA and JACS coordinate to ensure that all energy efficiency assessments undertaken use the right climate zones.
- (10) When was the last EER audit undertaken.
- (11) When will the next EER audit be undertaken.

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

- (1) The position of Senior Energy Advisor is currently vacant. Recruitment for the position is in progress.

- (2) The discussion paper prepared in 2008 was a draft document. The paper is currently being revised in light of concurrent national processes for energy efficiency ratings and will be available to the public and the Assembly shortly.
- (3) ACTPLA and the Commonwealth Government in its capacity as administrator for the Australian Building Codes Board on behalf of States and Territories, held a joint information session in Canberra on 10 February 2009 that outlined the changes to the BCA for 2009. All licensed building certifiers were invited to this session and information will be posted on the ABCB website after completion of the session program.

It is not compulsory to demonstrate compliance with energy efficiency provisions by calculation of a star rating. A star rating is only one method of verification permissible under the BCA. Second generation software is not new and has been referenced in the second BCA protocol for second generation software since 2006.
- (4) Ratings produced on first generation software will still be valid after 1 May 2009 for the purposes of mandatory disclosure. ACTPLA is investigating how ACTHERS can be transitioned to second generation software while minimising the impact for homeowners and energy assessors.
- (5) Final decision on requirements under a new licensing regime will be resolved after the release of the discussion paper and appropriate consultation with industry groups.
- (6) Stamps are only required under the ACTHERS. Since this scheme is independent of ABCB protocols new stamps will not be required.
- (7) The software calculates theoretical energy efficiency performance of a dwelling based on specified components of the building. This does not require differentiation between new and existing buildings.
- (8) For the purposes of the BCA EERs are calculated from the building plan prior to commencement of construction.
- (9) There is currently limited legal capacity to audit energy assessments. The Government is examining options to strengthen the scheme to allow for greater regulatory rigour is a priority for ACTPLA
- (10) The last audit of EERs was undertaken in early 2008.
- (11) The next EER audit will be undertaken when the position of Energy Rating Advisor is filled.

**Environment—energy efficiency ratings
(Question No 95)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice, on 26 February 2009:

- (1) What level of training is being provided to energy efficiency rating training.
- (2) What is the status of all the existing first generation ratings and have any studies been done to compare the ratings produced.

- (3) Has the ACT Planning and Land Authority looked at cost implications of doing the ratings themselves, for example, it may be several hundred dollars with second generation.

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

- (1) Training is provided by the software developers and/or registered training organisations.
- (2) Ratings at design stage are valid only for the purposes of satisfying building legislation. Mandatory disclosure validity provisions have not altered.

The Commonwealth Government oversees the development of protocols for, and testing of, energy efficiency rating software.

- (3) No.

Housing ACT—rental arrears (Question No 98)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Disability and Housing, upon notice, on 26 February 2009:

In relation to arrears by public housing tenants, how many households are in arrears for (a) up to one month, (b) up to two months, (c) up to three months and (d) three months or more and what is the amount outstanding for each category.

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

At 4 March 2009 - Debt (excluding Currong Apartments)

0 to 4 weeks	975	\$212,800.27
5 to 8 weeks	235	\$197,350.09
9 to 12 weeks	113	\$158,008.03
Over 12 weeks	215	\$531,370.06
Total	1538	\$1,099,528.45

Actew—travel policy (Question No 108)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) What is ACTEW's policy in relation to eligibility for economy, business and first class travel.
- (2) Further to the reply to question on notice No 71, in which it was stated that 2% of ACTEW's travel during 2007-08 was first class, (a) who travelled first class, (b) what was the full trip itinerary, including trip purpose, (c) who authorised first class travel and (d) is first class travel outside ACTEW's travel policy; if so, why was first class travel authorised.

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

- (1) ACTEW staff travel economy class on domestic flights and business class when travelling overseas. The Managing Director and Directors travel business class on domestic flights and when travelling overseas.
 - (2) (a) The Director of the Water Security Major Projects travelled first class on four domestic flights within the United States.

(b) A copy of the itinerary is attached.

(c) The travel was authorised by ACTEW's Managing Director.

(d) First class travel was authorised as there were no business class seats available on the flights.
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**Actew—legal and banking services
(Question No 109)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, when was the last time ACTEW reviewed its panel providers of legal and banking services.
- (2) How long have the current provider panels been retained.

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

- (1) In relation to legal services, ACTEW does not have a panel of providers. Since approximately 1992 Mallesons Stephen Jaques and the legal firm now known as Minter Ellison have provided legal services to ACTEW. Other legal firms are engaged from time to time as required.

In relation to banking services, since 2005 ACTEW through ActewAGL has contracted Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC) to provide transaction banking services. The services provided by WBC as part of this contract include general banking, access to online banking platform, provision of bank guarantees, EFTPOS facilities, provision of credit cards and providing payment channel facilities for customers to pay their ACTEW accounts e.g. Bpay. ActewAGL will be looking to re-evaluate the provider of its transaction banking requirements in 2009 for the ACTEW and ActewAGL Group via a competitive tender process.

- (2) See (1) above.
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**Actew—water supply projects
(Question No 110)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, what is the progress on the water security infrastructure projects (a) enlargement of Cotter Dam, (b) securing of supply from Tantangara and (c) the demonstration water purification plant and when are these projects likely to be commissioned into production.
- (2) What will be the total cost of the projects outlined in part (1) including financing costs and how will they be paid for and over what period.

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

- (1) I announced on 25 March 2009 that the Government had agreed to ACTEW proceeding with the construction of the Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline and to implementing the Tantangara Transfer option. The Government had previously approved construction of the enlarged Cotter Dam in October 2007.
In relation to:
 - (a) The enlarged Cotter Dam – ACTEW has advised that planning is well advanced and that the Environmental Impact Statement for the project that ACTEW has submitted to ACTPLA is under consideration. Work is anticipated to begin in August this year and be completed in April 2011.
 - (b) The Tantangara Transfer option - ACTEW has advised that it is currently engaged in negotiations with Snowy Hydro Ltd over protocols to allow the storage of water in Tantangara Reservoir and its release to the Upper Murrumbidgee River; with the NSW Government over protocols to allow transfer of the water from the Murrumbidgee to Googong Reservoir via the Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline; and that it is purchasing water entitlements in the market place.
 - (c) The Demonstration Water Purification Plant – the Government has decided, on ACTEW's recommendation, that while the proposed project is feasible it can be deferred if the expanded Cotter Dam and Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline projects proceed, and if inflows to the storages do not further deteriorate.
- (2) ACTEW has advised that it does not expect to have certainty as to total costs until mid 2009. The infrastructure will be paid for by borrowings and repaid over the term of the borrowings.

Actew—profit increases (Question No 111)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, is the increase in profit, \$11.5 million, derived as a result of increased water tariff charges, going to be quarantined for the infrastructure projects; if so, how and in what manner.
- (2) Why did the ACT Government get an increased dividend when the increased profit came from increased water prices determined for the purpose of the water security infrastructure projects.

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

- (1) As highlighted on page 31 and 32 of the Annual Report, ACTEW's profit mainly increased as a result of improved performance from the ActewAGL Joint Venture

which was \$15.1m higher than prior year. While increased water and wastewater tariff charges contributed, this increase was partially offset by higher water operational costs and higher income tax expense resulting from higher current year profits plus lower prior year tax expense from a tax adjustment.

ACTEW's profits were not to be quarantined for infrastructure projects and as highlighted on page 46 of the Annual Report, ACTEW declared a dividend of \$75.9m which is 100% of Net Profit after Tax.

- (2) As highlighted in part one, the dividend paid by ACTEW is 100% of net profit after tax in accordance with the policy of the shareholders. Therefore the increase in dividend was due to the increase in profit as discussed above. Prices in 2007/08 did not include any allowances for the Water Security Major Projects.

Actew—board selection process (Question No 112)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, what selection process was used in the appointment of the new chair of the ACTEW Corporation board from 1 July 2008.

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

The Voting Shareholders are responsible for the appointment of the directors of a Territory owned Corporation, including the Chair, after consultation with the relevant committee, which in this case was the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

In this instance the selection process included initial consultation by the Voting Shareholders with the former Chair of ACTEW and the Office for Women.

The Voting Shareholders considered the new Chair to be an ideal candidate based on his demonstrated skills and expertise during his former roles as Chief Executive of ACTEW and then ActewAGL.

The process followed was in accordance with Section 12 of the *Territory owned Corporations Act 1990*.

Actew—Cotter reservoir (Question No 113)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, given that page 10 of the annual report states that "over the past five years we have ... brought the Cotter Reserve back into service", why and for how long was Cotter Reservoir out of service.
- (2) What difference would it have made to supply to the ACT had the Cotter Reserve been in service during the drought period and what did the re-commissioning cost.

- (3) When were Canberra's dams constructed.
- (4) At the time of construction of Canberra's dams what (a) was their capacity, (b) maximum population were the dams intended to service, (c) was the average consumption per capita and (d) was estimated lifespan of the dams.
- (5) What are the current figures for those categories listed in part (4).

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

- (1) ACTEW has advised that the Cotter Reservoir had not been in regular service since 1968 following the completion of the Bendora Dam and Bendora Gravity Main. However, it continued to be maintained so as to be available for emergencies during that period.
- (2) Recommissioning the Cotter Reservoir earlier than this would not have made any difference to supply, as the water could not be treated to Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) quality standards.

Since construction of the water filtration plant at Stromlo in 2005, which enabled the Cotter Reservoir water to be treated to ADWG standards, I am advised that the Cotter Reservoir has added approximately 25 GL to Canberra's water supply.

I understand that the recommissioning cost of the Cotter Reservoir, including the cost to construct the water filtration plant at Stromlo, which also enabled the water from Corin and Bendora Dams to be treated including after the bushfires, was approximately \$55m.

- (3) Cotter Dam 1912 - 1915 Raised in 1951
Bendora Dam 1959 - 1961
Corin Dam 1966 - 1968
Googong Dam 1975 - 1978
- (4) (a) and (b)
ACTEW advises that in considering the responses to the Member's question the following points have significantly affected the sustainable yield of the reservoirs and the combined system, meaning the design figures for population served below are not valid for comparison purposes with the current analysis:
 - due to changes in the profile of Canberra's population, commerce and industry;
 - individual consumer habits including the significant increase in high water use facilities such as dishwashers, pools, spas etc;
 - demand management activities undertaken over the last two decades; governance arrangements associated with management of the impoundments including operating rules;
 - environmental flow guidelines;
 - Murray Darling Basin Cap;
 - permanent water conservation measures and temporary water restrictions;
 - the changing levels of service standards acceptable to communities including their appetite for risk;
 - new water charging regimes;
 - the additional information available on the water resources available including the variability of our local meteorology including rainfall and streamflow, as well as the possible impact of climate change;

- the impact from bushfires; and
- new modelling techniques including stochastic data simulation.

The Cotter Dam was designed to serve 25,000 people. However, the dam was not constructed to its design height until 1951. The estimated capacity of the dam when work was completed around 1915 was 1.85 GL.

The water supply system including Bendora Dam was designed to serve 97,000 people. The estimated capacity of the dam when completed was 10.7 GL.

The water supply system including Corin Dam was designed to serve 225,000 people. The estimated capacity of the dam when completed was 75.5 GL.

The water supply system including Googong Dam was designed to serve 450,000 people. The capacity of the dam when completed was 124.5 GL.

It should be noted that the design was based on historic inflows up until 1970 (that is without the 1980s and current droughts, the latter of which is the worst on record) to get through the 1940s drought without restrictions. In all cases a worse drought than the 1940s drought (ie, now) would have meant the system would not meet the design criteria. ACTEW now uses a different, national best practice method of choosing when we need a new supply and how many people it will serve.

- (c) When Bendora Dam was completed in 1961 the average consumption was approximately 550 L/capita/day.

When Corin Dam was completed in 1968 the average consumption was approximately 600 L/capita/day.

When Googong Dam was completed in 1978 the average consumption was approximately 700 L/capita/day.

- (d) The estimated life span of the main structure of a dam is typically 100 years or more.

- (5)(a) Bathymetry surveys were conducted using more accurate modern methods at Corin and Bendora Dams in November 2005 to re-calculate the dams' storage capacities. This resulted in a change to our total storage capacity from 215.4 GL to 211.6 GL. Bathymetry surveys were conducted at Googong and Cotter Dams in October 2006 to re-calculate the dams storage capacities. This resulted in a change to our total storage capacity from 211.6 GL to 207.4 GL.

The capacity of Canberra's dams is currently estimated as:

Cotter Dam 3.9 GL

Bendora Dam 11.5 GL

Corin Dam 70.9 GL

Googong Dam 121.1 GL

- (b) The maximum population these dams would service is dependent on the factors listed above. The existing four dams no longer meet the current service standards and hence ACTEW undertook a substantial body of work culminating in the Future Water Options work of 2005 and following on from that the Water Security program reported in 2007 followed up by the December 2008 report. Under the current climate uncertainty, it is not realistic to assign a maximum population that the Water

Security major projects will meet. However, based on the assumptions used for the above reports, particularly the assumed future weather patterns, the augmentations to the water supply system, namely the enlarged Cotter Dam and the Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline should provide sufficient water for a population of around 550,000.

- (c) The average consumption prior to the introduction of water restrictions in 2003 was approximately 500 L/capita/day.

The Think Water, Act Water 25% reduction target would reduce this unrestricted demand to 375 L/capita/day by 2023. However, it is probable that climate change will increase this figure due to a dryer climate.

Recent demand in Stage 3 water restrictions has averaged 315 L/capita/day.

- (d) The estimated life span of the main structure of a dam remains at 100 years or more.

Actew—water purification plant (Question No 114)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, how will the water purification plant be demonstrated and to whom.
- (2) If it is decided to construct a full plant, will the demonstration plant be dismantled, or will it be incorporated into the full operations plant.
- (3) What process will be followed to evaluate the effectiveness and acceptance of the output of the demonstration plant.

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

On 25 March 2009 I announced that the Government has decided, on ACTEW's recommendation, that while the proposed project to construct a demonstration water purification plant is feasible it can be deferred if the expanded Cotter Dam and Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline projects proceed, and if inflows to the storages do not further decrease significantly.

Actew—consultation activities (Question No 115)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, has the Corporation undertaken any kind of analysis of the community feedback in relation to its consultation activities on major projects; if so, what is the result of that analysis; if not, why.

(2) What continuing consultation activities are planned and when.

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

(1) ACTEW has advised that it has dedicated resources to undertake and evaluate community consultation programs for the suite of water supply projects that are currently under way. Feedback is gained through a number of channels, such as the Water Security – Major Projects information phone line, correspondence, one on one meetings with affected members of the community, community group meetings, surveys and feedback forms. Feedback received is channelled into the relevant project and dealt with on a day to day basis. ACTEW is committed to listen to the community throughout delivery of these projects.

ACTEW has further advised that examples of changes to projects as a direct result of community feedback include:

- the reconsideration of the pipeline route for the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer;
- the development of concept designs for revitalising the Cotter Precinct during/post construction; and
- ACTEW has taken public submissions into account in preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Enlarged Cotter Dam.

