



Debates

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EIGHTH ASSEMBLY

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Thursday, 14 February 2013

Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2)	557
Public Accounts—Standing Committee	558
Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2013	558
Legislative Assembly—independence from religious faith	560
Legislative Assembly—independence from religious faith	561
Standing orders—suspension	583
Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2013	588
Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Amendment Bill 2013—exposure draft	590
Public Accounts—Standing Committee	592
Public Unleased Land Bill 2012	594
Directors Liability Legislation Amendment Bill 2012	597
Financial Management Amendment Bill 2012 (No 2)	600
Questions without notice:	
Health—Preventative Health Taskforce	601
Distinguished visitor	603
Questions without notice:	
Regional development	603
Finance—Canberra Centenary Trail	605
Trees—Kingston Foreshore	607
Rivett shops—health and safety	608
ACT Ambulance Service—performance	610
Lake Tuggeranong—target area grant	611
Business—red tape reduction	613
Lake Tuggeranong—pollution	616
Roads—crash database	618
Neville Bonner Primary School and Franklin Early Childhood School	618
Supplementary answers to questions without notice:	
Preventative Health Taskforce	622
Canberra Centenary Trail	622
Environment—Better Place	622
Trees—Kingston Foreshore	622
Paper	622
Financial Management Act—consolidated financial report	623
Budget review 2012-2013	623
Planning and Development Act 2007—schedule of leases	625
Planning and Development Act 2007—call-in powers	626
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—report	627
ACT community—government commitments (Matter of public importance)	629
Adjournment:	
Bushfire fighters	640
Softball Australia Day Carnival	640
Burgmann Anglican School—year 12 graduation	642
Orientation week	642
Education—early childhood	643
<i>Snakes Alive</i>	644
Health—drug use	644
Schedule of amendments:	
Public Unleased Land Bill 2012	647

Answers to questions:

Capital Asset Development Plan (Question No 1)	649
Hospitals—emergency departments (Question No 2)	650
Canberra Hospital—Mental Health Assessment Unit (Question No 3)	651
Canberra Hospital—Adult Mental Health Unit (Question No 4).....	651
Canberra Hospital—operating theatres (Question No 5)	652
ACT public service—executive staff (Question No 6)	652
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—staff (Question No 7).....	654
Political parties—agreements (Question No 8)	655
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—projects (Question No 9)	655
Political parties—agreements (Question No 10)	656
Political parties—agreements (Question No 11)	657
Environment—carbon neutral fund (Question No 12)	657
National Arboretum Canberra—insurance (Question No 13).....	658
Health Directorate—staff (Question No 14)	659
Economic Development Directorate—staff (Question No 15)	659
Community Service Directorate—staff (Question No 16)	661
Justice and Community Safety Directorate—staff (Question No 17)	661
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate—staff (Question No 18).....	663
Education and Training Directorate—staff (Question No 19)	663
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—staff (Question No 20).....	665
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—expenditure (Question No 21)	666
Health Directorate—expenditure (Question No 22).....	667
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—expenditure (Question No 23)	668
Economic Development Directorate—expenditure (Question No 24).....	669
Community Services Directorate—expenditure (Question No 25).....	669
Justice and Community Safety Directorate—expenditure (Question No 26).....	670
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate—expenditure (Question No 27).....	671
Education and Training Directorate—expenditure (Question No 28).....	671
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—expenditure (Question No 29).....	672
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—energy usage (Question No 30).....	673
Health Directorate—energy usage (Question No 31).....	673
Economic Development Directorate—energy usage (Question No 32).....	674
Community Services Directorate—energy usage (Question No 33).....	675
Justice and Community Safety Directorate—energy usage (Question No 34).....	676
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate—energy usage (Question No 35).....	677
Education and Training Directorate—energy usage (Question No 36).....	678
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—energy usage (Question No 37).....	679
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—accommodation (Question No 38).....	681
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—accommodation (Question No 39).....	681
Health Directorate—accommodation (Question No 40)	681

Economic Development Directorate—accommodation (Question No 41).....	682
Community Services Directorate—accommodation (Question No 42).....	682
Justice and Community Safety Directorate—accommodation (Question No 43).....	683
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate—accommodation (Question No 44).....	684
Education and Training Directorate—accommodation (Question No 45).....	684
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—accommodation (Question No 46).....	685
Roads—speed cameras (Question No 47)	685
Roads—funding (Question No 48).....	686
Trees—removal (Question No 49)	687
Parking—spaces (Question No 50)	695
Roads—repairs (Question No 51)	695
Parking—meter revenue (Question No 52)	696
Parking—ticket machines (Question No 53).....	698
ACTION bus service—bike racks (Question No 55).....	701

Thursday, 14 February 2013

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

Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2)

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR BARR (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Tourism and Events and Minister for Community Services) (10.03): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I present the Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2) and table the supplementary budget papers in accordance with section 13 of the Financial Management Act 1996. These supplementary papers provide the detail of all items covered by this bill.

The Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2) provides for the appropriation of funds totalling \$231.058 million in the 2012-13 fiscal year. These funds provide for:

- \$113.147 million in net cost of outputs (controlled) appropriation to the local hospital network to facilitate the on passing of national health care commonwealth grants funding;
- a \$112.156 million capital injection in the territorial appropriation for the land rent scheme so additional land rent blocks can be purchased from the Land Development Agency, reflecting the very strong demand for the land rent scheme; and
- a total of \$5.755 million in net cost of outputs (controlled) appropriation for an unspent appropriation from the former Treasury Directorate in 2011-12.

The supplementary budget papers provide detail of the impact of the additional appropriation provided for the additional costs.

The papers also provide detail of other amendments to agencies affected by the bill under the FMA. These amendments relate to capital re-profiling and signed instruments under the FMA to amend appropriations.

Given the timing of the 2012-13 budget review, the revised financial statements presented today include signed instruments under the Financial Management Act 1996; the impact of capital works re-profiling; the flow-on effect of the audit of the 2011-12 financial statements; and revised estimated outcome forecasts. These revisions are in addition to the impact of the Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2).

This bill ensures the transparency of government decision-making in relation to the allocation of financial resources to fulfil the government's policy objectives in a timely fashion.

I commend Appropriation Bill 2012-13 (No 2) to the Assembly.

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

Public Accounts—Standing Committee Reference

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

That the Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No 2) be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry and report.

Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (10.07): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

The Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 amends a range of laws that concern the Justice and Community Safety portfolio. This bill will improve the effectiveness of the ACT statute book, and the amendments it contains are minor and uncontroversial.

The bill makes necessary technical and consequential amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 2012 and other laws which are important for the commencement of the Retirement Villages Act.

In addition to the changes proposed in this piece of legislation, government is working closely with stakeholders to ensure that any regulations, including those of a transitional or savings nature, are finalised so that the scheme can commence as smoothly as possible.

This bill also amends a number of acts in relation to the operation of the Retirement Villages Act, including the Civil Law (Property) Act 2006, Civil Law (Sale of Residential Property) Act 2003, Fair Trading (Australian Consumer Law) Act 1992, Land Titles Act 1925, and Residential Tenancies Act 1997.