Other results

Issues/questions raised and posed to ACTEW since the projects' inception have been recorded and cover the following broad themes:

Issues Raised Since Project Inception			
Issue	Events	Stakeholders	
		distinct	total
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Pipe route	125	123	278
Enlarged Cotter Dam: EIS	119	143	193
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .consultation	89	139	426
Projects: General enquiry	81	93	142
Googong Dam Spillway: Noise/dust/odour	73	62	73
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .EIS	71	88	131
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Planning/other options	69	141	199
Projects: planning	47	57	70
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Planning / other options	40	43	48
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Environmental river flows	34	86	111
Murrumbidgee to Googong: Land Acquisition	32	59	93
Water Purification Plant: Planning/other options.	31	24	40
Water Purification Plant: Water quality.	25	13	28
Googong Dam Spillway: traffic	24	20	24
Enlarged Cotter Dam: consultation	20	45	55
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Traffic	20	27	30
Googong Dam Spillway: EIS	19	13	24
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Cotter Road	18	16	18
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Cost	17	55	62
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Staff behaviour	17	10	18
Water Purification Plant: Health concerns - WPP.	17	18	21
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Cost	16	11	16
Googong Dam Spillway: Consultation	15	11	15
Googong Dam Spillway: Road closure	15	6	15
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Environmental river flows	14	14	17
Tantangara Transfer: Planning...	14	13	16

Cotter precinct: planning.	13	10	14
Water Purification Plant: Cost.	13	13	13
Cotter precinct: Recreation	11	17	18
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Water quality	11	49	56
Tantangara Transfer: Water Licence	11	9	13
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Fish	10	11	20
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Water quality	9	8	11
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Energy use / greenhouse	7	6	8
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Noise/dust/odour	7	17	17
Water Purification Plant: Drought.	7	7	7
Googong Dam Spillway: ..Recreation	6	4	6
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Power infrastructure	6	8	9
Water Purification Plant: DA / EIS.	6	15	18
Cotter precinct: consultation.	5	117	117
Water Purification Plant: Environmental river flows.	5	6	8
Cotter precinct: other.	4	3	4
Enlarged Cotter Dam: water restrictions	4	4	4
Googong Dam Spillway: New Googong Township	4	4	4
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Angle Creek users	4	7	7
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Noise/dust/odour	4	6	7
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Traffic	4	6	6
Cotter precinct: Friend of the Cotter..	3	2	3
Googong Dam Spillway: Water service	3	3	3
M2C/CPS: Consultation..	3	2	3
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Fish	3	27	27
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Drought	2	2	2
Googong Dam Spillway: anti-social behaviour	2	1	2
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Drought	2	2	2
Salt Reduction Scheme: SRS options	2	2	2
Tantangara Transfer: Cost...	2	1	2
Tantangara Transfer: Environmental Flows...	2	4	4
Cotter precinct: cost..	1	1	1
Cotter precinct: Noise/dust/odour	1	1	1
Enlarged Cotter Dam: Staff behaviour	1	3	3
M2C/CPS: Environmental flows	1	2	2
M2C/CPS: Water quality	1	1	1
Murrumbidgee to Googong: .Energy use / greenhouse	1	1	1
Water Purification Plant: Energy Use / greenhouse.	1	1	1
Water Purification Plant: Fish.	1	4	4
Water Purification Plant: Traffic.	1	1	1
Events Matching Search	1194	778	2403

General awareness of the projects is high, with 96% of respondents to a random survey in 2008 stating they were aware.

Handout surveys during community events and shopping centre displays in the summer of 2008-09 showed the following awareness levels of each of the projects:

- Enlarged Cotter Dam: 478 (73%)
- Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer: 327 (50%)
- Demonstration Water Purification Plant: 215 (33%)
- Tantangara Transfer: 117 (18%)

In 2008 ACTEW conducted surveys to better understand the community's views in relation to the Cotter Precinct area. This survey also included questions about ACTEW's community consultation activities. The survey was a phone survey and was also placed on ACTEW's website.

As a result of hosting these workshops, ACTEW was able to gain a deeper understanding of the values ACT residents place on the Cotter Precinct, the types of activities that are undertaken and the community's preferences for redevelopment or improvements that could be made in conjunction with the enlarged Cotter Dam.

- (2) ACTEW has advised that it plans to continue its close engagement with the community on these important projects. Community consultation on the projects will continue throughout 2009 and for the life of these projects. ACTEW also plans to continue gathering feedback in relation to its consultation activities to minimise disruption and ensure positive outcomes.

Consultation activities in the near future include:

- Information session/s during the lodgment of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer.
- Continued discussions and negotiations with individual landholders affected by the construction of the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer.
- Information displays at upcoming local events such as the Retirement and Lifestyle Expo, Queanbeyan's Enviro Expo and ActewAGL's Amazing World of Science, part of the 2009 Australian Science Festival.
- Further consultation on ACTEW's options for redevelopment of the Cotter Precinct.
- Ongoing discussions with local residents regarding temporary construction impacts around the Cotter Pumping Station.

Actew—water diversions (Question No 116)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, how much water has the ACT used or diverted from the Murray Darling Basin since reaching agreement with the Murray Darling Basin Commission on an ACT water cap.
- (2) How much is proposed to be used or diverted in a full year.
- (3) For how long will the current cap be sufficient to meet the ACT's needs and when and what process will be used to review that cap.

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

- (1) The ACT cap was accepted by the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council in May 2008. For 2007/08, ACTEW has advised that it extracted 43.5GL and returned 25.7GL through Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre, using a net 17.8GL. Note that the ACT cap also includes other extractions apart from ACTEW and Queanbeyan Sewerage Treatment Plant returns to the river, which are monitored by

the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water. These other extractions are quite small in volume.

- (2) ACTEW has further advised that its normal year extractions are around 65GL and LMWQCC returns around 30GL, giving a net use of 35GL. This varies with weather, demand management activities and whether temporary water restrictions are in place (less than 1GL in 2007-08).
- (3) The current ACT cap should be sufficient to meet the ACT's needs for the foreseeable future as it contains an allowance for population growth. The Murray Darling Basin Authority is developing a Basin Plan, which is scheduled to commence in 2011. The caps for all main rivers of the jurisdictions across the Murray Darling Basin are likely to be reviewed as part of this process.

Actew—water restrictions (Question No 117)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, how many of the 5400 phone calls received from consumers during the year related to complaints about neighbours or other people failing to observe water restrictions.
- (2) How many of those complaints outlined in part (1) did the Corporation investigate.
- (3) In relation to the complaints investigated, as outlined in part (1), apart from issuing infringement notices, what kinds of action did the Corporation take.
- (4) How many electronic roadside water consumption advisory signs are in use throughout the Territory.
- (5) What are the total costs associated with the signs outlined in part (4), for example, hiring charges, maintenance and information updating.
- (6) What public feedback has been received as to the use of the signs outlined in part (4).
- (7) Has the Corporation assessed their effectiveness; if so, what are the results; if not, why not.

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

- (1) Of the total calls to ACTEW's Water Conservation Office in 2007-08, there were 341 calls related to reports of potential breaches of water restrictions. The number of these that were directly related to neighbours reporting neighbours is unknown.

The 341 calls fall part of a total 1459 reports of potential breaches received via phone, email and the website.

- (2) ACTEW can take a number of different actions to follow up on a report as outlined in the response to the next question. In response to the 1459 reports, over 500 letters were sent; Water Conservation Officers made over 560 site visits; and 51 infringements were issued.

Not all reports can be followed up on. Public reports made anonymously prevent the Water Conservation Office from confirming details for accuracy or gathering relevant further information. Often properties are reported on numerous times, which can be as a result of different members of the public observing the same breach.

- (3) The various steps ACTEW's authorised officers take in following up on a report vary depending on the context, but include:
- A letter reminding the occupant of the current water restrictions;
 - Verbal contact to ensure an understanding of current water restrictions;
 - Targeted and random patrolling;
 - Attending a property and speaking to the occupant and/or taking necessary actions to end the breach.
 - Issuing a formal notice (direction to comply) to the occupier of a property at which a breach or evidence of a breach has been witnessed.
 - Issuing an infringement notice to the occupier of a property at which a breach or evidence of a breach has been witnessed.
 - Court action if an infringement is not paid or if multiple offences occur.
- (4) There are five electronic roadside signs on main arterial roads throughout the ACT, located on: Barry Drive, Barton Highway, Tuggeranong Parkway, Monaro Highway and Adelaide Avenue
- (5) The signs cost ACTEW approximately \$8000 per month to hire. This charge includes all maintenance and daily message updates.
- (6) Public feedback received by ACTEW has generally been positive.

Research carried out on behalf of ACTEW shows that, of the approximate 90% of respondents who recall seeing the signs, 80% find them at least occasionally useful (32% always useful, 25% useful most of the time, 23% occasionally useful) as a tool for receiving information about our water situation.

- (7) Canberra has reduced its water use by about 35% during the Stage 3 Water Restrictions. ACTEW regards the combination of enforcement and strong public awareness and behavioural change programs as the biggest contributing factor to the community having achieved these savings.

ACTEW uses the signs as an awareness-raising tool, which falls part of the much broader campaign 'Save water for life'. 'Save water for life' contains both awareness-raising activities, such as advertising, as well as behavioural change tactics such as bathroom prompts, water usage calculators and water wise gardening workshops.

ACTEW has measured the signs' effectiveness in terms of awareness – and for this it proves to be a very effective initiative with approximately 90% of respondents having seen the signs. Of these, 45% have reported the signs having a direct impact on their water use behaviours.

Any research results on the community's awareness of dam levels, levels of restrictions and water consumption cannot alone be contributed to the electronic roadside signs, as ACTEW uses a number of channels to disseminate this information.

**Actew—free recycled water
(Question No 118)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, how much free recycled water was taken by users from the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC) during 2007-08.
- (2) How much free recycled water is anticipated to be taken during 2008-09.
- (3) What impact does this have on the ACT's agreement with the Murray Darling Basin Commission.
- (4) What arrangements are available to non-potable water users to secure supply from other resources where the benefit of taking water from the LMWQCC is unviable because of transport costs.

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

- (1) Recycled water is available free of charge from the LMWQCC in Holt. ACTEW has advised that the amount taken in 2007-08 was 5.1 ML.
- (2) It is not possible to anticipate how much recycled water will be made available free of charge in 2008-09 as the amount taken will be subject to the level of water restrictions that applies. Under similar circumstances as those in 2007-08, it is expected that a similar volume of water would be required.
- (3) ACTEW has further advised that the ACT is using less water than provided for under the cap.
- (4) There are arrangements for the use of non-potable water from the North Canberra Effluent Reuse scheme and the Southwell Park scheme. However, these schemes are at capacity

The ACT Government also provides access to water from natural bodies within the ACT such as Lake Ginninderra on the same terms as other water that can be extracted from the environment. The acquirer of the water must hold a water access entitlement and a licence to take water and pay the respective charges.

**Actew—smart metering
(Question No 119)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, what will be the cost of the smart metering pilot program.
- (2) What would full implementation of the program cost.

- (3) What impact would this implementation of the program have on water prices in the ACT.
- (4) If water consumption is further reduced as a result, will prices increase to compensate.

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

- (1) The cost of the smart metering pilot will be \$2.4m as approved by the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission.
 - (1) The use of a pilot program is designed to help determine the cost of full implementation
 - (2) This will not be known until the full program costs are known.
 - (3) The results of the pilot will help to identify the benefits and costs of smart metering.
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**Actew—environmental flows
(Question No 120)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, did environmental flows during 2007-08 comply with the guidelines; if not, to what extent did they vary.
- (2) Were any penalties levied against ACTEW Corporation during 2007-08 for any failure to meet the guidelines; if so, why and what were the penalties.

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

- (1) All requirements for environmental flows identified in the Environmental Flow Guidelines 2006 are specified in ACTEW's Licence to Take Water issued under the *Water Resources Act 2007*. In 2007-08 all requirements of the licence were complied with.
 - (2) Not applicable since all requirements were complied with.
-

**Actew—environment management plan
(Question No 121)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, what reporting does ActewAGL provide to ACTEW Corporation on the activities and outcomes of its Environment Management Plan (EMP).
- (2) Did the EMP meet its key performance indicators for 2007-08; if not, in what areas and what remedial action has been taken.

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

- (1) I am advised that ActewAGL's Environment Management Plan (EMP) is approved by the ActewAGL Board and establishes the nine key environmental policy directions for a five-year period. The current EMP is for the period 2005–2010.

I am further advised that ActewAGL notifies ACTEW Corporation of the EMP and the activities and outcomes of the EMP through its directors.

The annual Environment Action Program (EAP) identifies the specific priorities and targets under each of these key directions. The priorities selected are approved by ActewAGL's executive team and the board's Environment Management Committee. These priorities are integrated into each divisional business plan and their progress is reported quarterly to both the executive and the board. The final annual report against the EAP forms the basis of the sustainability and environmental sections of the ActewAGL Annual Report.

- (2) I understand that for 2007–2008 a total of 39 tasks were identified and that the primary targets of 26 tasks were achieved. All of the remaining tasks are on going or have commenced with significant progress being made towards completion.

Actew—greenhouse gas offsets (Question No 122)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, which options for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, if any, are regarded as having the potential to be viable and to what extent.
- (2) Do the options outlined in part (40) include carbon trading; if so, what financial benefits would accrue and would these benefits be passed on to consumers in lower water prices;

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

- (1) The ACT Government committed to voluntarily offset greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the operations of ACTEW's Water Security Major Projects (WSMP) in October 2007. To address this commitment, ACTEW has advised that it initiated a strategy in February 2008 to identify GHG footprints, undertake cost effective reduction measures and select appropriate GHG offsets. The principle approach has been to avoid and reduce emissions before pursuing offsets.

To March 2009, I am advised that ACTEW has:

- applied an approach to minimise GHG emissions where cost effective (criteria of less than \$40 per T CO₂e);
- committed to a diversified portfolio approach to GHG offset purchases;
- committed to pursue GHG offsets that are real, measurable, permanent, additional and independently verifiable;
- aimed to develop GHG offsets within the ACT region; and

- supported offsetting construction and operating GHG of WSMP, subject to cost being in the order of \$1M to \$1.5 M per year over 30 years.

ACTEW has further advised that options that have been identified as feasible to significantly reduce GHG footprints associated with the WSMP are:

- use of biodiesel during construction; and
- energy recovery – including hydro generation.

Due to these GHG footprint reduction measures, the remaining GHG offsets can be achieved through investment in Carbon Sink Forestry Offsets, which are currently being further assessed by ACTEW.

Other options for offsets which were considered included:

- cogeneration;
- soil sequestration
- wind farms;
- solar; and
- geothermal.

- (2) ACTEW has advised that it is not pursuing GHG offsets with the view to trade for commercial return. Offsets will be acquired to match GHG emissions requirements for the WSMP.

Actew—water quality (Question No 123)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, did any testing of catchment water quality undertaken during the year result in quality that was below the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines; if so, what remedial action was taken and how long did it take for water to return to acceptable quality.
- (2) What testing is undertaken of reticulated potable water and do those tests compare results to any national standards; if not, why not; if so, did any tests undertaken during the year yield results that did not meet national standards; if so, what was done to rectify the problem and how long did it take for quality to return to acceptable standards.

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

- (1) ACTEW has advised that algae were detected in Googong during the summer of 2007-08. The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) require a multi-barrier approach as a fundamental principle in ensuring safe drinking water quality. ACTEW maintains a comprehensive monitoring program to identify substances which may be harmful, so that inflows to the treatment plants are only accepted if they can be fully treated to meet the ADWG. Otherwise inflows are stopped from entry into the drinking water system. I am advised that the algae were successfully treated with powdered activated carbon. Volatile Organics were detected in one sample from Bendora in July 2007, two chemicals of which were at concentrations above the

ADWG. A re sample was taken from Bendora as well as from Mount Stromlo water treatment plant and both samples were found to be clear. None of these chemicals had been detected before in any of the water supply reservoirs. The detection followed substantial inflow to Bendora reservoir and runoff from the catchment, which may have mobilised contaminants. ACT Health was notified of both events.

- (2) ACTEW advises that reticulated potable water is required to comply with the ADWG. ACTEW reticulated potable water is tested across a number of sites continuously. These sites are sampled randomly and change over time to meet appropriate statistical testing methods. ACTEW reticulated potable water as tested complied with all required targets, in accordance with the ADWG.

Reference: A comprehensive report on the water quality monitoring and results of the Canberra water supply system is contained in the ActewAGL publication “Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2007-08”, which is available on the ActewAGL web site www.actewagl.com.au.

Actew—Googong dam (Question No 124)

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation’s 2007-08 annual report, have negotiations for transfer of ownership of Googong Dam been completed; if not, why not; if so, will ACTEW make the terms of the transfer publicly available; if not, why not; if so, when.
- (2) Is the Queanbeyan City Council engaged in any way in the terms of the transfer of ownership; if so, how and to what extent and effect.

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

- (1) The Commonwealth Government declined to transfer ownership of the titles covering the area of Googong Dam. Following protracted negotiations the Commonwealth agreed to a lease over the land. The ACT Government signed a lease on the Googong Dam and foreshores with the Commonwealth of Australia for a term of 150 years on 4 September 2008. ACTEW signed a sub-lease under the same conditions on the same day with the ACT Government.
- (2) The Queanbeyan City Council was not directly involved in the transfer of ownership. As a condition of the Googong Dam lease, the ACT Government, the NSW Government and the Commonwealth of Australia signed the Queanbeyan Water Supply Agreement on the same date. The Queanbeyan Water Supply Agreement provides for the supply of water for the existing urban area and future developments providing that future development is sustainable and that the Territory and ACTEW will not be responsible for increased capital or operating costs to supply water for future developments outside the existing urban area.

**Actew—sewage treatment
(Question No 125)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water*):

In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, why is there a declining trend in the quantity of sewerage treated from 1998 to 2008.

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

- (1) ACTEW has advised that the declining trend is due to several reasons including: demand management and water restrictions have reduced the volume of water being put down sewers from toilets, showers, washing machines etc; the drought reduces the infiltration of groundwater into the sewer pipes; and increasing effluent reuse.
-

**Actew—partnership disputes
(Question No 126)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, given ACTEW's 50% interest in the ActewAGL retail and distribution partnership businesses, have there been partnership disputes and how are they resolved.
- (2) What was the nature of any partnership disputes in 2007-08.
- (3) What role have ACTEW's shareholders had in the resolution of any partnership disputes.

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

- (1) There have been no partnership disputes. The ActewAGL Board is required to make decisions unanimously.
 - (2) There were no disputes.
 - (3) Not applicable.
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**Actew—Ecowise
(Question No 127)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, did Ecowise undertake any work for the Sustainability and Environment Commission, the Environment Protection Authority or the ACT Government generally; if so, what was the nature of the work undertaken.
- (2) Did Ecowise submit to a tender process for that work.

- (3) Given ACTEW's interest in Ecowise, did it find itself in a conflict of interest in relation to any work undertaken; if so, how did it deal with that conflict.

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

- (1) and (2) Ecowise Environmental is a private company that is jointly owned by ACTEW and Jemena Networks (ACT) Pty Ltd. It provides various environmental monitoring and water resources assessment services to a range of public and private sector clients on a commercial basis in a competitive business market. These matters are between Ecowise Environmental and the relevant organisation. ACTEW does not involve itself in these third party transactions and it is inappropriate for ACTEW to divulge specific commercial and confidential information about Ecowise business operations and its clients.
- (3) There is no conflict of interest between the work Ecowise Environmental may do for these organisations and ACTEW. Ecowise Environmental is a private company which operates under an international standard for testing laboratories and has NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accreditation.

**Actew—debt
(Question No 128)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, how much debt does ACTEW anticipate it will require for completion of the major capital expenditure works as outlined at the second dot point on page 29 of the annual report.
- (2) Over what time-frame will ACTEW draw down that debt.
- (3) Over what period will the debt be repaid.
- (4) What will be the annual debt costs.
- (5) What impact will these costs have on water prices for ACT residents and businesses.

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

- (1) ACTEW will fund 100% of the Water Security Major Projects capital expenditure through borrowings. The amount of debt funding required depends on the projects that are approved for construction and their final costs, which are yet to be determined.
- (2) Major factors to be considered in determining the time frame include projected cash flows required by the projects and the conditions in the debt markets.
- (2) ACTEW will seek borrowings of a long term nature that reflects the long life of the assets and spreads the costs over future generations. By way of example, ACTEW's most recent borrowing was \$300m in late June 2008 in the form of an Indexed Annuity Bond (through ACT Treasury) where the principal is repaid over 40 years.
- (3) Annual debt costs will depend on the timing and the terms of the borrowings to be undertaken. Interest costs in 2007-08 were \$26.7m and this will increase as more

funds are borrowed to fund water security major projects and the general capital expenditure program.

- (4) Provided the project costs are approved by the independent price regulator, related interest costs are recovered through prices set by the regulator.

**Actew—additional staff
(Question No 129)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, how many additional staff is it anticipated will be employed to deliver the significant major water infrastructure programs.

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

ACTEW and its alliance partners on the Water Security Major Projects program anticipate engaging around 1200 people to deliver the infrastructure program: approximately 700 for the enlarged Cotter Dam, 300 for the Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline, and 200 for the Googong Spillway.

**Actew—water prices
(Question No 130)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the ACTEW Corporation's 2007-08 annual report, if the current drought conditions abate sufficient to justify an easing of water restrictions, will water prices decrease.
- (2) How often, by what method and by whom are ACTEW's assets, including the interest in the ActewAGL Joint Venture, revalued.

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

- (1) Universally price regulators tend to set water prices in an effort to smooth the impact and avoid what is called the "sawtooth" effect created by intermittently increasing and decreasing prices. As shown in the Water and Waste Water Final Report and Price Determination of 2008, the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission has assumed a level of water consumption and has set prices for the next five years. If restrictions were eased it would be unlikely to change prices in the short term.
- (2) ACTEW's assets were revalued for the first time in 2006 07 by independent expert engineering valuers. Note 18 to the Financial Statements indicates that a further valuation of assets based on discounted cashflows was prepared in 2008.

Similarly the ActewAGL Joint Venture assets were revalued in 2006 07 also based on forecast cash flows in accordance with accounting standards.

**Courts—prosecution errors
(Question No 133)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Corrections, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) What was the nature of the administrative error or blunder, as reported in the article titled *Error throws criminal cases into turmoil*, which was published in *The Canberra Times* on 18 February 2009.
- (2) How many criminal prosecutions were affected by the error.
- (3) What is the nature of those prosecutions.
- (4) Will any of those prosecutions be annulled as a result of the error; if so, what is the nature of the prosecutions to be annulled.
- (5) What advice has the Minister sought from the Department of Corrective Services in relation to the matter.
- (6) What advice has the department provided to the Minister.
- (7) What actions has the Minister and the department taken to ensure the error is not repeated in future.

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

- (1) Between June 2006 and January 2009, officers from ACT Corrective Services carried out their functions, concerning the supervision of offenders in good faith, unaware that they did not have the correct delegation and appointment as required by new legislation, the *Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005* and the *Corrections Management Act 2007*.
 - (2) The Attorney-General advises that 29 matters were withdrawn by the Director of Public Prosecutions.
 - (3) I am advised by the Attorney-General that this issue affects a small number of offenders who:
 - a) were convicted by the ACT Courts for a criminal offence during this period;
 - b) were alleged to not have complied with the conditions of their order; andThe issue does not affect the Court's original sentence.
 - (4) The Attorney-General has advised that no original order has been cancelled by the ACT Courts as this issue only concerns non-compliance by sentenced offenders.
 - (5) (6) Ministers requested and received a full briefing of the situation.
 - (7) Actions covered:
 - a) A comprehensive audit of all delegations and appointments was undertaken.
 - b) On 24 November 2008 and 6 January 2009, the CEO of JaCS appointed and delegated officers from ACT Corrective Services in line with the appropriate legislation.
 - c) On 20 February 2009 the CEO of JaCS provided retrospective delegations for staff from ACT Corrective Services in relation to the breach actions which occurred between 2 June 2006 and 6 January 2009.
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**Schools—language programs
(Question No 134)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) Which schools are offering the eleven new language programs offered in ACT primary schools in 2009, referred to by the Minister in the Legislative Assembly on 11 February 2009, *Hansard* page 685.
- (2) What languages are being taught in each program.
- (3) How many students are attending each language in each program.
- (4) What is the average weekly classroom exposure of students to each language in each program.
- (5) What teaching resources, both human and materials, have been allocated to each program.
- (6) What teacher training was provided prior to introduction of the new programs.
- (7) On what basis, including but not limited to community consultation, were the new programs introduced.
- (8) What is the total cost for each program.
- (9) How is the cost for the programs funded.

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

- (1) and (2) The eleven primary schools offering new language programs are:
 - Italian: Arawang Primary School
 - Japanese: Bonython Primary School, Evatt Primary School, Fraser Primary School and Gowrie Primary School
 - Spanish: Duffy Primary School, Richardson Primary School and Theodore Primary School
 - Indonesian: Garran Primary School
 - Mandarin: Latham Primary School and Kingsford Smith School.
- (3) and (4) All students in years 3 to 6 have one hour of language instruction per week in the language offered by the school. This is in accord with the commitment the ACT Government announced in 2008 and is now a requirement under the Department of Education and Training's *Curriculum Requirements for Schools Policy*.
- (5) Each school has a fully qualified language teacher and has received five staffing points to help establish the program. They have also received a resources grant of \$1,000 to purchase additional teaching resources. Each school will be able to apply for further grants of \$2-3,000 in term 2 2009. In addition, all schools teaching Japanese, Italian and Mandarin have been provided with a scope and sequence document. In term 2, Garran Primary School will have an Indonesian language assistant.

- (6) No additional teacher training was required as the teachers are all fully qualified. However, a range of professional learning activities have been provided, including two workshops for all teachers teaching these new programs this term and specific workshops run by the Languages Networks.
- (7) All principals consulted within their clusters to ensure continuity of the language offered from primary to high school. They then made the decision which language would be offered in consultation with their staff, school community and school boards.
- (8) The cost for the program is the cost of employing the teacher either part or full-time, depending on the number of classes and the teacher's load. This will vary from school to school. The cost of purchasing resources will also depend on the number of classes and the needs of the teacher.
- (9) The ACT Government provided \$300,000 over three years in the 2008-09 2nd Appropriation Bill, to support the introduction of the Government's new policy to introduce a languages program to all students from year 3 to year 8 by the end of 2010.

Schools—vandalism (Question No 135)

Mr Doszpot asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 24 March 2009:

- (1) How many incidences of vandalism, including graffiti vandalism, were reported by ACT schools in the 2008 school year, listed by school name.
- (2) What was the cost, per school, of repairing the damage and cleaning caused by the vandalism reported in part (1).
- (3) What security risk management measures were implemented by ACT schools to combat vandalism in the 2008 school year,
- (4) How many requests for CCTV cameras had been made by ACT schools in the 2008 school year.
- (5) How many CCTV cameras have been installed at ACT schools (a) in the 2008 school year and (b) in total.
- (6) If no CCTV cameras have been installed at ACT schools for the periods outlined in part (5), why not

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

- (1) The following vandalism incidents occurred during 2008:

Ainslie Primary School	0
Alfred Deakin	1
Aranda Primary	0

Arawang Primary	0
Belconnen High	0
Bonython Primary	1
Calwell High	0
Calwell Primary	3
Campbell High	1
Canberra High	1
Caroline Chisholm High	0
Chapman Primary	0
Charles Conder Primary	1
Charnwood-Dunlop School	0
Chisholm Preschool	0
Chisholm Primary	1
Dickson College	0
Duffy Primary	1
Evatt Primary	0
Fadden Primary	1
Forrest Primary	0
Fraser Primary	2
Garran Primary	0
Gilmore Preschool	0
Gilmore Primary	1
Giralang Preschool	0
Giralang Primary	0
Gold Creek School	3
Gordon Preschool	0
Gordon Primary	0
Gowrie Primary	1
Higgins Primary	0
Holt Primary	1
Isabella Plains Primary	1
Kambah High	0
Lake Tuggeranong College	0
Lanyon High	0
Latham Primary	0
Lyneham High	0
Lyneham Primary	0
Lyons Primary	0
Macgregor Primary	0
Majura Primary	0
Maribyrnong Primary	0
Mawson Primary	0
Melba High	1
Melrose High	0
Miles Franklin Primary	0
Monash Primary	0
Mount Rogers School	0
Narrabundah Primary	0
Ngunnawal Preschool	0
Ngunnawal Primary	0
North Ainslie Primary	0
Palmerston Primary	1
Red Hill Primary	1

Reid Preschool	0
Richardson Preschool	0
Richardson Primary	0
Scullin Preschool	0
Southern Cross Primary	0
Stromlo High	1
Taylor Preschool	0
Taylor Primary	0
Telopea School	0
Theodore Preschool	0
Theodore Primary	0
Torrens Primary	0
Turner School	0
Wanniassa Hills Primary	2

- (2) As each school manages payments for costs up to \$5 000, the Department is unable to provide the cost per school.
- (3) The Department implemented a range of security programs and procedures in 2008 to minimise the risk of security incidents at school sites. Measures include installing fencing to specific areas to prevent access, additional lighting, security screens, audible alarms, strobe lights and movement sensors. Targeted guard patrols are arranged to cover high-risk sites as required.

In addition, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are taken into account when designing new schools, including Harrison Primary School and Kingsford Smith School.

- (4) Two requests were made in 2008 for CCTV equipment.
- (5) The Erindale Theatre and Active Leisure Centre have CCTV systems installed. Both these facilities are also community facilities and heavily used by the public after hours and on weekends. The systems cover the community areas.

In addition, ten public schools use a video monitoring system in student sick rooms to allow school office staff to supervise students who are sick. These video monitoring systems are non-recording and can only be seen by administration staff.

- (6) School sites often have multiple access points, presenting issues of practicality and cost for effective use of CCTV. While CCTV is used in many commercial and public domains, it has become evident that the unique requirements of a school environment demand special attention. The Department does not install CCTV at public schools as other security measures are more appropriate and effective for school sites.

Hospitals—mental health inpatient unit (Question No 136)

Ms Bresnan asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 25 March 2009:

- (1) What progress has the ACT Government made on the development of a young persons mental health inpatient unit for the ACT.

- (2) What is the projected timeline for the associated development stages of such a facility.
- (3) What is the expected total cost for the development of such a facility.
- (4) How much ACT Government funding is currently allocated to developing such a facility.
- (5) What is the planned capacity (number of patients) for the facility;
- (6) Where is the facility proposed to be located.
- (7) Have there been any objections by ACT Government agencies to the location of such a unit at Calvary; if so, can the agency and reason please be provided.

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) In 2006, ACT Health conducted a Project Feasibility Plan for ACT Mental Health Services which included the Young Person's Mental Health Unit. ACT Health is currently tendering for a site selection process to choose the site for the Unit on the Canberra Hospital. A Project Definition Plan (PDP) has commenced for this project. This will be followed by detailed design.
- (2) ACT Health expects the site selection process to be complete by June 2009, and the Project Definition Plan (PDP) to be complete by September 2009. The detailed design is expected to be completed by March 2010.
- (3) The total cost of the Young Person's Mental Health Unit will be determined by the Project Definition Plan and detailed design.
- (4) The Government has allocated \$775,000 for the design of the Young Person's Mental Health Unit. The site selection process and the Project Definition Plan for this Unit are additional to this amount, however as these studies are parts of broader exercises it is not possible to extract out the exact cost just for the Young Person's Mental Health Unit.
- (5) The facility is planned to comprise 20 beds.
- (6) The facility is proposed to be located on the Canberra Hospital campus.
- (7) It was originally proposed to locate the Young Persons Mental Health Unit on the Calvary Hospital site in the area know as "the forest" adjacent to the existing Brian Hennessey Rehabilitation Centre. However, the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) advised that this area comes under significant environmental protection that precludes any clearing of protected trees. There are no other site options on the Calvary campus.