The bill also inserts a new regulation into the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Regulation 2009, which is equivalent to section 202 of the New South Wales Retirement Villages Act 1999. The new regulation ensures that amounts may be paid out of the ACT trust account, equivalent to the New South Wales property services statutory interest account established under the New South Wales Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002.

The bill makes two amendments to the Civil Law (Property) Act 2006. The provisions amended relate to ejectment of lessees and recovery of leased premises. They are intended to apply as a default where there is no other applicable statute providing for the termination and removal of lessees.

Lease arrangements that fall within the provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 and the Leases (Commercial and Retail) Act 2001, for example, are subject to provisions in those acts dealing with termination and recovery of premises, and are therefore excluded from the operation of the ejectment and recovery provisions.

Similarly, the Retirement Villages Act provides for the ending of residents' contracts and the circumstances in which residents' contracts can be terminated, including termination by the ACAT. For this reason, this bill excludes residents' contracts under the Retirement Villages Act from the ejectment and recovery provisions in the Civil Law (Property) Act 2006.

This bill makes consequential amendments to the Civil Law (Sale of Residential Property) Act 2006 to substitute references to retirement villages under the code of practice with references to "retirement village".

The amendments also clarify that most types of transactions involving retirement villages or units, which do not usually involve the legal transfer of title in real property, are excluded from conveyancing requirements unless they involve the transfer of a unit in a unit titled retirement village or in a community title scheme village.

The bill amends the dictionary definition of "fair trading legislation" in the Fair Trading (Australian Consumer Law) Act 1992 to include a reference to the Retirement Villages Act. This will ensure that the Commissioner for Fair Trading, and fair trading investigators, may investigate complaints and ensure compliance with the Retirement Villages Act.

The bill inserts into the Land Titles Act 1925 references to the Retirement Villages Act so that the minister can determine fees under that act and the registrar-general can approve forms. These amendments are consequential on provisions in the Retirement Villages Act which provide for notices to be given to the registrar-general, including notice that land is used, or is proposed to be used, as a retirement village.

The bill omits a reference to "retirement villages" in the Residential Tenancies Act 1997, which currently has the effect of excluding retirement villages from the operation of that act.

Where a residential tenancy agreement entered into by a resident and an operator expressly excludes the operation of the Retirement Villages Act, the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 provisions should apply, and this amendment has that effect.

This bill makes a number of minor and largely technical amendments to the Retirement Villages Act. Most of these amendments correct cross-references in the act, amend terminology used in the act to ensure consistency with New South Wales terms where appropriate, and make language used in the act more user friendly. A reference to “strict liability” in section 151 is removed as there are no offences in the section.

The bill inserts new section 15A into the act, which makes provision for people who are occupying premises or who have occupancy rights in relation to a village which has ceased to be a retirement village. This provision was originally viewed as having effect on existing residence contracts. On further consideration, this provision is necessary to prospectively deal with future occasions when retirement villages cease to operate. The proposed transitional provisions in the regulation currently being consulted on with community stakeholders will provide for the effect of this section on existing retirement villages and contracts.

Lastly, this bill amends the two-year expiry in section 504(4) from two years to five years, consistent with the remainder of part 20 of the act. This will allow the transitional provisions inserted by the regulation to be kept in the act for as long as part 20 remains.

This bill introduces amendments to the statute book that are minor and uncontroversial in nature, but are still important to the commencement of the new retirement village scheme. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Legislative Assembly—independence from religious faith

Statement by Speaker

MADAM SPEAKER: We are moving to Assembly business. Could I seek the advice of the Assembly about how to proceed? I have received advice from the Clerk in relation to the first motion which is currently being copied for circulation to members. I was going to provide it to members but the attendants have not come back with a copy of that. Could I suggest that we might go to the annual reports motion and then come back to the other one while the advice is being circulated?

Mr Smyth: I think it has just arrived, Madam Speaker.

Mr Hanson: Madam Speaker, it might be useful to do as you suggest so that we can have a look at the advice and have time to digest it prior to the debate that is going to occur. I assume that—

Mr Corbell: We should proceed, as the item is listed on the notice paper.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now that it is here, Mr Corbell, you would like it to proceed as the item exists on the notice paper.

Before we go to the item, I would like to make a brief statement. When this matter came to my attention on Tuesday I asked the Clerk for some advice on a number of issues, which he provided to me yesterday. When I read that advice, I asked him for some supplementary advice, which he provided to me this morning. I now circulate that advice for members, which indicates that there are some issues that members should be aware of when debating this issue, for the implications it would have for the Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Assembly—independence from religious faith

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (10.15): I move:

That the following continuing resolution be adopted:

Independence of the Assembly from religious faith

That this Assembly:

- (1) has an obligation to represent the interests, views and values of all citizens of the Australian Capital Territory;
- (2) is an institution separate from adherence or affiliation to any religious faith;
- (3) recognises the right of members to profess their own personal religious faith or philosophical perspective and to organise activities which reflect or honour their religious belief or philosophical perspective separate from the institution of the legislature; and
- (4) shall not in any way endorse or be affiliated with any ceremony that involves adherence or affiliation with any religious faith.

This resolution has effect from the date of its agreement by the Legislative Assembly and continues in force unless amended or repealed by this or a subsequent Assembly.

It is with some regret that I am moving this proposed resolution here in the Assembly today. But it is incumbent on me, and I think incumbent on my colleagues, to put this proposition to the Assembly because of the decisions you have taken, Madam Speaker, in relation to the convening of a so-called Assembly church service to mark the commencement of the parliamentary year. It is the strong view of myself and my colleagues that it is important to maintain a clear and strict separation between the institution of the Assembly and the profession of any religious faith or philosophical perspective. More commonly this debate, as members would know, is regarded as the separation of church and state.

I want to make it clear what this proposed resolution is not about. It is not about saying that members cannot profess their own religious faith publicly in this place or in the broader community. It is not about saying that members cannot organise a

service or religious ceremony which they believe is appropriate in the conduct of their business as members. It is not about any of those things. It is not about saying that members cannot come into this place wearing insignia or a symbol which professes their religious faith and belief. All of these rights are intrinsic to rights as members and rights as human beings, and the government is not suggesting otherwise.

What we are suggesting, however, Madam Speaker, is that it is not appropriate for you, as the Speaker, to profess to organise or lend the authority of your office to a ceremony which is designed to draw a clear link between the authority of your office, the Assembly and a religious ceremony. We have seen comments in response to the debate over the past few weeks which have made very clear the problematic nature of last Monday's ceremony.

I would like to draw members' attention to the comments of Professor James Haire, who is a professor at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, a previous president of the National Council of Churches and a Uniting Church minister. He gave a very interesting interview on ABC morning radio earlier this week and I think his comments bear repeating. He was asked, first of all, whether or not the church service that was established by you, Madam Speaker, on Monday was effectively the same as the church service established by the commonwealth parliament and which is now a regular part of the commencement of the commonwealth parliament's parliamentary year.

This is what Professor Haire said in reply: "There is an enormous difference. We have the issue of the separation of church and state. The federal parliamentary service is quite different. A parliamentary Christian Fellowship—a group of Christians who are members of federal parliament. Their leaders are always cross-party. Currently their president is a member of the Labor Party and the secretary is a member of the National Party of Australia. So they are cross-party. They organise this themselves. It is not organised by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or by the President of the Senate. They come to the ACT Churches Council. It's a voluntary service. It's not to that extent official."

Professor Haire was asked by the presenter on ABC radio, "What do you make of the multi-faith nature of this event? The Speaker, Vicki Dunne, has gone to some length to emphasise she has gone to lengths to invite representatives from a number of faiths, including Christian faiths, to be part of this." Professor Haire said in reply, "That doesn't solve the problem. The point is she is running services. The state is running services. She, representing the Assembly, is running a Christian service. That's not how it works in a liberal democracy."

The presenter, at a later point in the interview, went on to ask about the claim you have made, Madam Speaker, that you have organised a service as Speaker but not on behalf of the Assembly. The presenter asked Professor Haire, "Does that hold any water for you?" Professor Haire said in reply, "No, none, because she is still Speaker and she is a representative. She is an elected representative. Even more than an MLA she represents the state. For that reason she should not be doing it. It doesn't happen in the federal parliament."

I think these comments from Professor Haire underpin and highlight the very serious concerns that I and my colleagues share in relation to the developments we saw with the service last Monday, so regrettably I am in the position where I need to move this proposed resolution today. It would have been preferable, Madam Speaker, had you realised and been cognisant of the controversy that your proposal had brought about, to perhaps withdraw from it rather than push on. But you chose to push on and we are now in the position where we need, regrettably, to respond. Therefore, I am moving the motion set out in the terms on the notice paper this morning.

The first part of the motion recognises that the Assembly's obligation is to represent the interests, views and values of all citizens of the territory. It is not here to represent one faith or religious perspective over another or one philosophical perspective over another. Secondly, the motion recognises that it is an institution separate from adherence or affiliation to any religious faith. It is important to stress that this is about saying the institution of the Assembly—not individual members and their views, but the institution of the Assembly itself—is not one affiliated with any particular religious faith.

Thirdly, the motion raises the issue and reasserts the rights of members to profess their own personal religious faith or philosophical perspective and to organise activities which reflect or honour their religious belief or philosophical perspective separate from the institution of the legislature. Members, of course, as is their intrinsic human right, should be allowed to raise, profess and be public in their religious faith or adherence or in their broader philosophical perspective. This is not a motion attempting to undermine or to disallow such profession. It is absolutely a right intrinsic to all of us as human beings.

Therefore, any suggestion, as I heard on radio this morning, that this means members cannot swear an oath on a Bible is wrong. Any suggestion that you cannot go to an ANZAC Day ceremony and lay a wreath is wrong. This is not what this is about. Members professing their faith as members participating as members is not the problem. The problem is when the Speaker seeks to profess and authorise the establishment of a religious service that links that service with the institution of this Assembly. We are not all of the same faith. We are not all of the same perspective philosophically or otherwise, and that must be respected by the person who represents this institution overall, which is you, Madam Speaker. It is not for you to judge whether or not the Assembly wishes a religious ceremony to be held. The views of members of this place are diverse and different, and that should be respected when it comes to the conduct of your office.

Finally, I would like to turn to the fourth part of the motion which deals with the issue of not endorsing or being affiliated with any ceremony that involves adherence or affiliation with any religious faith. This is about making it clear that we do not want you, as the Speaker, to go and organise religious ceremonies or events that draw a link between this parliament and any particular religious faith or philosophical perspective. It does not mean that we cannot celebrate Christmas. It does not mean that members cannot go to religious events that they are invited to, in whatever capacity they are invited to go. It does mean any of those things. It does not mean that staff cannot be

given time off to go and attend religious events. It does not mean any of these things. It simply means: do not, on our behalf as Speaker, go and organise a religious ceremony and profess it to be an initiative of the Assembly or of the Speaker on behalf of the Assembly.

This issue could have been avoided through a closer engagement with the diverse range of views that are held by members in this place. I am conscious that there are many members of this place who feel deeply and in a very heartfelt and passionate way about their religious belief, and I respect that; I respect that absolutely. But equally there are other members in this place who do not share those views and who do not wish this institution to be associated with any one of those particular beliefs. This is an Assembly for all Canberrans. It should be separate from the practising of any particular religious faith. For those reasons, Madam Speaker, it is with some regret but I think also with some necessity that I move this motion this morning.

MR HANSON (Molonglo—Leader of the Opposition) (10.27): I do not thank the minister for bringing this motion on; I think it is very unhelpful. It does not achieve the aims that he is purporting; it is more far-reaching. If this was supposed to be a debate about the church service or the multi-faith service that was organised by the Speaker, that is not what this motion does. This is more far-reaching and, in my view, it has either been bungled by the minister or it risks turning our multi-faith community here in the ACT into a political football, risks limiting freedom of religion and risks discrimination. That is a very poor motion.

Last year I organised a forum in this place for the veterans community to organise a whole group of people from various organisations—30 organisations—to come to this place to share with me their views, their concerns. I did that as a member of the Assembly. I am a veteran; I have an interest in those issues and I wanted to hear what they had to say. That is a reasonable thing to do. But what the minister and the Labor Party seem to be saying today is that you could not do that if those people were religious groups. “If you want to engage with a group or a section in our community as members, you are free to do so unless the group is religious.” It seems to me to be discrimination. Why it is that we can invite political groups in here or veterans groups or any other member of the community, but if we wanted to invite religious groups of any denomination to engage with members of the Assembly in a constructive way, that is outlawed. I think that is abhorrent. I think it is discriminatory and we will not be supporting it.

The question is: where is the line drawn? This motion makes that somewhat unclear. The Speaker has sought advice from the Clerk, but obviously a lot of interpretation now needs to follow from this. I have had a chance to look through some of that advice but it is still unfolding in terms of the full implications of what has been tabled here. The motion put forward by the minister recognises the right of members to profess their own personal religious faith or philosophical perspective and to organise activities which reflect or honour their religious belief or philosophical perspective separate from the institution of the legislature.

We hear a lot from the government about the Human Rights Act, and section 14(1)(b) states:

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
This right includes—
 - (b) the freedom to demonstrate his or her religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching, either individually or as part of a community and whether in public or private.

Paragraph 3 of the motion puts a limit on the right contained in section 14(1)(b) without any reasonable justification in a free and democratic society. The threshold for applying limits on any human right should be high. And we hear that regularly from the Attorney-General. But in this instance he has completely and utterly failed to provide any reason, any logical, thought-out reason in accordance with the law, as to why the important right of religious freedom should be limited in this instance. There is no justification in the motion or in the media attention he has sought today.

Our Assembly is a diverse one. Voters have chosen us to represent them because we may share their policy views or how we fought on an issue or because they share a similar family life or moral values. This is a strength of the Assembly. Our diversity of views, values and experiences is what gives the Assembly the ability to examine legislation and policy to decide on what is in the best interest of Canberrans. And to argue that we should or even could leave the reasons why we were elected when we step onto the floor of this Assembly is bizarre and simply not practical.