**Calvary Hospital—mental health inpatient unit
(Question No 137)**

Ms Bresnan asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 25 March 2009:

- (1) What is the capacity (number of patients) of the adult mental health inpatient unit at Calvary (2N).
- (2) Were there any changes in the capacity of this ward from 2004-2012; if so, what was the original capacity and reason for change.
- (3) Has the capacity ever been diminished due to staff shortages in 2008-09; if so, by how many beds on how many occasions;
- (4) Is the ACT Government committed to maintaining the capacity of the facility during its current term.

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

- (1) The capacity of Ward 2N at Calvary is 20 beds.
- (2) For a period covering approximately 2004 to 2008 Ward 2N operated at a capacity of 18 patients. This was the optimal capacity given the availability of nursing and medical resources.
- (3) Very occasionally since January 2008 Ward 2N has capped its capacity at 18 or 19 beds for short periods.
- (4) Yes the ACT Government is committed to maintaining the capacity of the facility.

Seniors—elder abuse programs (Question No 138)

Ms Bresnan asked the Minister for Ageing, upon notice, on 25 March 2009:

- (1) What ACT Government funding was provided for elder abuse programs in 2007-08 and to which non-government organisations.
- (2) What ACT Government funding is provided for elder abuse programs in 2008-09, and to which non-government organisations.
- (3) What ACT Government funding has the ACT Government already committed to providing for elder abuse programs in 2009-10, and to which non-government organisations.

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

- (1) In 2007-2008, the ACT Government provided \$57,000 (GST exclusive) to SupportLink Australia Limited.
- (2) In 2008-2009, the ACT Government provided:
 - \$58,710 (GST exclusive) to SupportLink Australia Limited; and
 - \$90,000 (GST exclusive) to the ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service Inc (ADACAS).

- (3) The ACT Government has not yet committed funding to any non-government organisation for the Elder Abuse Prevention Program in 2009-2010. The budget for that year is under development.
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**Bass Gardens—conservation management plan
(Question No 140)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 26 March 2009:

- (1) Which recommendations of the Bass Gardens Conservation Management Plan have been implemented.
- (2) If there are recommendations that have not been implemented, what is the Government's plan to implement them.

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

In 2002, the Friends of Bass Gardens developed the Bass Gardens Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and sought the Government's support in implementing it. The group was advised at the time that the Government supported the objectives and most of the recommendations of the Plan but could not commit resources to its full implementation. The Friends of Bass Gardens were encouraged to pursue external funding for implementation of parts of the Plan.

The Government has implemented a number of Plan recommendations as part of its ongoing works program. The Friends of Bass Gardens have also been active in implementing other recommendations and this is greatly appreciated by the Government. However, the Government has no specific plans to implement the outstanding recommendations of the Bass Gardens Conservation Management Plan.

A summary of the current status of each recommendation from the Conservation Management Plan is at Attachment 1.

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

**Housing ACT—asbestos removal
(Question No 141)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Disability and Housing, upon notice, on 26 March 2009:

- (1) How many properties in the Housing ACT stock has material containing asbestos.
- (2) If there are properties with material containing asbestos, what are the Government's plans to remove it.
- (3) If there are no plans to remove asbestos, why and what are the Government's plans to manage it.

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

- (1) All dwellings constructed before 1988 may have materials that contain asbestos. Housing ACT has approximately 5,300 dwellings and 200 small to large multi-unit complexes that were built prior to 1988.
- (2) Materials containing asbestos are removed from a dwelling when:
 - a. A full refurbishment is undertaken to the kitchen or wet areas;
 - b. A property becomes vacant at the end of a tenancy and materials containing asbestos are found to be in fair to poor condition;
 - c. Any materials that may contain asbestos are identified as being broken or in poor condition.

All materials containing asbestos are removed in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the relevant Australian Standard.
- (3) In 2005 all Housing ACT tenants were informed in writing that materials in their properties may contain asbestos, as required by the *Dangerous Substances (Asbestos) Act 2004*. The letter contained a household guide on asbestos, which provided information about the tenant's responsibilities under the law. All prospective and new Housing ACT tenants are notified in writing that the dwelling being allocated may have material containing asbestos when they sign a tenancy agreement for a Housing ACT property. They are also provided with a fact sheet on managing asbestos. A copy of the letter and the fact sheet are attached.

Where a property that may contain asbestos is brought to the attention of Housing and Community Services independent professional advice to confirm its presence and stability is sought. If it is determined that there is "unstable" asbestos, it is removed in accordance with the Building Code of Australia and the relevant Australian Standard.

(Copies of the attachments are available at the Chamber Support Office).

Housing ACT—properties (Question No 142)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Disability and Housing, upon notice, on 26 March 2009:

- (1) How many properties are managed by Housing ACT.
- (2) What is the breakdown of these properties by (a) dwelling type and (b) suburb.
- (3) How many of these properties are tenanted at the market rate of rent by (a) dwelling type and (b) suburb.

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

- (1) As at 27 March 2009, 11,569.
- (2) It has been a long standing Government policy not to release information that might enable public housing to be individually identified. This includes the location of

Housing ACT properties in specific suburbs. The policy position is now supported by amendments to the Housing Assistance Act 2007 Part 5 (sections 28 and 29) which exempts the locations of housing properties when requested under the FOI Act. A breakdown of Housing ACT properties by dwelling type and region is at Attachment A.

(3) Please refer to Attachment A.

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

Chief Minister's Department—staff (Question No 143)

Ms Hunter asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 31 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the transfer of community engagement functions from the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services into the Chief Minister's Department (CMD), how many staff will be employed in community engagement in the CMD.
- (2) What is the total annual cost of the community engagement function in the CMD.

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

- (1) In November 2008, community engagement functions were transferred from DHCS to CMD Communications and Engagement Unit. In February 2009, one position and related funding was transferred from DHCS to undertake specific community engagement activities. In the Communications and Engagement Unit, three senior officers (SOG A, SOG B and SOG C) spend a proportion of their time on the development and implementation of community engagement initiatives. In total, the staffing allocation to community engagement functions is 1.6 FTE.
 - (2) The total annual cost of the community engagement function in CMD is \$225,492, comprising:
 - \$195,492 salary costs (based on the proportion of officers' time spent on community engagement activities); and
 - \$30,000 recurrent funding for Community Council Grants.
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Students—transfer requests (Question No 144)

Ms Hunter asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 31 March 2009:

- (1) How many students applied for transfer between colleges in the (a) 2007, (b) 2008 and (c) 2009 school years.
- (2) How many students' requests for transfer were refused in each of the years listed in part (1).

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

- (1) (a) In 2007, 22 students transferred between colleges during the school calendar year.
 - (b) In 2008, 55 students transferred between colleges during the school calendar year and
 - (c) Five students transferred between colleges during the 2009 school calendar year as of 7 April 2009.
- (2) The majority of students wishing to transfer at the start of the school year are approved. After the February census date colleges manage their own enrolments, so no central data is kept on unsuccessful transfer requests beyond this time.

Environment—tree deaths (Question No 145)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, upon notice, on 31 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services*):

In relation to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna as mentioned in the Department of Territory and Municipal Services annual report for 2007-08, how many of the 943 applications for Tree Damaging Activities resulted in the death of a protected tree.

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

During the financial year 2007 – 2008, the Tree Protection Unit within the Department of Territory and Municipal Services received and made decisions on a total of 1,888 applications to undertake tree damaging activities.

Of the 1,888 applications, 943 were approved. Some of those approvals may in fact involve multiple trees. An approval to undertake a tree damaging activity does not mandate the damage or death of a particular tree and consequently there are no statistics that can accurately identify how many of the 943 approved applications resulted in the death of a protected tree.

Schools—census (Question No 146)

Ms Hunter asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 31 March 2009:

- (1) What is the status of the 2009 ACT government schools census.
- (2) When will the schools census be available on the ACT Department of Education and Training website.

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

- (1) The February 2009 ACT schools census (which includes public and non-government schools) has been completed.

- (2) The school census was made available on the ACT Department of Education and Training website on Wednesday 1 April 2009.
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**Women—action plan
(Question No 147)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Women, upon notice, on 31 March 2009:

- (1) In relation to the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services 2007-08 annual report, are the Annual Action Plans being continually developed each year to monitor progress, in continuing the development and monitoring of the ACT Women's Plan.
- (2) What goals were outlined in the 2007-08 Annual Action Plan and what were the outcomes against those goals.
- (3) Is there a 2008-09 Annual Action Plan; if so, what are its goals; if not, why not and how will the ACT Women's Plan be monitored and measured for success during 2008-09.
- (4) Are the number of women on the ACT Women's Register increasing and by what criteria may they be admitted to the Register.
- (5) If the numbers outlined in part (4) are increasing, what are they.
- (6) Has the development of the Women's Leadership and Representation Strategy been finished; if so, what are its goals and how will achievement of the goals be measured; if not, what is its current status.
- (7) Has the sector-led review of the "any door is the right door" process started; if so, when will it be completed and what has been found so far; if not, when will it start.
- (8) What was the full-time equivalent staffing level for the Office for Women in (a) 2006-07, (b) 2007-08 and (c) 2008-09 to date and what are the reasons for any changes.
- (9) How many people comprise the Inter Departmental Committee (IDC) which monitors the Annual Action Plan.
- (10) What departments are represented on the IDC and how are the members selected.

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

- (1) Progress on the ACT Women's Plan is monitored through agency reporting in annual reports.
- (2) Each agency's goals and outcomes are reported in annual reports under the six key objectives of the ACT Women's Plan. For the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, outcomes against the Women's Plan in 2007-8 included:
 - The establishment of the Audrey Fagan Scholarships Program;

- 1112 additional bed nights for women and children escaping domestic violence as part of the Domestic Violence Christmas Initiative;
 - Women's Return to Work Grants; and
 - A number of grants and funded services providing support to mothers, young women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.
- (3) There is no 2008-09 action plan; action against the ACT Women's Plan in 2008-09 will be monitored through agency annual reports.
- (4) (i) Yes, the number of women on the ACT Women's Register (the Register) is increasing.
- (ii) There are no prescribed criteria for being placed on the Register. It is a database containing information provided by women who have indicated an interest in nominating for appointment to ACT Government and non-government boards and committees.
- (5) As at 3 April 2009, there were 152 women on the Register (an increase of approximately 23 percent since 30 June 2008).
- (6) Women's Leadership and Representation will be progressed through the updated ACT Women's Plan. There are a number of key initiatives already in place:
- Audrey Fagan Scholarships Program;
 - Director Scholarships Program – a maximum of four scholarships are offered per annum;
 - ACT Women's Grants Program – responds to aims identified in the *ACT Women's Plan*;
 - the ACT Government's commitment to achieving 50 percent of women on its boards and committees – the level of women's representation on Government boards and committees increased from 46 percent in 2005 to 48 percent in 2008;
 - Office for Women (OfW) Appointments Consultation process – the OfW provided advice on 87 ACT Government appointments in 2007-08;
 - Funding through the ACT Women's Grants Program to support women's leadership development. In 2007-08 this included funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, funding to develop Mon Women's leadership and funding to support the development of an on-line mentoring program for women
 - Office for Women secretariat and resource support to the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Gatherings, including funding to support up to four Aboriginal women to attend the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Gathering;
- (7) A working group to review "any door is the right door" and related entry and referral processes was commenced in January 2009. The working group was established as a part of the Joint Pathways group, which brings together the managers of homelessness services in the ACT, together with ACT Government representatives, on a six weekly basis.

The working group has been developing clear referral processes that can be implemented by homelessness services in the ACT, to ensure that services are

applying the “any door is the right door” principle consistently, and that staff are adequately trained to do this. The new processes were recently agreed by the working group and will soon be circulated to other homelessness services. The review will be concluded by June 2009.

- (8) There were 4.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff for the Office for Women in 2006-07, 5.49 FTE staff in 2007-08 with the inclusion of a 0.5 FTE Return to Work Grants Coordinator from February 2008 and approximately 0.49 FTE to backfill for staff members on extended leave. Staffing levels have returned to 5.0 FTE in 2008-09, including the Return to Work Coordinator, who is based at the Women’s Information and Referral Centre.
- (9) The interdepartmental committee (IDC) comprised nine members from all ACT Government Agencies. It was formed in November 2002 to progress the development and implementation of the *ACT Women’s Plan*, including the initial annual action plans. There has not been a role for the IDC since annual reporting was streamlined into agency annual reports.
- (10) Chief Executives of all ACT Government agencies (in 2002) were invited to nominate a senior policy officer from their departments for representation on the IDC.

Environment—Googong foreshores (Question No 148)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, upon notice, on 31 March 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services*):

- (1) In relation to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna as mentioned in the Department of Territory and Municipal Services annual report for 2007-08, what is the status of the public consultation on the revision of the Googong Foreshores Draft Plan of Management.
- (2) When will the revision be complete.
- (3) When will the revised plan be available to the public.

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

1. The Googong Foreshores Draft Plan of Management was released for public comment for a period of two months from 11 September 2007 until 13 November 2007. The plan was then put on hold, pending negotiations with the Commonwealth in relation to conferring ownership of the Googong Foreshores area to the ACT Government. A lease arrangement with the Commonwealth Government was secured in June 2008.
2. Revisions to the Googong Foreshores Plan of Management as a result of public comment have been completed. Further amendments have been made to the plan to meet Commonwealth Government requirements as agreed under the Googong Dam lease arrangement. The requirements were identified as a result of a detailed gap analysis undertaken by the Commonwealth. A cultural heritage assessment was undertaken and a conservation management plan was prepared by the Commonwealth

Government in order to meet obligations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Elements of heritage assessment and the conservation management plan have also been addressed in the final Googong Plan. The ACT and Commonwealth Governments are yet to approve the final plan.

3. The revised Googong Foreshores Plan of Management will be available to the public once it has been considered by the Commonwealth and the ACT Governments.

ACT public service—management courses (Question No 151)

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) Why did 38 Treasury officers attend a course entitled *Emotions at work and respectful workplace behaviour*.
- (2) What benefits did these officers gain from this course.
- (3) Were these 38 officers the same 38 officers who attended the *Maintaining a harassment free environment – managers course*.
- (4) What benefits did these officers gain from this course.
- (5) If these officers were the same on each course, why was this so and what benefits were gained.
- (6) Why did 215 Treasury officers attend a *Formal writing techniques* training course.
- (7) Why did 15 Treasury officers attend a *Grammar* training course.

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

It should be noted that Treasury included Shared Services staff at the time of these courses referred to below.

- (1) The training was in line with operational, business and individual development requirements.
- (2) The benefits from an organisational perspective relate to enhanced staff understanding of:
 - how feelings can influence behaviour at work;
 - the obligations that employees have to act appropriately at work, irrespective of their feelings;
 - the need for personal responsibility for behaviours that contribute to a more respectful workplace; and
 - how to provide effective feedback on poor performance and/or behaviour to both peers and subordinates.
- (3) No.
- (4) The benefits from an organisational perspective relate to enhanced staff understanding of:

- what is and isn't bullying;
- how bullying impacts on the workplace and individuals;
- the organisations responsibilities;
- warning signs;
- steps that should be taken and how to go about the resolution process; and
- the consequences of workplace harassment.

(5) na

(6), (7) The training was in line with operational, business and individual development requirements.

**Treasury—staff survey
(Question No 152)**

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) Has Treasury undertaken a staff survey, in accordance with the requirement set out in the Treasury Collective Agreement; if so, (a) when was this survey undertaken, (b) what were the results of this survey, and (c) where is the report of this survey available.
- (2) If no survey has been undertaken, why not.

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

- (1) Treasury conducts exit surveys of staff to assess reasons for leaving to assist with improving attraction and retention.
 - (a) the survey is ongoing as staff leave.
 - (b) results highlighted areas of improvement, such as support from supervisors, but also areas of success, highlighted by the majority of staff stating that they would work for the department again.
 - (c) the register is an internal working document.