When we look at the practicalities, we see the true bungling of this motion by the Labor Party. The motion says that we shall not in any way endorse or be affiliated with any ceremony that involves adherence or affiliation with any religious faith. I can only assume that, should this motion be successful today, when we resume sitting on 26 February Mr Corbell will not be in the chamber because the opening of the sitting day begins with a moment to pray or reflect. Clearly, being given the opportunity to pray or reflect would be an affiliation with religious faith, and Mr Corbell believes the Assembly should no longer allow members this time.

Advice has been sought from the Clerk on the ramifications, and my understanding of that advice is that since it is such an impossible position to tell whether members are praying during this time, it could be a religious ceremony and would no longer be allowed if this motion passes. That is advice from the Clerk. So that is an example of the ridiculous unintended consequences of this motion.

The threshold outlined in this motion is very low, so low it is very difficult to understand where the boundaries are. We have not had full time to digest it, and advice is still being provided. But, for example, last year the Chief Minister hosted an Iftar dinner with the Muslim community. The dinner opened with a recitation from the Holy Koran by the Imam Konda. Now, does this contravene the paragraph of this motion? Again, advice has been sought, and the advice suggests that it may. But, again, it is open to interpretation.

But community groups associated with religious organisations would be discriminated against. And that is what is clear. They could not use any reception areas, purely on the basis that they include an element of religious faith. The Clerk states that this would prevent sponsorship by a minister to use Assembly facilities to commemorate

Deepavali, which has occurred in the past, and smoking ceremonies as well. I actually attended the smoking ceremony for Dr Bourke when he arrived at the Assembly. I recall—I will stand corrected if it is not so—that all Labor members and all Greens attended that ceremony. The advice from the Clerk suggests this would now not be possible under this motion.

That is the consequence of what is being said. Where is the line drawn, and why are the Labor Party and the Greens—who I assume are supporting this—the people who are going to dictate who is given the right to voice their opinion and use the facilities that should be free and open to them in a democratic society?

At the beginning of this week, about 200 people attended a service of prayer and worship that was organised by the Speaker—not by the Assembly. I cannot remember the last time I saw 200 people in this place coming to support the Assembly. What I saw was a broad and diverse group of Canberrans—

Mr Rattenbury: Liberal Party members?

Ms Gallagher: It wasn't a preselection meeting, was it?

MR HANSON: I am receiving some interjections—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, members! Sit down, Mr Hanson. Members, this is a serious matter. There has been a little bit of conversation, which I think we would like people to keep to a minimum. Stop the clock, please, Clerk. This is a serious matter, and it should be dealt with seriously and respectfully. I do not want interjections about preselections and the like. It is not appropriate.

MR HANSON: It reflected a diverse range of people from our community—from people who are not religious to Catholics, Anglicans, Jews, Ba'hais and Buddhists. It was very well attended, and it was a multi-faith forum where anybody was able to attend. I came away from that service, with a very, very strong view that it is a good thing to do. I cannot understand how any opportunity where 200 members of our community come together, where we have a diverse range of people—from people with no faith through to many representatives from Islamic countries from the embassies—showing their support for this Assembly, is a bad thing. I simply cannot.

It is clear to me that it does not engage in any way the nonsense and the spurious arguments put forward by the Attorney-General that it somehow engages the principle of separation between church and state. It is not a matter of whether it engages that principle or not; it clearly does not. But it seems that the far-reaching nature of this motion is pushing the state to a position where, in effect, it could be discriminating against religion. That is a very, very dangerous and unfortunate consequence of this motion.

I hope the minister is not trying to send the message to our religious communities, our multi-faith communities, that they are in some way secondary in consideration, they are not welcome in this place and that they are second-class citizens. I hope that he is not trying to change the way we start the sitting each day where members who are religious are given the opportunity to say a prayer if they wish to do so.

I ask that the minister reconsider this motion. The unintended consequences of it risk a breach between us as members of the Assembly and the religious community, which is a very important part of our community. Whether you believe or not, I would hope there is no member here who thinks our multi-faith religious community is not a very important part of our social fabric. Today the minister risks tearing that fabric and damaging the relationship between this place and our religious communities. For those reasons, the Canberra Liberals will not be supporting this motion.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (10.39): I would like to thank Mr Corbell for bringing this motion to the Assembly today, and I would like to indicate that the Greens will be supporting it. We are all aware that this issue has come to the forefront of our minds as a result of the invitation that we received from you, Madam Speaker, inviting us to participate in a church service to “mark the beginning of the Assembly’s parliamentary year”. The invitation was made by you, Mrs Dunne, in your role as Speaker, and in your second letter inviting me to attend and participate you articulated your hope that the church service would “establish a long and lasting link between the Assembly and the many spiritual communities across Canberra”.

I wanted to highlight that point at the start of this debate, as it is clear that the intention of the Speaker was to build a formal relationship between the Assembly and a religious body, one that would be ongoing. I believe that it was the Speaker’s intention for such an event, a church service to mark the beginning of the parliamentary year, to become an ongoing event, repeated at the start of each year.

Of course, my position has been reported in the press, but I will take this opportunity to put on record how I responded to the Speaker’s invitation. I wrote:

As the Assembly is a modern, secular legislature, I feel that the introduction of a religious celebration that is formally connected to the institution would not be appropriate. I would acknowledge that MLAs and members of the community of different faith backgrounds may find it valuable to come together to mark the occasion with a religious service or services, but feel this should be done in a private capacity.

That, in essence, sums up my position on this. There is no place to link a modern, secular legislature to a religious organisation or a religious ceremony.

I think in light of some of the debate that has taken place this morning, it is valuable for me to be clear about what my view and the position that I think this motion puts do not mean. It does not mean that I believe there is no place for religion in people’s lives. It does not mean that I believe that there is no place for religious organisations to have a say in political debate. It does not mean that I, either personally or in my capacity as an MLA, have not attended a religious or spiritual event or that I will not in the future. It does not mean that I do not respect the Speaker’s religious views or the religious views of anyone else in this chamber, just as I would hope that they would respect the values that inform my views in this place. What my position on this motion does mean is that in this territory, where we represent people who follow many different religious faiths, people who follow no faith, people whose values are developed against a variety of backdrops, there is no place to instil a religious doctrine into the practices of the parliament that represents those people.

If the Speaker aspires for there to be strong connections with spiritual communities across Canberra then I would suggest that it is up to members of this place to forge those strong connections, much as we would forge them with other communities that we represent. I see no place to prioritise religious communities ahead of others in our community by instilling them in our parliamentary processes and practices.

I know that as the public debated this issue, some people highlighted that these religious connections were already in place in other legislatures, Westminster and its Lords Spiritual and our own federal parliament which has a church service to mark the start of the parliamentary year. Interestingly, the well-known federal church service is not facilitated by the Speaker of the house or the President of the Senate but rather is organised by the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship. It is an ecumenical service held at a different venue each year and the Christian fellowship is responsible for sending out invitations. It comes from a place of tradition. Nevertheless, my calls to the Speaker's office on the hill clearly indicated that they were not involved in organising the event.

I think that spells out some of the reasons why I think it is not appropriate for the Assembly to have that formal connection. I have no qualms—and I have said this repeatedly in the public domain—with individuals of this place participating in religious events. I have no qualms with them going to community religious events. I go to quite a few. I am invited by a range of communities across this city and I attend those events both out of respect and to learn. Certainly I find it very valuable to go, and they are often quite enjoyable events.

What I think is interesting to reflect on is the advice that was circulated shortly before this debate started, and I think there are some interesting points in here. Mr Hanson has sought to rely on this advice to suggest that the motion cannot go ahead or that it will eliminate a series of activities, and I think it is important to reflect on some of the specific tests.

I think it is quite clear that in a number of places the Clerk has indicated that, in the absence of clarification, a certain interpretation might be possible. So I am going to work through some of this advice now and provide some clarification, because we know that this debate in the Assembly and the intent of the motion, if passed in its present form, as the Clerk spells out, would assist the Speaker to interpret the standing orders down the line. The Speaker's role is to provide that interpretation.

Let us turn to the first one, which is about the prayer or reflection under standing order 30. The Clerk, in the last paragraph of the first page of his advice, after a discussion of the consequences, says:

Similarly I would envisage that you and future Speakers would have regard to the debates on the proposed continuing resolution (should it be moved and debated in its current form) to seek clarification of whether it affected the operation of Standing Order 30. In other words, it would be easier to interpret if clear reference was made in any debate on the notice of motion ...

that the prayer or reflection would not be affected.

For the sake of clarity, it is certainly clear to me that this motion does not seek to preclude the operation of standing order 30. Standing order 30 and the way it is conducted here each morning means the Speaker comes into the chamber and invites members to pray or reflect. It is an invitation. It is not a formal endorsement of a religion. It is not a formal endorsement of anybody's personal practices. And for all that each of us knows, members could stand here in the time that we have available, the 15 or 20 seconds that the Speaker offers us, and pray. Members may simply reflect on the business of the day and how it impacts on the Canberra community. They may in fact be thinking about their shopping list for that evening. It is an open space for members to use as they see fit, as is appropriate.

I think that this is not about the Assembly endorsing any religious affiliation, as opposed to the Assembly as an institution—and this is what this motion is about, the role of the Assembly as an institution—in that instance simply providing a space. So in my mind, it is very clear that standing order 30 would not be affected.

The next one is being a member of any parliamentary Christian fellowship group or peer group and, again, the relevant text is:

If the notice of motion passes in its current form and any prayer, meeting or session organised involves some sort of religious ceremony, my advice is that unless clarified it could prevent members of the Assembly from either organising any such meeting and participating in it. It may also prevent members from forming any type of Christian fellowship group, which conducts any ceremony that involves adherence or affiliation with any religious faith.

Again, this says “unless clarified”. For the sake of clarification, I do not believe this motion in any way prevents those sorts of activities. This motion is directed at this institution collectively endorsing a religion or a faith practice. If individual members want to start a prayer fellowship group then all power to them. If they want to book an Assembly room to conduct that, such is their entitlement as members, just as they are entitled to book that room to invite the chamber of commerce in, just as they can invite members of a visiting parliamentary delegation from overseas.

As members, we are entitled to use the facilities in a private or individual capacity, for a range of purposes. And in fact, members sponsor events at this place that they do not always agree with or that they do not have a strong view in support of. But we make the facilities available for a range of activities to be conducted, because they are a part of our community. Again, I think the clarity can be easily brought to this debate so that the current Speaker and future Speakers might be quite clear when they are asked to draw these conclusions or interpretations of the standing orders.

I think this applies to the remainder of the text. I have not had a chance to go through it all in detail. I have only had a look at those first few paragraphs, but hopefully that clarification is what is needed in response to the Clerk's advice, which does say “clarification is needed”. The intent of the motion is very clear, that the Assembly as an institution should not be conducting these events. If individual members seek to participate, sponsor, encourage, any word that you would like to add into that

sentence, I do not see any limitation here and I imagine that members, whether it be in a ministerial capacity or as an MLA, will continue to participate in these activities, as we all do and have done for many years.

MS GALLAGHER (Molonglo—Chief Minister, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Health and Minister for Higher Education) (10.49): As members, we are the masters of the standing orders. So I think I will open my comments by being very clear that the issue we are debating here is about formally linking an institution, in this case the Assembly, with running a religious service.

Mr Hanson: That is not what the motion says.

MS GALLAGHER: That is what this motion does. Those opposite will choose to confuse and run interference that it is going to cause the sky to fall in and nobody will be able to attend anything or do anything in their role as members anymore. But this motion does one thing, and the one thing it does is stop this institution running a religious service of any particular faith. It does one thing. That is exactly what it does.

If you read the motion that has been moved, it says “That this Assembly” and then there are subsections to that motion. For every part of the motion, if you read it without those three words before it, you would think probably some of the interference that has been run could have some merit. But if you read it, it says:

That this Assembly ... shall not in any way endorse or be affiliated with any ceremony that involves adherence or affiliation with any religious faith.

That does not prevent members from conducting their roles as members as they choose, as they have done in the past and as they will continue to do.

But I would just like to reflect on the history of this matter. The first I became aware of this was when I received a letter from Madam Speaker that was sent to other party leaders as well. It did not come from the leader of the Liberal Party. It came from the Speaker of the parliament, the presiding officer, to me and to Minister Rattenbury as parliamentary leader of the Greens, inviting me and my colleagues to attend a pre-arranged service which would follow a Christian liturgy at a time and place that had already been determined by Madam Speaker. The invitations that went out were from Madam Speaker. The invitations had the Assembly logo on them. The Assembly logo, from my understanding, can only be approved for use by the Speaker, the presiding officer of the Assembly. That is not an individual member conducting themselves in their role as an individual member. That is the presiding officer of this parliament hosting, running and organising a religious service.

It has not happened in the past. The Assembly as an institution, a young institution, a modern institution, has always maintained its secular characteristics. And I think, and my party thinks, that it is important that that secular history and tradition be maintained.

I would have preferred that we not have had to be debating this on the floor of the Assembly. Despite, I think, quite reasonable correspondence between the Speaker and

me—probably at least two letters from me and perhaps three letters from Madam Speaker—despite other members of this place raising concerns about the religious service proceeding and despite a majority of members expressing concern about that and concern with the way in which it had been organised, the presiding officer chose to continue.

I also had concerns around public servants being invited to attend and then having to RSVP to the Speaker's office. I felt that that did place public servants in a very difficult position and was an unusual step to take in facilitating this service. And that was after concerns had been raised about the presiding officer of this parliament hosting and running a religious service for the commencement of the Assembly sitting year.

I also was concerned that the Speaker, the presiding officer of the parliament, or her office emailed the invitation as Madam Speaker to the membership of the Canberra Liberal Party. Again, I do not think that reflects well on the parliament and I think, in what was becoming a politicised debate, added weight to that in quite an unfortunate way. From my point of view, this should never have got to this point but I think the persistence that was shown and, to some extent, the ignoring of the concerns that were raised by other members of this place, and raised clearly, meant that we, as members of this place, had to take this step.