A selection of Treasury staff also participated in whole of government focus groups conducted last year designed to test levels of employee engagement in the ACTPS and support attraction and retention policies.

(2) n/a

**ACT Health—salary packaging
(Question No 154)**

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many ACT Health staff were affected by the decision to request all ACT Health staff transfer their salary packaging arrangements to Shared Services.

- (2) What was the cost of mailing the letter of 26 February 2009 entitled ‘*Transfer of Salary Packaging Arrangement to Shared Services*’.
- (3) What was the evidence basis of the decision to request all staff transfer their salary packaging arrangements to Shared Services, and what was the cost benefit of the decision.

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

- (1) 2122 letters were sent to ACT Health staff members currently packaging with other providers
- (2) The total cost of the mail out was \$1600.29.
- (3) The decision was based on administrative efficiency and reduced cost to staff. The decision was subsequently revised and staff were given the option to remain with their current provider if they chose to. All new staff will be offered salary packaging services only from Shared Services.

**ACT Health—wardsmen
(Question No 155)**

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many staff are currently employed by ACT Health as wardsmen, and how many wardsmen were employed by ACT Health in the 2001-2009 calendar years.
- (2) Of the wardsmen currently employed by ACT Health, how many are employed at the Canberra Hospital and Calvary Hospital.
- (3) Are there any plans to reduce the number of wardsmen employed by ACT Health.

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

- (1) ACT Health currently employs 82.1 permanent FTE wardsmen. In the 2001 - 2009 calendar years the following numbers of wardsmen were employed:

2001 – 63.6
 2002 – 65.3
 2003 – 61.9
 2004 – 72.8
 2005 – 72.4
 2006 – 69.1
 2007 – 76.8
 2008 – 82.1
 2009 – 82.1

- (2) The Canberra Hospital currently employs 63.8 permanent FTE wardsmen, Calvary Hospital currently employs 18.3 permanent FTE wardsmen.
- (3) There are no plans to reduce the number of wardsmen within ACT Health.

**ACT Health—staff
(Question No 156)**

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many staff are currently employed by ACT Health.
- (2) How many of these staff are employed to provide administrative support.
- (3) How many of these staff are employed as health care providers across all facets of public health care.
- (4) If an employee fulfils multiple roles, what is the primary focus of their employment, in terms of hours spent.

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

- (1) There were 5015 staff members in ACT Health, excluding Calvary, as reported in the 2007-2008 annual report.
- (2) 1076 administrative staff are employed over ACT Health, excluding Calvary, as reported in the 2007-2008 annual report. Administrative staff include, Administrative Service Officers, Senior Administrative Service Officers and Information Technology Officers. 18 Executives are employed by ACT Health.
- (3) ACT Health, excluding Calvary have 3921 staff employed as health care providers which includes 401 staff employed in the client support areas such as food and ward services.
- (4) The provision of service is the primary focus of all staff employed as health care providers. It is not possible to provide an accurate calculation of this in terms of hours spent, as specific tasks will vary from day to day.

**Alexander Maconochie Centre—community health organisations
(Question No 157)**

Ms Bresnan asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) Which community health organisations have had the requirement that they service the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) population added to their ACT Government funding agreements, and have not received extra funding specifically for this purpose.
- (2) On what date were these contracts signed.
- (3) What specific tasks, through the funding agreements, must each of these community health organisations provide to the AMC population.
- (4) Have any of these community health organisations, via these funding agreements, had the requirement that they provide other services reduced, in recognition of the new task that they must perform.

- (5) What specific tasks must each of these community health organisations provide to detainees post-release, and how much funding is attached to each of these organisations for these purposes.
- (6) Are all of these funding agreements available on the ACT Government Contracts Register, and if not, why.

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

- (1) There have been no variations made to ACT Health funding agreements with non-government organisations (NGOs) for the provision of drug treatment and support services to require them to provide services to those detained at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. Three funding agreements: that is, those with DIRECTIONS ACT, Toora Women Inc and Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation which all commenced in late 2007 stipulate:

In collaboration with the Corrections Health Service – ACT Health contribute to the planning, delivery and ongoing enhancement of alcohol and drug programs in accordance with the 'Adult Corrections Health Services Plan 2007 – 2010'. This work will involve the development of a model of care (throughcare) in which detainees are able to access the same community based programs before, during and after they are released from custody. AND

Development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the drug and alcohol programs in collaboration with Corrections Health ACT.

None of these organisations received additional funding for the delivery of services to those detained in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

- (2) The relevant NGO Service Funding Agreements (contracts) were signed on the following dates:
 - a) 17 October 2007 - Directions ACT
 - b) 01 November 2007 - Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
 - c) 06 December 2007 - Toora Women
- (3) By implication the services these organisations are to provide to those detained in the Alexander Maconochie Centre are the same services those organisations provide to those in the community. That is, primarily information and education and some counselling services.
- (4) None of the NGOs, via their Service Funding Agreements, had the requirement that other services they provide be reduced, in recognition of the services to be provided to those detained in the Alexander Maconochie Centre. However the funding agreements do not stipulate the amount or quantum of different types of services to be provided by them but rather they stipulate the types of services to be provided and in some cases to whom. (e.g those detained in the Alexander Maconochie Centre)
- (5) The specific tasks or services these NGOs provide to detainees post release are the same services those organisations provide to those in the general community. That is, primarily information and education and some counselling services. None of these organisations received additional funding for the delivery of services to detainees post release.

- (6) Yes I can confirm all these Service Funding Agreements are available on the ACT Government Contracts Register.
-

**Alexander Maconochie Centre—community health organisations
(Question No 158)**

Ms Bresnan asked the Minister for Community Services, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) In relation to community organisations (not including community health organisations) which have had the requirement that they services the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) population added to their ACT Government funding agreements, and have received extra funding specifically for this purpose: (a) on what date where these contracts signed; (b) what specific tasks through the funding agreements must each of these community organisations provide to the AMC population; (c) what specific tasks must each of these community organisations provide to detainees post-release, and how much funding is provided to each of these organisations for this purpose; and (d) are there any community organisations to which the ACT Government has not yet provided funding to service the AMC population, but intends to do so, and if so, which organisations are they and what services is it anticipated that they will provide.
- (2) In relation to community organisations have had the requirement that they services the AMC population added to their ACT Government funding agreements, and have not received extra funding specifically for this purpose: (a) on what date were these contracts signed; (b) what specific tasks through the funding agreements must each of these community organisations provide to the AMC population; (c) have any of these community organisations, via these funding agreements, had the requirement that they provide other services reduced in recognition of the new task that they must perform; and (d) what specific tasks must each of these community organisations provide to detainees post-release, and how much funding is provided to each of these organisations for this purpose.
- (3) Are all of these funding agreements available on the ACT Government Contracts Register; if not, why.

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

- (1) The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services does not require funded services to operate at the Alexander Maconochie Centre through contractual obligations.

I have been advised by the Department of Justice and Community Safety that a Service Partnership Agreement (SPA) exists between ACT Corrective Services and Auswide Projects to deliver education and training programs to prisoners at the AMC. The programs provide prisoners with opportunities to develop their personal skills and vocational and/or educational competencies leading to the attainment of a recognised qualification. The term of the SPA is from 1 July 2008 until 30 June 2011 and the Contract price is \$14.30 (GST inclusive) per student training and assessment hour fixed for the first twelve months.

- (2) Not applicable.

(3) Not applicable.

**Health—crisis assessment and treatment team
(Question No 159)**

Ms Bresnan asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) In each month since July 2008, how many people were presented to the Crisis Assessment and Treatment Team (CATT) for help by (a) the consumers themselves or their representative, (b) the AFP or (c) any other government services.
- (2) How many of these people were then given an assessment by CATT.
- (3) How many of these people were then admitted into an ACT Government mental health inpatient facility after the initial assessment.
- (4) How many of the people who were assessed by CATT, were not admitted into an ACT Government mental health inpatient facility initially but (a) received a follow-up phone call from CATT within 24 hours or (b) returned to CATT for help within 24 hours.
- (5) How many people who presented to CATT more than once in 24 hours were then (a) admitted to an ACT Government mental health inpatient facility or (b) not admitted to a facility.

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

- (1) The following information is derived from the electronic medical record database operated by Mental Health ACT.

Initial Presentation CATT/Triage Referrals - July 2008 – March 2009									
Referred by:	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
(a) Self/representative	61	48	36	34	35	39	34	30	39
(b) Police	17	23	20	17	15	14	13	17	12
(c) Other Gov. Agency	61	61	57	58	57	45	38	49	40

- (2) All above clients were provided either an initial or full assessment.
- (3) The below includes those people admitted on the same day as provided the initial or full assessment.

Admitted to Hospital following Assessment								
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
34	32	21	29	28	24	20	27	20

- (4) It is not possible to determine who made the contact a) vs b) in the question as contacts recorded in the source system are not reported in this way.

Not admitted to Hospital following Assessment									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Not Admitted	273	290	251	253	280	241	219	251	284
Follow-up within 24 hours of initial contact	272	287	249	251	279	241	216	249	282

- (5) The data is not collected in a way that enables this question to be answered without extensive analysis of client records.

Tuggeranong—air quality (Question No 160)

Ms Bresnan asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 2 April 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for Health*):

- (1) Has ACT Health started monitoring the 2.5 particulate air quality in Tuggeranong, pursuant to the recommendation of studies undertaken for the new data centre; if not, when does the Department plan to start.
- (2) If the monitoring has started, what are the results of the measurements and are the results within safe levels.
- (3) What standards are the ACT Government referring to in declaring what are safe levels.
- (4) What are ACT Health's long-term plans to monitor 2.5 particulate air quality in Tuggeranong, particularly once the data centre comes into operation.

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

- (1) Monitoring of PM_{2.5} fraction commenced at the ACT Health Monash air quality monitoring site in June 2003. In 2005 and 2006, as part of the wood-smoke initiative, a network of specific air monitors which monitor for PM_{2.5} was set up across the ACT. This information is provided in the Chief Health Officer's 2006 Report at page 68.
- (2) The PM_{2.5} monitoring results are published infrequently in various reports, such as the Chief Health Officer's Report or the ACT State of the Environment Report. For example, the PM_{2.5} monitoring results at the Monash site for the period July 2004 to June 2006 are published at page 62 of the Chief Health Officer's 2008 Report. PM_{2.5} data for the ACT is also reported in the National Environment Protection Council's (NEPC) Annual Report 2007-2008 at pages 192-193.

ACT Health collects air quality data (including PM_{2.5} monitoring results) for the Environment Protection Unit of the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water. The Environment Protection Unit is the custodian of the data and the regulatory authority in relation to air quality in the ACT.

- (3) The questions whether the results are within safe levels and what standards are the ACT Government referring to in declaring what are safe levels are not simple to answer. The Ambient Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure - Air NEPM (the national standard) sets uniform standards for six common air pollutants

(i.e. carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, lead and particles) in Australia.

In relation to particles, the national standard requires monitoring and reporting of results for particles that are 10 micrometres in diameter (PM₁₀). Due to new scientific findings concerning health effects of PM_{2.5}, the national standard was varied in 2003 to add an advisory reporting standard for PM_{2.5}, which does not have a timeframe for compliance associated with it (i.e. this is a temporary standard and jurisdictions do not have obligations to comply with it). The goal was to gather sufficient data nationally to facilitate a review of the national standard, which is currently underway.

I am advised that the national standards were set on the basis of available scientific studies of air quality and human health. Australian conditions (i.e. climate, geography and demographics) were taken into account in estimating the likely exposure of Australians to these major air pollutants. The national standard requires jurisdictions to monitor levels of the six specified air pollutants and report on their performance concerning the reduction of these levels. The national standard does not give a safe or unsafe level guide for air pollutants including particulates. I am advised that there is insufficient scientific evidence to suggest a threshold below which no adverse health effects may occur. Consequently, the ACT Government does not declare any level as safe or otherwise in relation to PM_{2.5}.

- (4) ACT Health continues to monitor PM_{2.5} fraction at the ACT Health Monash air quality monitoring site.

Marlow Cottage—refurbishment (Question No 161)

Ms Hunter asked the Minister for Children and Young People, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

Has work commenced on the refurbishment of Marlow Cottage as a Therapeutic Unit for children and young people with high and complex needs; if so, when will it be completed.

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

- (1) Yes, construction has commenced. The estimated completion date is late June 2009.

Planning—code track systems (Question Nos 162 and 163)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) In relation to the code track system, (a) how many applications are currently in the code track system, (b) how many applications have been processed since 1 January 2009 and how many of these were (i) approved and (ii) rejected, (c) what is the current average time for an application in the code track system to be approved and what was the average time in 2008, and (d) what is the (i) total and (ii) average value of applications currently in the code track system.

- (2) In relation to the merit track system, (a) how many applications are currently in the merit track system, (b) how many applications have been processed since 1 January 2009 and how many of these were (i) approved and (ii) rejected, (c) what is the current average time for an application in the merit track system to be approved and what was the average time in 2008, and (d) what is the (i) total and (ii) average value of applications currently in the merit track system.
- (3) In relation to the impact track system, (a) how many applications are currently in the impact track system, (b) how many applications have been processed since 1 January 2009 and how many of these were (i) approved and (ii) rejected, (c) what is the current average time for an application in the impact track system to be approved and what was the average time in 2008, and (d) what is the (i) total and (ii) average value of applications currently in the impact track system.

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

- (1) (a) As at 9 April 2009 there are 6 active Code track DAs.

(b) For the period 1 January 2009 to 9 April 2009 152 Code track DAs were determined. Of these 152 were approved and 0 were refused

(c) The average time taken to determine a code track DA in the period 1 January 2009 to 9 April 2009 was 5.29 days. The average time taken to determine a code track DA in the period 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008 was 5.29 days

(d) The total value of DAs currently under assessment in the code track is \$284,000. The average value of DAs currently under assessment in the code track is \$47,333.
- (2) (a) As at 9 April 2009 there were 260 active Merit track DAs.

(b) For the period 1 January 2009 to 9 April 2009 542 Merit track DAs were determined. Of these 534 were approved and 8 were refused

(c) The average time taken to determine a Merit track DA in the period 1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009 was 43.15 days. The average time taken to determine a Merit track DA in the period 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008 was 37.57 days.

(d) The total value of DAs currently under assessment in the Merit track is \$453,000,000. The average value of DAs currently under assessment in the Merit track is \$1,742,308.
- (3) (a) As at 9 April 2009 there are 2 active Impact track DAs.

(b) For the period 1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009 0 Impact track DAs were determined.

(c) I am unable to determine the average time it takes as no DAs lodged in the Impact track have been determined.

(d) The total value of DAs currently under assessment in the Impact track is \$9 million. The average value of DAs currently under assessment in the Impact track is \$4.5 million.

**Land Development Agency—marketing
(Question No 164)**

Mr Seselja asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How much money has the Land Development Agency (LDA) spent on marketing consulting services in the current financial year.
- (2) How much money has the LDA spent on market research services in the current financial year.
- (3) How much money has the LDA spent on public relations and communications services in the current financial year.

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

- (1) \$840,923
 - (2) \$102,170
 - (3) \$19,055
-

**Motor vehicles—Motorola vehicular chargers
(Question No 166)**

Mr Seselja asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many Motorola vehicular chargers have been supplied under the contract with Motorola Australia.
- (2) How much money has been paid to Motorola Australia to date.
- (3) What vehicles have these chargers been installed in.
- (4) How many more vehicles are expected to be fitted with chargers.
- (5) What type of chargers have been installed.