But I do want to be clear that this has nothing to do with hosting Ramadan dinners or attending religious events. I have already attended probably three or four this year in my role as Chief Minister and I will continue to do so. The only thing this motion does is stop and seek to prevent the Assembly, as an institution, being formally linked with a religious service, in this case, at the commencement of the Assembly sitting year. I think it is important that we clarify it.

I hope that the comments made in the debate clarify the concerns that have been expressed by members who are against this motion but are supportive of a religious service. I hope that clarifies it and really we should pass this motion and lay to rest once and for all what has been, I think, quite an unseemly debate for the Assembly. For members who choose to follow particular faiths, to attend particular faith ceremonies, indeed, to host them as individual members, this motion does not seek to impinge on your role to do that. But as an institution, yes, it does. The Assembly is secular. It should remain secular and that is why this motion has been moved today.

MR COE (Ginninderra) (10.56): I am very concerned about the motion on the table today. I am concerned about the intended and unintended consequences of the government's proposal. If passed by the Assembly, I believe it would severely damage freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of worship. What the government is proposing is wrong. In my maiden speech I said:

Whilst I firmly believe in the separation of church and state, I recognise the importance that faith plays in many of our lives, and it is a real disservice to free speech when some of the more strident people in politics attempt to sneer at those who have Christian conviction, or to argue that they should be shunted to the fringes of any policy debate.

What the government is proposing here will stifle freedom.

There are some tangible consequences which I am worried about. What will it mean for the prayer or reflection at the start of the day? What will it mean for faith-based groups such as St Vincent De Paul, the Salvation Army, World Vision, UnitingCare, Anglicare or others using our Assembly public spaces which would be endorsed by the Speaker? What does it mean for faith-based schools visiting and using the Assembly's building or the Assembly education office hosting such groups? What does it mean for smoking ceremonies like the one used to welcome a recently elected MLA?

What does it mean for the Assembly hosting or supporting religious events such as Diwali, Ramadan, Christmas parties, carols by candlelight, Christmas trees and others? What does it mean for swearing an oath on the Bible or other books of faith? What does it mean for the Interfaith Forum? And perhaps most tellingly, what does it mean for state funerals which are, by definition, a state endorsing a funeral service? If any of the above are endorsed or affiliated, what does that mean?

I believe the government runs the risk of being discriminatory. This goes beyond the arguments of separation of church and state. This, I believe, runs the risk of being anti faith. As it reads, the government seems to be anti faith and anti religion. I am not. I want to continue to see the separation of church and state but I will defend the role that faith plays in the lives of many in our community and I will support the choice to adhere to religious practices.

It being 45 minutes after the commencement of Assembly business, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 77. Ordered that the time allotted to Assembly business be extended by 30 minutes.

MRS JONES (Molonglo) (10.59): I rise to speak to this motion, in particular on the topic of the separation of church and state. The origin of the particular phrase is generally found in an 1802 letter from President Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association. Jefferson was answering their letter to him in which they expressed concern about a rumour they had heard that the Congregationalist denomination was going to be made the official national church. He assured them that it was not. So he wrote the following words:

Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between church and state. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

The concept of the separation of church and state is much misunderstood in modern times. I think it is good sometimes to go back to the original words that we have derived this statement from. The concept of separation of church and state is an attempt by a country of goodwill to make sure that legislatures do not pass laws which would advantage one religion over another or force the belief in a certain faith.

Therefore, I believe that this motion is not particularly around the concept of church and state. This motion is about the extreme social progressives of the government imposing their beliefs and their will on those who hold a belief in God. Most Australians have a healthy respect for the valuable role of faith and religious beliefs in the development of our society and in the current life of our nation and our city. Some of the kindest, most self-giving people in our society are in the many and varied congregations, churches and faith-based not-for-profit organisations and charities around the city.

I know it is difficult for those opposite to comprehend what happened on Monday, but I can assure them that it was really quite an open and positive experience, that there were parents, children, elderly all just taking the opportunity to express goodwill towards the Assembly. A number of people afterwards said to me that they felt it was much overdue, that there was an opportunity for faith people to take some time in reflection thinking about those in the Assembly and the work that we do.

According to the advice of the Clerk, obviously this motion may have been, at best, drafted in a lazy fashion and may create other obstacles. It is really not good enough to stand up in this place and say, "X, Y, Z is not the intention of a bill." A bill is a bill. Once it is made into law then it is interpreted. I have some concerns about how this motion will be interpreted.

Our society owes much to its religious roots. Many of our laws, ethics and values are derived from a religious heritage. I am sure that Mr Corbell comes to this place with his very high level of ethics and his very deep concern for what is right and wrong. That must be in some way derived from our social context which is derived from our religious heritage. I believe that he is attempting in this motion to expel and disrespect that origin from the Assembly and from the activities of the Speaker. He can try and expel God but God will still be there.

In relation to modern parliaments, it might be informative for the Assembly to know that the German Bundestag and the Irish Oireachtas hold fortnightly ceremonies in their parliaments for religious purposes. Sometimes I am totally aware that our freedoms make others uncomfortable. It is a topic of interest at the moment, with bills that are being presented in the federal parliament as well. But, unfortunately, our freedom means that sometimes we have to be allowed to make others uncomfortable. That is not a reason to limit freedom. Why not endorse or run any religious ceremony out of this building and in association with the Assembly?

MR DOSZPOT (Molonglo) (11.04): Madam Speaker, this motion proposed today by Mr Corbell can be summed up in a few words. It represents religious discrimination, religious intolerance and religious vilification. Mr Corbell, through this motion—

Mr Corbell: Point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr Corbell. Mr Doszpot, could you sit down while there is a point of order?

Mr Corbell: Madam Speaker, to suggest I am promoting religious vilification is offensive. It is disorderly and it is casting aspersions on me which are not permitted by the standing orders. I would ask you to ask Mr Doszpot to withdraw.

MADAM SPEAKER: On the point of order, Mr Doszpot, if you are reading from notes could you read what you said again, please?

MR DOSZPOT: Certainly. Madam Speaker, this motion proposed today by Mr Corbell can be summed up in a few words. It represents religious discrimination, religious intolerance and religious vilification.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Doszpot. Could you sit down? This puts me in a difficult position. I think that the words do not reflect on Mr Corbell directly but on his motion. But in the spirit of the way that I would like this debate to be conducted, and so as not to be seen to offend Mr Corbell, I would like you to withdraw any imputation that Mr Corbell is involved in religious vilification. Your remarks should be directed to the motion and not to the person.

MR DOSZPOT: Can I seek clarification, Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: So what I am asking is that—

MR DOSZPOT: Can I say—

MADAM SPEAKER: Sorry, to provide clarification, what I am asking, Mr Doszpot, is that you make it clear that your comments are about the motion—

MR DOSZPOT: Not Mr Corbell.

MADAM SPEAKER: and do not reflect on the members themselves.