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

- (1) The exact number of vehicular chargers provided under contract (CO8879) is protected due to the information having a commercial value that could be diminished if this information was disclosed.
- (2) \$63,360.00, which is the value of contract (CO8879).
- (3) As per response at No. 1, I am unable to advise the number of vehicles that have the chargers installed, however I can advise that the chargers are being installed in a range of operational and support vehicles across the Emergency Services Agency.
- (4) As per response at No. 1, I am unable to advise the number of vehicles that are still awaiting installation of the chargers.

(5) Motorola Vehicular Charger part number WPLN4208.

**ACT public service—management courses
(Question No 167)**

Mr Seselja asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many Department of Justice and Community Safety (JACS) staff have taken part in (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshops.
- (2) How many (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshops have been run to date?
- (3) How many (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshops are planned?
- (4) If any sessions are planned, how many JACS staff will take part in the planned (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshops?
- (5) Where has each (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshop to date taken place?
- (6) Where are any planned (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshops to take place?
- (7) How much has been spent on venue hire for (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshops to date?
- (8) How much will be spent on venue hire for planned (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshops?
- (9) How much has been spent on travel for (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshop participants?
- (10) How much has been spent on travel for (a) *'Getting There First'* and (b) *'Art of Fun'* workshop contractors?

Mr Corbell: The answers to the member's questions relating to (a) *'Getting There First'* workshops are as follows:

- (1) 81 staff with managerial responsibility in the Department of Justice and Community Safety (JACS) have taken part in the *'Getting There First'* workshops.
- (2) Six *'Getting There First'* workshops have been conducted as at 23 April 2009. Each workshop consists of one full day workshop and half-day recall session.
- (3) One workshop has been planned for May 2009.
- (4) 15 JACS staff will take part in the planned *'Getting There First'* workshop.
- (5) Three *'Getting There First'* workshops were held at the Pilgrim House at Northbourne Avenue, and three were held at the Centre for Learning and Teaching at Stirling.

- (6) The planned workshop will be held at Pilgrim House at Northbourne Avenue.
- (7) \$3,436.30.
- (8) \$568.50.
- (9) No money was spent on travel for the '*Getting There First*' workshop participants.
- (10) \$2,310.

The answers to the member's questions relating to (b) '*Art of Fun*' workshops are as follows:

- (1) 119 staff from the Office of Regulatory Services participated in the '*Art of Fun*' workshops.
- (2) Four workshops were run.
- (3)(4)(6)(8) No further '*Art of Fun*' workshops are planned.
- (5) Each '*Art of Fun*' workshop took place at Regatta Point.
- (7) \$2,200
- (9) No money was spent on travel for the '*Art of Fun*' workshop participants
- (10) The contractor for the '*Art of Fun*' workshop did not charge travel expenses to the department.

ACT public service—management courses (Question No 168)

Mrs Dunne asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

In relation to contracts for the delivery of '*Art of Fun*' (\$40,000) and '*Getting there First*' (\$20,000) workshops for staff of the Department of Justice and Community Safety, in respect of each of these workshops: (a) why were they considered necessary; (b) where were they held; (c) how long did they last; (d) who facilitated them; (e) who chose them and why; (f) how many staff attended and what were their classifications; (g) what other costs were involved, for example, but not limited to, travel, accommodation, catering, equipment hire, venue hire; (h) what was the cost of any staff engaged to fill in for those who were attending the workshops; (i) what assessment was made as to the benefit of the workshops on participants in particular and the department generally; if no assessment was made, why.

Mr Corbell: The answers to the member's questions relating to the contracts for the delivery of '*Art of Fun*' workshops are as follows:

- (a) Training was organised in mid 2008 to improve the team effectiveness of the four work groups that now form the Office of Regulatory Services, these being Fair Trading, Registrar-General's Office, Workcover and Parking Operations/ Parking Review.

As these working groups were merged from different departments, with differing organisational cultures and processes, the workshops aimed to further the integration to one organisation and build trust across all levels by encouraging staff to meet each other, interact and work together.

The program is part of an ongoing program of productivity improvement and cultural change within the Office of Regulatory Services.

- (b) The workshops were held at Regatta Point.
- (c) Each workshop was half-day long. Four workshops were held for 119 staff of the Office of Regulatory Services on 3 and 4 July 2008.
- (d) O2C Pty Ltd was the facilitator for the Art of Fun workshops.
- (e) A procurement process was undertaken for the team-effectiveness training program for staff of the Office of Regulatory Services. The selection panel comprised three managers from the JACS, two of whom were from the Office of Regulatory Services and one from Strategic Planning and Support. Three programs were assessed. O2C Pty Ltd was chosen on the basis that their program could accommodate the organisation's diverse occupational groups which consist inspectors and office based staff. In addition, O2C's quote represented the best value for money.
- (f) 119 staff participated in the workshops. They comprised the following classifications:

Classification	No of Participants
Administrative Services Officer Class (ASO) 2	19
ASO 3	11
ASO 4	31
ASO 5	11
ASO 6	16
WorkCover Officer (WCO) 4	1
WCO 5	4
WCO 6	9
Senior Officer Grade (SOG) C	9
SOG B	1
SOG A	1
Senior Professional Officer (SPO) C	2
Legal 1	2
Executive	2
TOTAL	119

- (g) No other costs were involved beyond the contract.
- (h) There was no cost of any staff engaged to fill in for those who were attending the workshops. Business continuity was maintained.
- (i) At the end of the workshops, the participants responded that they had increased their knowledge regarding all areas covered in the course, including building trust and team communication.

The answers to the member's question relating to the contracts for the delivery of 'Getting There First' workshops are as follows:

- (a) Following favourable performance in 2006/07 against the Department's workers compensation premium, further premium reduction strategies were identified and included investment in training senior managers to prepare them to recognise, act on and appropriately manage early behavioural warning signs of stress and associated psychological injury. The training was to provide participants a practical framework illustrating the levels of intervention which are essential strategies by the employer to reduce the incidence of stress.
- (b) Three '*Getting There First*' workshops were held at the Pilgrim House at Northbourne Ave, and three were held at the Centre for Learning and Teaching at Stirling.
- (c) Each workshop was one and a half (1.5) days in duration. It comprised a full-day session and a half-day recall session.
- (d) Merryn Crawford of Merryn Crawford Consulting facilitated the workshops.
- (e) A panel of three members comprising the Manager of People and Workplace Strategy, Team Leader of JACS Injury Prevention and Management, and Acting Manager of Organisational Development, proposed that the '*Getting There First: A Workshop for Managers*' training be offered to key staff with managerial responsibilities. The program was approved by the Chief Executive.

The decision to procure the services of Merryn Crawford Consulting was due to:

- Their program being developed in consultation with and endorsed by Comcare (the ACTPS insurer);
 - Inability to find any other course providers who could offer a similar content or learning objectives;
 - Value for money;
 - The program being readily available.
- (f) 81 staff from the Department have attended the '*Getting There First*' workshops. They consisted of the following classifications:

Classification	No of Participants
Executives	14
Senior Officer Grade (SOG) A	8
Senior Officer Grade B	15
Senior Officer Grade C	5
Administrative Services Officer (ASO) Class 6	4
Administrative Services Officer 5	1
Emergency Services Manager (ESM)	1
Fire Brigade (FB) 8	3
Fire Brigade 7	11
Fire Brigade 6	6
Fire Brigade 5	1
Legal (LG) 2	6
Legal 1	1
Prosecutor (Pros) 3	4
Senior Professional Officer (SPO) A	1
TOTAL	81

- (g) \$2,310 has been spent as part of the contract on travel and accommodation for six workshops and six recall sessions. This was covered in the contract. \$3,436.30 has been spent on venue hire for the 'Getting There First' workshops. \$1,626 has been spent on catering.
- (h) There was no additional backfilling costs for those staff attending the workshops. Business continuity was maintained.
- (i) Participants indicated that they have learnt to recognise early behavioural warning signs of stress and associated psychological injury. Further, the training has given them the confidence and skills in having conversations relating to psychological wellbeing of staff. Participants recognised the benefit of early intervention with staff who could potentially become workers compensation claimants.

Childcare and protection agency—internship program (Question No 169)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Children and Young People, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) Has the child care and protection agency ever run an internship program; if so, when did it start and is it still in operation.
- (2) For each year of the program (a) how many interns were recruited; (b) how many completed the program; (c) what happened to those interns once they had completed the program; (d) were interns given any opportunity to seek employment with the agency; and if so how many were engaged as employees and in what capacity and under what employment arrangements were they engaged; (e) what was the staff turnover for employees who graduated into employment from the internship program; and (f) if interns were not given an opportunity to seek employment with the agency, why.
- (3) If the internship program at the child care and protection agency is not still in operation, when did it cease and why.

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

- (1) The Office for Children, Youth and Family Support (OCYFS) runs an internship program for psychology interns. OCYFS provides both industry based internships as well as accepting Masters of Clinical Psychology students on placement. It is still in operation.
- (2)(a) For the 12 years that the program has run and in compliance with the regulations of the ACT Psychologists Board, OCYFS has accepted 5 intern psychologists for an industry based internship each two year period.
 - (b) Records do not indicate an exact number but many psychology interns have either completed the program in full with OCYFS or have completed the majority of the program with OCYFS and transferred to another area to complete their internship. For example, there are presently 2 intern psychologists employed as caseworkers in Care and Protection who are due to complete their internships over the next

two months. Another intern psychologist with Care and Protection who is due to complete an internship in the next few months has recently transferred to the Department of Education and Training as a school counsellor where the internship will be continued and completed. Three OCYFS psychology interns completed their internships in 2008 – one is presently employed as a psychologist at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, one is presently employed as a psychologist with Therapy ACT and one has since transferred to South Australia.

During 2007-2008 six Masters in Clinical Psychology students undertook placements with OCYFS. In 2009, one Masters in Clinical Psychology student has completed a placement with OCYFS and there is currently 1 Masters in Clinical Psychology student on placement.

- (c) Psychology interns who have either primarily or partially completed their internships with OCYFS are employed in a diversity of areas, including the ACT Psychologists Board, ACT Mental Health, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and OCYFS Care and Protection. OCYFS has also been actively involved with initiating the Interagency Internship Program, forming links with ACT Mental Health, Therapy ACT and the Department of Education and Training and also with psychologists in private practice who undertake the provision of assessment and therapeutic services for OCYFS.
 - (d) Intern psychologists have generally been full-time permanent employees of OCYFS.
 - (e) Most of those caseworkers who have undertaken a psychology internship have remained employees with OCYFS for a period of at least two years, though some have been or were employees of OCYFS in excess of seven years.
 - (f) All intern psychologists that have been offered industry based internships were or are employees of OCYFS.
- (3) The OCYFS intern program for psychology interns is still in operation.

Alcohol—sales (Question No 170)

Ms Bresnan asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) What program of inspection does the ACT Government carry out to ensure licensed premises comply with section 138 of the Liquor Act 1975, which aims to prohibit the sale of alcohol to intoxicated persons.
- (2) For each of the past three years, will the Attorney-General provide details of (a) the number of warnings regarding breaches or potential breaches of this section which were issued, (b) the number of prosecutions initiated over non-compliance, and the number that were successful and (c) all other actions and initiatives taken to cut down on or eliminate the supply of liquor to intoxicated persons.
- (3) What is the record management strategy for licensed venues and premises regarding breaches of section 138 and how is that information used in working constructively with the liquor industry.

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

(1) The Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) administers the *Liquor Act 1975* and the *Liquor Licensing Standards Manual 2004*. The ORS in conjunction with ACT Policing undertakes proactive late night inspections of licensed premises to ensure that they comply with all relevant provisions of the Act and the manual. In the period July 2008 to March 2009, some 450 inspections have been carried out in the ACT.

(2) (a) No official warnings were issued in relation to section 138 of the Act, however, since 2006 over 1200 inspections of licensed premises have been undertaken by ORS inspectors. During that period approximately 200 separate breaches of the Act were identified. Enforcement action in relation to these breaches has ranged from warnings through to referrals to the Liquor Board.

(b) No prosecution actions were initiated in relation to section 138 of the Act, however, between 2006 and late 2008 the now defunct Liquor Board heard 57 separate matters involving Liquor Licensees and their non-compliance with the Act.

The matters referred to the Liquor Board ranged across a number of sections but the most prevalent were those offences relating to under-age drinking and matters concerning the safety of patrons, for example premises exceeding their occupancy loadings and blocked fire exits. Outcomes from these Disciplinary Hearings have included but are not limited to monetary fines and liquor licence suspension.

The ORS also investigated during this timeframe over 707 alleged contraventions of section 158 of the Act. This section prohibits a person from using or attempting to use someone else's identification or a fake or fraudulently altered identification to enter or remain in a licensed premise. Approximately 50 of these matters have resulted in a prosecution.

(c) ORS inspectors actively liaise with licensees to ensure that they understand their obligations under the *Liquor Act 1975*. This includes providing guidance to licensees about their obligations whether verbally, in writing or via the ORS e-newsletter.

(3) ORS inspector's complete shift reports after each after hours shift, these reports highlight any issues which may have concerned the Inspectors, as well as any issues that need further action by the ORS. This information is also recorded in the ORS database. The ORS will also investigate any complaints referred to them by the public in relation to licensed premises. ORS provide guidance to licensees about their obligations, whether verbally, in writing or by way of the ORS e-newsletter.

Canberra Connect—feedback (Question No 171)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 2 April 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services*):

(1) What has been the major area of feedback on the Canberra Connect service.

(2) Have there been any notable improvements this year.

- (3) Has there been positive or negative feedback on the payment process through the website.

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

1. The major area of feedback for Canberra Connect has been the Shopfront service. Canberra Connect Shopfront received 33 pieces of feedback between 7 January and 31 March 2009. This includes 21 compliments, 7 complaints, 4 suggestions, 1 notification and 1 request.
2. Yes. The notable improvement this year is the addition of wheelchair accessible counters at Dickson and Tuggeranong Shopfronts. All Canberra Connect Shopfronts now offer accessible counters.
3. There has been no feedback received during this period on the payment process through the website.

Gungahlin—government shopfront (Question No 173)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice, on 2 April 2009
(*redirected to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services*):

- (1) What is the point at which the Government decides that there is a sufficient population size to support a government shopfront in a new town centre.
- (2) What is the planned timeframe for the Gungahlin shopfront to be opened.
- (3) Will it be a full shopfront with all services, including drivers licence renewal, bill paying, permit purchase, and car and dog registration.

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

1. The Government has no pre-determined population size to trigger the establishment of a Canberra Connect Shopfront, however, Canberra Connect Shopfronts in Tuggeranong and Belconnen service populations of approximately 90 000 people.
2. Timing for a shopfront in Gungahlin is being considered by the Government in the context of the Parliamentary agreement and services planning for the town centre.
3. Yes.

Molonglo Valley—bushfire regulations (Question No 174)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

Has there been an agreement on the suspension of ACT bushfire regulations for the residential development of the Molonglo Valley.

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

No. The Molonglo development will take into account General Code 11.11 of the Territory Plan – "*Planning for Bushfire Risk Mitigation General Code*".

**Environment—conservation management agreements
(Question No 175)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Children and Young People, upon notice, on 2 April 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services*):

- (1) How many conservation management agreements were entered into during the year.
- (2) What is the process undertaken to implement a conservation management agreement.

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

1. In total, there have been 12 new Land Management Agreements signed over the last 12 month period. These include agreements over a newly purchased lease, renewed leases, or transfer of lease.

There are a further seven draft Land Management Agreements currently undergoing the review process prior to the final document being signed off by the lessee, the Conservator and the ACT Planning and Land Authority.

2. A Land Management Agreement is required under the *Planning and Development Act 2007* for all rural leases. A review of the Agreement will be required every 5 years or on the re-issuing, variation or transfer of the lease or on the written request of the lessee or the Territory, which ever occurs first. If existing management practices are retained and there is no adverse impact on the environment over this period, no changes to the Agreement will be required.