MR DOSZPOT: Madam Speaker, this motion today can be summed up in a few words. It represents religious discrimination, religious intolerance and religious vilification. Mr Corbell, through this motion—

Mr Corbell: Point of order. I beg your pardon, Madam Speaker, but you cannot draw a distinction between what the motion says and the motivation of me as the proposer of the motion. It is a clear imputation. It is unparliamentary. I do not think it is helpful for Mr Doszpot to seek to suggest that I, as the mover of this motion, am proposing words that amount to religious vilification. That is an imputation on my motivations and my character. It is offensive to me. I would ask that Mr Doszpot not be allowed to make his argument in those terms because it is an imputation on me as the proposer of the motion.

MADAM SPEAKER: I agree with you, attorney. I think that you do have to withdraw those words. On reflection, you are going to the motives of the mover, and that is disorderly.

MR DOSZPOT: I withdraw those terms, Madam Speaker. Mr Corbell, through his motion, would seek to denigrate any member of this place who would wish to pray at the commencement of an Assembly sitting day. Mr Corbell, through his motion, would seek to show a lack of tolerance for and to discriminate against those in our community whose faith or spiritual traditions guide their lives by denying them access to the Assembly, including its members and its facilities.

Mr Corbell and his colleagues, including his Green coalition partner Mr Rattenbury, say there should be a clear separation of church and state. Madam Speaker, I do agree with the separation of church and state. But that is no reason to lock those of faith out of the Assembly or to fail to acknowledge the people in our community who choose faith or a spiritual tradition to shape their life principles. It is no reason to exclude people of faith from their free wish to pray, in a very public way, over the Assembly, its members and the people who work here.

Is Mr Corbell proposing that no events that involve religious faith can be held in this Assembly? Is this the case even if they hire the Assembly's facilities? Does the Speaker's approval of such a hiring amount to an endorsement by the Assembly of that religious group? Is Mr Corbell proposing that no government community service funding can go to religious groups for the delivery of those services?

This motion is—Madam Speaker, I am finding it difficult not to use the words that I wish to use—highly extreme. It is intolerant. It is an extreme form that amounts to a form of religious intolerance. Mr Corbell, this government and the Greens coalition partner, should they vote for this motion, should hang their heads in profound and utter shame.

The Canberra Liberals stand for freedom. We stand for tolerance. We stand for the rights of people in our community to access the Assembly. We stand for the rights of members in this place to interact with all sectors of our community. But it would appear from this motion that, as regards matters of faith, the Labor and Greens alliance stands for little more than restriction, intolerance and discrimination.

MR SMYTH (Brindabella) (11.10): I think this is a poorly considered motion, because I think those that will support it fail to understand what happened on Monday morning and fail to understand how the separation of powers has not been breached. The Assembly did not run a church service. The Speaker did not run a church service. A bishop from a church ran that service, backed up by more than a dozen other pastors, both male and female, both Christian and non-Christian to, in many ways I think, challenge us as an Assembly.

Had members opposite been in attendance they would know that it was quite ironic that an Indigenous pastor of an Orthodox Church of Shanghai and San Francisco went forward and challenged us about the things that we should do. In many ways it was no

different to the urging of the Speaker every morning for us to pray and reflect on our duties. That is what those religious leaders did. This Assembly, this Speaker, did not run a church service. The Chief Minister seemed to say that we should not be running church services, and she is right. And the Assembly did not.

I think that is the sad thing. When you over-egg these things you start to look foolish. Many years ago Mr Pratt and I started an acknowledgement of our Muslim community members by having a function here in the Assembly to honour the end of Ramadan. Various people have attended over time and various people commended Mr Pratt for doing that, because it helped build up an understanding and awareness and it led to religious tolerance. We should all be working to do that as religious leaders.

Indeed, I have got a piece of paper here from Katy Gallagher MLA, Chief Minister of the ACT, cordially inviting people to the Ramadan dinner. The meal in Ramadan is a very important part of the ceremony. It has religious connotations. In fact, you could say that it is a religious thing. Now—

Ms Gallagher: The Assembly did not host it. I hosted it.

MR SMYTH: That is right. The Chief Minister interjects that the Assembly did not run it. The Speaker did not run the ceremony on Monday. It was run by a bishop of a faith. It is interesting. This is just another example of this government being driven by ideology. It is already their stated aim to be the most progressive government in the country. What we have here is this government's brace of new rights, like the right not to be offended. I think what is insidious with Mr Corbell's motion is that he has couched it under the cloak of this separation of church and state.

The church has not been invited into the Assembly. No church leader now runs the Assembly. What we actually have is people of goodwill offering their time and their best wishes to say that we hope that you, as an Assembly, do good for us as the community, and it happened to be, in this case, people who adhere to a variety of faiths.

There was everything from Baha'is to the Jewish faith, to Buddhists, to the Orthodox, to Protestant and to Catholic. So it was a pretty wide selection of the community saying, "We wish you well." I do not understand why the Assembly would not be welcoming the good wishes of the community to endorse what we do every year on their behalf.

I think it was an inclusive event. I think it was a positive event. I do not think anybody felt vilified, left out or confused by what happened. It was simply a blessing from our community, a message of goodwill if you wish. What we should not have is the church being invited into the Assembly. I see no thuribles; I see no menorahs; I do not see symbols of any faith in this place, and that is entirely right. This place is not diminished by what happened on Monday. In fact, this place is built up and honoured by what happened on Monday.

It is interesting to note the example of where we are going here. Some were saying, “Look, the Council of Churches runs the parliamentary breakfast ceremony for the federal parliament.” There is a federal parliamentary national prayer breakfast which is an official parliamentary event. That could not be held if this motion was applied to the federal parliament. The breakfast is auspiced by a Labor senator, in this case Ursula Stephens, and a Liberal member as well. Under this motion, that national prayer breakfast could not be held in the federal parliament. That is the slippery slope.

Mrs Jones makes a good case about not ignoring our roots. This place passes many laws. The budget will fund many religious groups and ethnic groups. For instance, the Holidays Act gives us a holiday for Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year’s Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. They are religious events. That is what the holiday is for. “Holiday” is the abbreviation of “holy day”.

By the process that we have in place, this Assembly endorses those days to allow religious ceremonies to take place. That is our history. That is our origin. That is where we have come from. You cannot deny your past, and you should not deny your past or forget your past in some sort of progressive move forward. It is what makes us strong. I think it is sad that we have got to this case where the Assembly appears to be directing the Speaker, and all of us—let me read it:

shall not in any way endorse or be affiliated with any ceremony that involves adherence or affiliation with any religious faith.

I am not sure why we just limit that to religious faiths. There are other things that we should be worried about. Think on that. But the problem here is that the motion is ill considered. The motion is actually inaccurate, because the ceremony itself was run by a religious person, not by the Assembly. The separation continues, as it should. Nothing has entered into this place that would deny that. We do not have, for instance, religious advisers in the Assembly on how things should happen when we pass bills.

I think it is a dreadful state of affairs where a ceremony to honour this place, to bless this place—dare I use the word “bless”, because that might have a religious connotation. Perhaps I will say that I think it is a shame that a ceremony that wanted to wish us goodwill for the year, best of luck in our endeavours, which you could use the word “bless” for if you want, is being attacked in this way when it in no way violates the separation of church and state.