The principal objective of an Agreement is to establish appropriate management practices for the subject leases that achieve the land management aims of both the lessee and Territory. The Land Management Agreement has three principal components including a Statement of Responsibilities, Site Assessment and Land Action Plans.

Specific Land Management areas assessed as part of the Land Management Agreement include the following:

- A description of existing and intended principal rural enterprises and Heritage factors.
- Environmental factors that are assessed as a part of the process include all of the following:
 - o Soil condition;
 - o Contaminated sites;
 - o Water Resource Management;
 - o Riparian Zones;
 - o Sites of significant environmental value;
 - o Native Vegetation;

- o Pest Animal and Plants;
- o Bushfire Risk Management; and
- o Drought Risk Management.

The document identifies areas of concern and outlines remedial actions required (if any), and provides for Land Action Plans to address all the above listed issues. Typically these might include Weed and Pest animal management plans, Riparian Zone and Remnant Vegetation protection plans, Drought and Bushfire Risk Management Plans.

Environment—rangers (Question No 176)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 2 April 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services*):

- (1) Regarding concerns about the lack of rangers, particularly rangers specialist skills and scientific knowledge, to what extent are ranger positions contracted to private entities and how is the shortage of Parks, Conservation and Land staff affecting the reserve estate.
- (2) Is there any problem of contracted staff not having the long-term experience and history with the ACT issues that is necessary to do the job.

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

1. Rangers are only rarely contracted from private entities. Each year Parks, Conservation and Lands (PCL) advertises for temporary and anticipated permanent staff vacancies. In 2008 over 100 applications were received. Interviews are held and a list of suitable candidates is established in order of merit. As ranger vacancies arise throughout the year, whether temporary or permanent, applicants are selected from the list and appointed.
2. As mentioned above, rangers are not contracted from private agencies. Staff appointed to ranger positions that are temporarily vacant are invariably graduates with degrees in Natural Resource Management. Training in specialist skills such as snake handling, use of firearms and four-wheel driving is provided in the first 12 months of employment.

Environment—ecosystem connectivity map (Question No 177)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

Regarding the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan Action No 34, will an ecosystem connectivity map be produced by June 2009.

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

The ecosystem connectivity mapping is part of a research project “Ecological Connectivity for Climate Change” that the Australian National University is undertaking for the ACT Government.

The project will address Action No. 34 of the ACT Government’s Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2011. It will also support the biodiversity and sustainable development goals and objectives expressed in the ACT Spatial Plan, the Territory Plan and other statutory instruments (eg Action Plans prepared pursuant to the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*).

It is anticipated that draft connectivity map(s) will be available for use by the Department of Territory and Municipal Services by the end of June 2009.

Environment—travelling to work options (Question No 178)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

Regarding the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan Action No 17, what have been the outcomes of the review of travelling to work options.

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

An Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) has investigated the option of carpooling within ACT Government agencies.

The investigation comprised three main activities:

1. An ACT Government wide survey to identify the opportunities for car pooling and gauge staff interest in the initiative;
2. Research on organisations that have implemented a car pooling scheme to identify features/actions that have contributed to their success and to gain valuable insight to any lessons they may have learned; and
3. A review of available car pooling matching services.

The outcome of the investigation is that opportunities exist to develop a feasible car pooling scheme. The IDC found that car pooling is most successful when it is supported by adequate promotion and appropriate incentives. Therefore promotion and incentives would be important features of a car pooling pilot. The IDC also suggested there could be broader benefits in promoting car pooling in conjunction with other sustainable transport alternatives (such as walking, cycling, using public transport) to offer the greatest flexibility for staff to reduce their car journeys.

Examination of car pooling services which are publicly available, at no cost, compared with developing a customised car pool matching service for ACT government employees, indicated that a customised car pool matching service is much more likely to generate usage of the matching service. Suppliers which charge for their facilities offer significantly higher levels of service than their free counterparts.

The Government will consider the IDC’s findings on car pooling in the context of future budget processes.

**Planning—commercial developments
(Question No 179)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many applications for commercial developments are currently waiting for ACT Planning and Land Authority approval.
- (2) How long is the average waiting time for a commercial development application from the date it is first lodged, until the date the application is approved, when stopclocks are (a) excluded and (b) included.
- (3) How many of these developments are valued at over (a) \$50 million and (b) \$100 million.
- (4) What is the total dollar value of these developments awaiting approval.

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

- (1) As at 9 April 2009 107 applications for commercial developments were waiting for ACT Planning and Land Authority approval.
 - (2) The average waiting time for a commercial development application from the date it is first lodged, until the date the application is approved, when stop clocks are excluded is 44.97 days and 76.81 days when stop clocks are included. Stop clocks are applied where further information is required of applicants to enable an application to be assessed.
 - (3) As at 9 April 2009 the number applications for commercial developments that were waiting for ACT Planning and Land Authority approval that are valued at over \$50 million is one and valued at over \$100 million is zero.
 - (4) The total dollar value of the developments awaiting approval is \$306,028,048
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**Childcare—British workers
(Question No 181)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Children and Young People, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many British workers have been recruited to the Child Care and Protection agency and over what period.
- (2) What was the cost, by type of expenditure, of promoting and advertising the employment opportunities in the agency, including but not limited to media advertising, printed material, in-country promotional activities undertaken by ACT public service officials, travel, accommodation, meals and out-of-pocket expenditure, venue and equipment hire, and any other associated costs.
- (3) How much was paid to each recruit to assist in relocation costs and what were those payments designed to cover.

- (4) Was additional assistance provided to relocate family members of recruits; if so, what additional assistance was provided, including details and quantity of financial amounts.
- (5) What assistance was provided, both financially and through other means such as government programs, to assist in the re-settlement of recruits and their families in Canberra and will he quantify any financial assistance.

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

- (1) The Office for Children, Youth and Family Support (OCYFS) recruited 32 workers from the United Kingdom to Care and Protection in 2004, and a further 36 workers in 2008.

- (2) The costs incurred from the 2008 Overseas recruitment campaign are as follows:

- \$25,826.82 for Travel fares
- \$27,063.40 for Advertising
- \$1,727.85 for Incidentals
- \$46,798.78 for Accommodation

As at 31 March 2009, the total cost to relocate recruits was \$101,416.85.

The total for recruitment campaign and relocation costs is \$716,760.23.

The costs incurred from the 2004 Overseas recruitment campaign are as follows:

- \$14,934.00 for Travel fares
- \$13,163.00 for Advertising
- \$1,853.00 for Accommodation

The total cost to relocate recruits was \$389,205.00.

The total for recruitment and relocation costs is \$419,155.00.

- (3) Each applicant had a ceiling of \$12,000 plus \$2,000 for each accompanying dependent, up to six dependents in line with ACT Government policy.
The payments covered, flight, visa application costs, medicals, police checks, shipping of goods, accommodation on arrival and car hire on arrival.
- (4) The Government's "Live in Canberra" program was utilised and Disability Housing and Community Services (DHCS) also assisted family members to find employment (at no cost to DHCS).

A mentoring program was initiated by OCYFS, where staff members volunteered to provide support and assistance to the person recruited and their family. This mentoring often occurred during out of work hours at no cost to DHCS.

- (5) There was a ceiling of \$12,000 per applicant plus \$2,000 for each accompanying dependent, up to six dependents. UK recruits attended two weeks of Induction Training provided by Care and Protection Services (CPS). The recruitment campaign made use of the Government's "Live in Canberra" program CPS Staff organised a furniture pool so UK recruits could 'borrow' furniture and essentials to help them settle. Each recruit was allocated a 'buddy' and was supported by staff that had been in Canberra for some time.

**Housing ACT—rental arrears
(Question No 182)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Disability and Housing, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) What is the Government doing to minimise the amount of rental arrears in relation to public housing tenants.
- (2) Over what timeframe does the Government expect to recover amounts of rental arrears.
- (3) How much of the current rental arrears does the Government expect to result in bad debt write-off.
- (4) What is the amount of bad debt write-off for (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 until 30 December 2008.

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

- (1) Rental arrears are managed within a framework of sustaining tenancies. This is achieved by working with the tenant to negotiate a repayment agreement that is sustainable and that will address their outstanding arrears. Housing ACT actively assists tenant households to manage their debt and sustain their tenancies. Contact with tenants occurs when a rental account falls into debt. An additional output measure introduced last year is the requirement that 90% of tenants whose debt exceeds \$500 enter into a repayment agreement.

Housing Managers and Client Service Co-ordinators continue to refer tenant households experiencing difficulty maintaining their rental accounts to advocacy groups such as Mental Health ACT, CARE Financial Counselling Service, the Public Trustee, Welfare Rights and Legal Centre and other community support agencies.

Housing ACT also funds the Sustaining Tenancies Program under the Community Linkages Program. Sustaining Tenancies Programs are provided by Woden Community Services on the Southside and Anglicare on the Northside. These programs assist public and community housing tenants where tenancies are at risk.

- (2) The timeframe varies and is also dependent on the amount of the debt owing and the tenant's capacity to make repayments, taking into consideration that tenants are required to pay no more than 30% of their household income on rent and rental arrears.
 - (3) Approximately \$1 million - this comprises rental arrears and tenant responsible maintenance charges. It should be noted that no rental arrears accrued by current tenants are written off whilst the tenant remains in public housing.
 - (4) (a) 2007-08 - \$1.234 million; and
(b) 2008-09 until 31 December 2008 - \$1.269 million.
-

**ACTION bus service—bus stop seats
(Question No 183)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many seats were installed at bus stops in the (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 financial year to 31 March 2009.
- (2) In what suburbs were the seats installed.

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

1. (a) 264 (b) 16
2. The seats were installed in the following suburbs:
Ainslie, Amaroo, Aranda, Campbell, Charnwood, Chisholm, City, Cook, Curtin, Deakin, Dickson, Downer, Duffy, Dunlop, Evatt, Fadden, Farrer, Fisher, Florey, Fraser, Garran, Gilmore, Giralang, Gordon, Gowrie, Greenway, Griffith, Gungahlin, Hackett, Harrison, Holt, Isaacs, Kaleen, Kambah, Kingston, Lyneham, Lyons, Macgregor, McKellar, Melba, Monash, Narrabundah, Ngunnawal, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Malley, Oxley, Palmerston, Pearce, Phillip, Red Hill, Reid, Richardson, Rivett, Spence, Symonston, Theodore, Wanniasa, Waramanga, Watson, Weetangera, Yarralumla.

**ACTION bus service—wheelchair-accessible buses
(Question No 184)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) Has the purchase of 16 new compressed natural gas (CNG) wheelchair-accessible buses been made.
- (2) How much money has been paid to the provider, and how much money is outstanding.
- (3) When will ACTION take delivery of the buses, and is the delivery on schedule; if not, when were they expected to be delivered.

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

1. Yes.
2. \$8 million was provided for in the budget and it has been fully expended.
3. ACTION has taken delivery of all 16 buses and these are now in service. The last bus was registered in December 2008.

**Land—real estate policy
(Question No 185)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) Has the ACT Government Real Estate Policy and its associated procedures and guidelines been completed.
- (2) What cost savings does the Government expect as a result of this plan being implemented.
- (3) Will any contracts for providing property management services be terminated.
- (4) Has the Government given notice to any contractors providing property management services that their contracts will not be renewed because of the new policy.

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

1. A draft of the ACT Government Real Estate Policy (GREP) has been prepared and will be considered by the Government shortly. Some procedures and guidelines related to the GREP have also been drafted but they will not be finalised until after the Policy is approved. Procedures and guidelines will thereafter be regularly updated to incorporate the outcomes of on-going projects such as the development of a national Green Lease template.
2. Cost savings could arise as the result of the application of office accommodation standards designed to reduce resource consumption. Savings may also occur as a result of the achievement of space utilisation targets and encouraging the application of sustainable energy policies.
3. No contracts are expected to be terminated as a consequence of the application of the Government Real Estate Policy.
4. No.

Roads—William Hovell Drive (Question No 186)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) What planning has been undertaken regarding upgrading William Hovell Drive so that it is dual carriage way from Kingsford Smith Drive to Glenloch Interchange.
- (2) If planning has been undertaken, when was it done.
- (3) What is the cost of duplicating the road.
- (4) When does the Government intend to duplicate the road.

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

1. There are no current plans to upgrade William Hovell Drive to a dual carriageway.
2. No planning has been undertaken.
3. The cost to duplicate the road has not been estimated.

4. The need to duplicate William Hovell Drive will be considered as part of the assessment of overall road infrastructure requirements in the ACT. At this stage, the need to duplicate this road has not been identified in the 10 year forward plan covering major road infrastructure requirements. This plan is reviewed on an annual basis.
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**Roads—Kelleway Avenue
(Question No 187)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How much did recent roadwork undertaken on Kelleway Avenue near the Nicholls shops cost.
- (2) When was the decision made that the work was not adequate and had to be partially re-done.
- (3) How much will fixing the roadworks cost.

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

1. \$28,322.49 (inc GST).
 2. The middle of March 2009.
 3. There is about 50 sq.metres to be repaired at an estimated cost of \$2,500; this cost will be borne by the contractor.
-

**Albert Hall—refurbishment
(Question No 188)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for the Arts and Heritage, upon notice, on 2 April 2009 (*redirected to the Minister of Territory and Municipal Services*):

- (1) What will be the total cost of the Albert Hall refurbishment.
- (2) When will the work be undertaken and completed.

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

1. The total cost of the Albert Hall refurbishment will be \$3.223m. The ACT is providing \$2.723m and the Commonwealth Government a further \$0.5m in 2009-10.
2. Work has commenced on the refurbishment with the upgrade of the kitchen to be completed by late April 2009. The remaining major works including replacement of damaged heritage roof tiles, roof repairs and external painting will be completed by the end of 2009. External scaffolding will be erected once

the replacement terracotta roof tiles are received from a specialist contractor based in Tasmania.

**Roads ACT—services
(Question No 189)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 2 April 2009 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport*):

- (1) With respect to services offered by Roads ACT for the financial year to 31 March 2009, how many kilometres of road sweeping has been undertaken.
- (2) How many square metres of footpath maintenance has been undertaken.
- (3) How many signs have been replaced or maintained.
- (4) How many responses have been made to accidents or incidences.
- (5) How many potholes have been patched.

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

1. 11,871km
 2. 9809.63m² concrete
 3. 3770
 4. 833
 5. 2365
-

**Transport—charter services
(Question No 190)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

How much money was spent on the outsourcing of charter services to private providers in (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 to 31 March 2009.

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

1. Outsourcing of charter services to private providers:
 - (a) \$13,070 in 2007/08; and
 - (b) \$40,685.67 in 2008/09 to March 2009.

All external services were charged at commercial rates.

**ACT public service—account payment arrears
(Question No 191)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

With respect to payment of accounts by the Department of Territory and Municipal Services for the financial years (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 (up to 31 December 2008), (i) what proportion of accounts payable were not paid within 30 days, (ii) what proportion of accounts were not paid within 90 days, (iii) what were the major reasons why accounts were not paid on time, and (iv) what actions are you taking to increase the proportion of accounts paid on time.

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

For the financial periods stated, TAMS was operating its own version of ORACLE which had not been configured to produce the requested information concerning the timeliness of accounts payments. In October 2008 the separate versions of ORACLE operated by individual agencies were replaced with a single ORACLE system.

Work is currently underway to enable production of the requested information and this information will be able to be produced for all agencies with accounts paid through Shared Services. This information will be available at the commencement of 2009-10.

Shared Services has maintained records during the requested financial periods of the timeliness in which it enters accounts into the financial system following receipt of those accounts from agencies. Over the requested financial periods Shared Services has on average entered accounts within two working days of receipt of the accounts at Shared Services. The accounts are then scheduled to be paid within 30 days from the invoice date, or immediately if the accounts are already due for payment.

**ACT public service—account payment arrears
(Question No 192)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

With respect to payment of accounts by ACTION for the financial years (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 (up to 31 December 2008), (i) what proportion of accounts payable were not paid within 30 days, (ii) what proportion of accounts were not paid within 90 days, (iii) what were the major reasons why accounts were not paid on time, and (iv) what actions are you taking to increase the proportion of accounts paid on time.

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

For the financial periods stated, TAMS was operating its own version of ORACLE which had not been configured to produce the requested information concerning the timeliness of accounts payments. In October 2008 the separate versions of ORACLE operated by individual agencies were replaced with a single ORACLE system.

Work is currently underway to enable production of the requested information and this information will be able to be produced for all agencies with accounts paid through Shared Services. This information will be available at the commencement of 2009-10.

Shared Services has maintained records during the requested financial periods of the timeliness in which it enters accounts into the financial system following receipt of those accounts from agencies. Over the requested financial periods Shared Services has on average entered accounts within two working days of receipt of the accounts at Shared Services. The accounts are then scheduled to be paid within 30 days from the invoice date, or immediately if the accounts are already due for payment.

**ACT public service—account payment arrears
(Question No 193)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Disability and Housing, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

With respect to payment of accounts by ACT Housing for the financial years (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 (up to 31 December 2008), (i) what proportion of accounts payable were not paid within 30 days, (ii) what proportion of accounts were not paid within 90 days, (iii) what were the major reasons why accounts were not paid on time, and (iv) what actions are you taking to increase the proportion of accounts paid on time.

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

For the financial periods stated the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services was operating its own version of ORACLE which had not been configured to produce the requested information concerning the timeliness of accounts payments. In October 2008, the separate versions of ORACLE operated by individual agencies were replaced with a single ORACLE system.

Work is currently underway to enable production of the requested information and this information will be able to be produced for all agencies with accounts paid through Shared Services. This information will be available at the commencement of the 2009-10 financial year.

Shared Services has maintained records during the requested financial periods of the timeliness in which it enters accounts into the financial system following receipt of those accounts from agencies. Over the requested financial periods Shared Services has on average entered accounts within two working days of receipt of the accounts at Shared Services. The accounts are then scheduled to be paid within 30 days from the invoice date, or immediately if the accounts are already due for payment.”

**ACT public service—promotional activities
(Question No 194)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Disability and Housing, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) With respect to the promotional activities of Housing ACT, what promotional activities, publications, advertising in any media have been undertaken by Housing ACT, the Minister's office, or any other office or agency on behalf of Housing ACT or Minister's office for (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 financial year up to 31 December 2008.

- (2) What was the total amount spent on such activities in these years, and was it costed to Housing ACT, Minister's office or another Minister's office or another agency or department.
- (3) Will he provide detail of the promotional activities, publications and advertising undertaken by Housing ACT, the Minister's office or those undertaken by another Minister's office or another agency or department on behalf of the Minister or the Department.
- (4) What were the promotional activities, publications and advertising meant to achieve, did they achieve their purpose and how was that measured.
- (5) How much has been allocated both within the Minister's office and Housing ACT for these activities in (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 until 31 December 2009.

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

- (1) Housing ACT contributes information to the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services insert in the Chronicle newspaper. Housing ACT also provides media alerts and media releases through the Minister for Housing's Office in relation to new projects, new initiatives and matters of interest to the community. In addition Housing ACT:
 - awards a public housing tenant with a "Tenant of the Month" award. This culminates in the presentation of the Tenant of the Year event in the Legislative Assembly.
 - promotes an annual Gardening Competition for public housing tenants.
 - advertises the annual Tenant Initiated Grants Program in the print media
 - in July 2007 advertised public housing forums inviting public housing tenants to attend forums about the public housing reform process and also sent information packages to tenants.
 - was a sponsor at the Housing Industry Awards in 2007 and 2008.
 - was a sponsor at the Real Estate Institute Awards in 2007 and 2008
- (2) Chronicle (2007-08) = \$12,452.71, Chronicle (2008-March 2009) = \$6,192.63.
 Tenant of the Month (2007-08) = \$1,680.00, Tenant of the Month (2008-March 2009) = \$1,260.00
 Annual Tenant of the Year and Gardening Competition (2008) = \$3,358.08
 Tenant Initiated Grants Program (2007-08) = \$1,147.80
 (2008 - March) = \$320.00
 Publicity re Public Housing forums (2007-08) = Costs were primarily for media releases
 HIA awards 2007-08 = \$7,600 - 2008-09 = \$9,800
 REIA awards 2007-08 = \$3,920 - 2008-09 = \$6,320

MBA awards 2007-08= \$5,500 – 2008-09 = \$4,950

All costs associated with Housing ACT promotional activities are costed to Housing ACT. There were no activities undertaken by the Minister's office.

- (3) See answer to question (1)
- (4) To enhance the positive perception of public housing tenants and to counter negative perceptions, perpetrated by the Opposition.

Tenant related activities including the Tenant of the Month/Year award and the annual Gardening Competition events are advertised and "promoted" by the provision of media alerts and media releases through the Minister for Housing's Office. Information regarding these events is also publicised in the departmental insert in the Chronicle newspaper.

The Tenant of the Month/Year awards recognises the diversity and community spirit of the ACT's public housing tenants. A morning or afternoon tea is attended by the Minister or his representative in the tenant's home. An event is held in the Legislative Assembly in December each year to present the award of the Tenant of the Year from the 12 monthly candidates.

The annual Gardening competition recognises and rewards the hard work of public housing tenants who develop and care for their gardens. The winner is announced at the Tenant of the Year event in the Legislative Assembly.

Tenant Initiated Grants Program - funds public housing individuals and resident groups to conduct community development activities and projects.

Public Housing reforms - It is not possible without considerable effort and cost to separately identify these costs from the total costs of advertising for Housing ACT events and activities.

- (5) The budget for tenant related activities including those associated with Tenant of the Month/Year and the Gardening competition was \$20,000 pa in 2007-08 and \$15,000 pa to 31 March 2009.

The Housing ACT budget for Sponsorship/Promotion:

2007-08 = \$41,000

2008-09 = \$43,000

Minister's Office = Nil

All costs associated with Housing ACT promotional activities are costed to Housing ACT.

ACT public service—promotional activities (Question No 195)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) With respect to the promotional activities of the Department of Territory and Municipal Services, what promotional activities, publications, advertising in any media have been undertaken by the Department, the Minister's office, or any other office or agency on behalf of the Department or Minister's office for (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 financial year up to 31 December 2008.
- (2) What was the total amount spent on such activities in these years, and was it costed to the Department, Minister's office or another Minister's office or another agency or department.
- (3) Will he provide detail the promotional activities, publications and advertising undertaken by Housing ACT, the Minister's office or those undertaken by another Minister's office or another agency or department on behalf of the Minister or Housing ACT.
- (4) What were the promotional activities, publications and advertising meant to achieve, did they achieve their purpose and how was that measured.
- (5) How much has been allocated both within the Minister's office and the Department for these activities in (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 until 31 December 2009.

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

I am advised that this request (along with question on notice 196) would take two staff members approximately one week to complete, diverting the operational requirements of the department. I am not prepared to divert resources from important core tasks.

ACT public service—promotional activities (Question No 196)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) With respect to the promotional activities of ACTION, what promotional activities, publications, advertising in any media have been undertaken by ACTION, the Minister's office, or any other office or agency on behalf of ACTION or Minister's office for (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 financial year up to 31 December 2008.
- (2) What was the total amount spent on such activities in these years, and was it costed to ACTION, Minister's office or another Minister's office or another agency or department.
- (3) Will he provide detail the promotional activities, publications and advertising undertaken by ACTION, the Minister's office or those undertaken by another Minister's office or another agency or department on behalf of the Minister or ACTION.
- (4) What were the promotional activities, publications and advertising meant to achieve, did they achieve their purpose and how was that measured.
- (5) How much has been allocated both within the Minister's office and ACTION for these activities in (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09 until 31 December 2009.

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

I am advised that this request (along with question on notice 195) would take two staff members approximately one week to complete, diverting the operational requirements of the department. I am not prepared to divert resources from important core tasks.

**ACT public service—external facilitators
(Question No 197)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Disability and Housing, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

What was the total cost of hiring external facilitators for use by Housing ACT in (a) 2007-08 and (a) 2008-09 until 31 March 2009.

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

(1) (a) 2007-08 - \$12,420 (b) 2008-09 to 31 March 2009 - \$7,920.

**ACT public service—external facilitators
(Question No 198)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

What was the total cost of hiring external facilitators for use by the Department of Territory and Municipal Services in (a) 2007-08 and (a) 2008-09 financial year until 31 March 2009.

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

(a) \$79,059
(b) \$49,548

**ACT public service—external facilitators
(Question No 199)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

What was the total cost of hiring external facilitators for use by ACTION in (a) 2007-08 and (a) 2008-09 financial year until 31 March 2009.

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

(a) \$1627
(b) \$2727

**ACT public service—positions
(Question No 200)**

Mr Seselja asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many people in your Department have been retrenched or made redundant from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for these retrenchments or redundancies.
- (2) How many temporary employees in your Department have not had their contracts renewed from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for the failure to renew contracts.
- (3) How many unfilled vacancies exist in your Department as at 31 March 2009, and how many positions does your Department intend to fill between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009.
- (4) How many of these positions will be advertised internationally between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009, and what is the proposed expenditure for these advertisements.

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

- (1) No staff were retrenched or made redundant within the Chief Minister's Department between 1 July 2008 and 31 March 2009.
- (2) Three temporary contracts were not renewed between 1 July 2008 and 31 March 2009. The contracts were not renewed because the work being undertaken by the temporary employees had been completed.
- (3) At 31 March 2009 there were eighteen unfilled vacancies in the Department. It is anticipated that approximately twelve positions will be filled between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009.
- (4) No positions will be advertised internationally between 2 April and 30 June 2009.

**ACT public service—positions
(Question No 202)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Disability and Housing, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many people in your Department have been retrenched or made redundant from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for these retrenchments or redundancies.
- (2) How many temporary employees in your Department have not had their contracts renewed from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for the failure to renew contracts.
- (3) How many unfilled vacancies exist in your Department as at 31 March 2009, and how many positions does your Department intend to fill between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009.

- (4) How many of these positions will be advertised internationally between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009, and what is the proposed expenditure for these advertisements.

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

- (1) Nil.
- (2) There were 15 temporary employees within Disability ACT and Housing ACT who did not have their contract of employment renewed during the period 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009. The reasons for the non-renewal of these contracts ranged from staff resignations; transfers to casual contract; maternity leave and moving interstate.
- (3) There were 30 unfilled vacancies within Disability ACT and Housing ACT as at 31 March 2009. At least 23 of these vacancies should have the recruitment action completed and the positions filled by 30 June 2009.
- (4) Nil.

ACT public service—positions (Question No 203)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many people in your Department have been retrenched or made redundant from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for these retrenchments or redundancies.
- (2) How many temporary employees in your Department have not had their contracts renewed from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for the failure to renew contracts.
- (3) How many unfilled vacancies exist in your Department as at 31 March 2009, and how many positions does your Department intend to fill between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009.
- (4) How many of these positions will be advertised internationally between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009, and what is the proposed expenditure for these advertisements.

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

- (1) There have been no employees retrenched or made redundant from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009.
- (2) Between the 1 July 2008 and 31 March 2009, 196 temporary employees of the Department of Education and Training did not have their contracts renewed.

There are a variety of reasons for non-renewal of temporary contracts. The majority result from teachers on temporary contracts being offered permanent employment. Between 1 July 2008 and 31 March 2009, 188 teachers on temporary contract were offered permanent employment. These offers fulfil system wide staffing requirements

due to resignations, retirements, targeted recruitment addressing areas of need, and strategic workforce planning to build capacity and maintain a balanced workforce age profile.

Temporary contracts are offered to fill short term vacancies due to movement by substantive occupants to higher duties or to fill periods of extended leave. Temporary contracts are also generated when a specific purpose project is funded for a defined period with no expectation of renewal.

- (3) School and Central Office vacancies are notified on an on-going basis. As at 31 March 2009, there were 11 advertised vacancies. Advertised vacancies are often filled temporarily pending finalisation of the selection process.

The Department intends to fill all advertised vacancies and continues to work to forecast shortages in the longer term.

- (4) Positions are not advertised internationally.

There is an annual bulk recruitment round for classroom teachers and involves electronic pre-registration through an open access website.

School leader and Central Office positions are advertised on e-employment, at www.jobs.act.gov.au and in the print media where appropriate.

ACT public service—positions (Question No 204)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many people in your Department have been retrenched or made redundant from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for these retrenchments or redundancies.
- (2) How many temporary employees in your Department have not had their contracts renewed from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for the failure to renew contracts.
- (3) How many unfilled vacancies exist in your Department as at 31 March 2009, and how many positions does your Department intend to fill between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009.
- (4) How many of these positions will be advertised internationally between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009, and what is the proposed expenditure for these advertisements.

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

- (1) 10 staff accepted redundancy packages from ACT health during the specified period as their positions were abolished.
- (2) 254 temporary employees' contracts were not renewed during this period. These contracts are by nature temporary and there was no ongoing need.

- (3) Based on the its quarterly workforce data reports ACT Health has approximately 300 positions not filled permanently at any one time, however this can change on a daily basis. These positions may be filled on a temporary basis. There are a number of reasons for them not being filled permanently including:
- Assessment that the position in its current form may not be required on an ongoing basis;
 - Restructuring or redesign of a service; and
 - Labour market shortages

A number of strategies have been effected to decrease the level of vacancies Including:

- Increased Graduate Nurse and Intern placements;
- Establishment of national and international recruitment panels; and
- Partnerships with tertiary education providers to increase the pool of job candidates.

The intention is always to fill permanently any position required on an ongoing basis.

- (4) No positions have been advertised internationally from 2 April 2009 to 29 April 2009. Whether a position is advertised internationally before 30 June 2009 will depend on the outcome of other recruitment strategies.

ACT public service—positions (Question No 206)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many people in your Department have been retrenched or made redundant from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for these retrenchments or redundancies.
- (2) How many temporary employees in your Department have not had their contracts renewed from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for the failure to renew contracts.
- (3) How many unfilled vacancies exist in your Department as at 31 March 2009, and how many positions does your Department intend to fill between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009.
- (4) How many of these positions will be advertised internationally between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009, and what is the proposed expenditure for these advertisements.

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

1. 3 non executive staff. Positions no longer required.
2. 45. Temporary contracts are utilised to fill short term needs and are ceased when that requirement no longer exists.

3. 43 positions are currently vacant and are expected to be filled by 30 June 2009.
 4. Nil.
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**ACT public service—positions
(Question No 207)**

Mr Seselja asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 2 April 2009:

- (1) How many people in your Department have been retrenched or made redundant from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for these retrenchments or redundancies.
- (2) How many temporary employees in your Department have not had their contracts renewed from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, and what was the reason for the failure to renew contracts.
- (3) How many unfilled vacancies exist in your Department as at 31 March 2009, and how many positions does your Department intend to fill between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009.
- (4) How many of these positions will be advertised internationally between 2 April 2009 and 30 June 2009, and what is the proposed expenditure for these advertisements.

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

- (1) One. Previously unattached officer, declared excess (including Shared Services until January 2009)
 - (2) Thirty Eight (including Shared Services until January 2009)
 - 21 resignations
 - 10 short term or project based contract work
 - 3 unsuccessful at permanent placement through merit process
 - 1 successful at permanent placement through merit process
 - 3 dismissal/underperformance
 - (3) Twelve, of which three are currently filled on a contract basis until they can be permanently filled. Three positions are expected to be filled prior to 30 June 2009
 - (4) None
-