I do not think any of us here would like to see that happen, because what we have in this country and what we have in this city I think is very special, and it is very special because of the separation, and I think we all should defend that.

But I think we also have a role in this place to honour and to lead. If people wish to honour us, I think we should accept that gratefully. Clearly, the dozen or more religious leaders who sat at that altar—if you had been there you would know this—all came forward one by one to welcome the Assembly members to that ceremony, to wish us well, to ask us to do better, to put aside differences on behalf of the community, to make sure that we build up our community.

I would ask whether this motion today builds up the ACT Assembly and gives it any further credibility. Or does it tear it down, go to the root of those things that make Australia and makes Canberra special? We have had an ongoing tradition of tolerance in this city, and it should continue.

I felt blessed on Monday. I felt very lucky to be there, because I was challenged by a dozen or so very, very decent and very, very good Canberrans to do better on behalf of my community. As a result of that I will try harder. Those of you who were not there cannot comment because you do not know.

It is kind of funny. Mr Hanson, who professes no faith, was there. I do not think he feels any worse off for it. I think it is great that Mr Hanson stands up today and defends religious freedom. That is from someone who chooses not to have a religion or a faith. Perhaps those opposite might have the same level of tolerance and acceptance in the things that they do.

MR SESELJA (Brindabella) (11.20): I am pleased to join with my opposition colleagues in opposing this motion. Most of the very important points have been made by Mr Hanson, Mr Coe and others in relation to why this motion is offensive, why it should not be supported and why it is wrong.

I want to raise a couple of issues which may have been touched on but I want to touch on them a little bit more. When we look at the separation of church and state in Australia, it is primarily reflected in our constitution, in section 116. Section 116 is a twofold clause. It talks about not establishing a religion but also about freedom of religion. It is worth reading what section 116 says:

The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any religion, or for imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust under the Commonwealth.

Presumably the desire is because of the separation of church and state. If you accept that view of the separation of church and state, it raises some interesting precedents. Of course, in our country, as opposed to the United States, where they have a very similar clause in their bill of rights, our High Court and our parliaments have not taken the view that section 116 prevents, for instance, funding of religious schools. Religious schools in this country are funded partly by the government. That is not deemed to infringe upon the separation of church and state, nor on section 116 of the constitution. The United States has taken a very different path.

I think that sensible view of what “establishment of religion” means has stood Australia in good stead. It means that we are not going to have an official religion. We are not going to say that the religion of Australia is being Catholic, Anglican or Muslim. We are not going to do that. There is no official religion. That is a good thing and that is something we accept. But we have taken a very broad view of the freedom of religion. And sometimes government will assist organisations who are religious; of course there will be a crossover. It recognises the fact that people of faith have the same rights in our country as everyone else.

This is not a special right. People would be free to have other ceremonies. In fact, when we talk about the Clerk's advice calling into question our ability to host certain functions here in the Assembly because they have a religious content, that is highly discriminatory. There are all sorts of groups who come into the Assembly with all sorts of views. Why should we pick on those of faith and say, "You are not welcome here"?

The opposition, the Canberra Liberals, do not take that view. If someone wants to come into the Assembly and they have a view that is particularly hostile to religion, particularly hostile to my faith, I would not seek to stop them coming in and having their say. Nor should we try and stop people of faith coming in.

The Clerk's advice should not just be dismissed. I think there has been a dismissive tone from the government in relation to the Clerk's advice. He raises legitimate concerns about what this would mean. We in the Canberra Liberals believe that for all of these reasons this motion should not be supported.

I would make another point. This goes to a broader question of what we as an Assembly, and it certainly appears the Labor Party and the Green member, are saying to people of faith. Through this motion what are they saying? It appears to me that they are saying people of faith are not welcome here. Whether you be Christian, whether you be any different type of Christian, whether you be Hindu, Muslim, Jew or any other faith, the Labor Party and the Green member are saying, "You are not welcome here." I think that this is the most concerning part of this. It is the sentiment behind it. It is saying, "We will do all we can." It is saying, "We are so offended by a church service that we have to come in and make a special rule that those kinds of church services don't go ahead. And while we're at it we will make it more difficult for faith-based groups to access our Assembly and to access our democracy."

It is part of a broader narrative. The Labor Party once stood for different things, I think. It once took a different view when it came to religious observance and religious practice. But make no mistake: this motion says to any people of faith, no matter what that faith might be, "You are not welcome here." We do not support that sentiment. In fact we vehemently oppose it because we believe fundamentally in freedom of religion, freedom of worship, freedom of speech. People should be free to express themselves and there should not be special exclusions built in to our standing orders that would identify that only religious people are not welcome. But if you keep your religion to yourself, that is okay and you can come and participate. We do not support that. I think it would be a retrograde step. I think the very clear message that we have got today from the Labor Party and the Greens is a continuation of this theme. People of faith are not welcome, according to them. There is a hostility towards people of faith which we utterly reject.

MS BURCH (Brindabella—Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Disability, Children and Young People, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Women, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Racing and Gaming) (11.26): I have listened with interest. It is a very sad day indeed to hear the hysteria coming from those opposite who dare to paint those who do not agree with them as being anti

faith and saying they are putting a barrier between those of faith and religion and this place. I find that personally offensive. I find it offensive to everybody in this place and to the broader community.

Mr Coe: Then don't vote for the motion.

MS BURCH: The Speaker has said, and you too, Mr Coe, have said, and I go back to the words that you used, Madam Speaker, on radio—that those who chose not to attend the service did not represent those of faith. That is simply not true. It has been articulated by the Attorney-General and the Chief Minister as to why we made the decision not to attend the service. It was not that we are anti faith or anti religious, or the words that Mr Doszpot was forced to withdraw, so vile were the words, to say that we do not—

MADAM SPEAKER: Those words have been withdrawn and therefore they should not be referred to.

MS BURCH: The use of words like we are discriminating against those of faith and religion is simply and absolutely, and at the core of every member of this place, not true. Mr Coe said this morning again that we are anti faith. Why? Because we choose to put a motion through that says there should not be a connection between church and the Assembly and that the secular divide should be the domain.

Mr Coe: Whether you like it or not, that is discriminating.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Coe, please do not interject.

MS BURCH: Again he is interrupting and saying that because we do not want to combine church and the Assembly, we are automatically discriminatory.

Mr Coe: Look it up in the dictionary.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Coe, order please!

MS BURCH: Mr Coe, I find it offensive that you come in here and assume that people who do not share your views are anti faith. Every one of you has stood and used the words “extreme”, “anti religious”, “anti faith”—

Standing orders—suspension

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

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Assembly concluding its consideration of notice No 1, Assembly business, relating to the independence of the Assembly from religious faith.

MS BURCH: As a member of this place I represent the whole of my community, regardless of age, gender, heritage or faith. For those who may or may not know, I have Christian faith. I was baptised. I went to Holy Communion. I had confirmation. I

note that there are members of this place that observed Ash Wednesday yesterday. There was no commentary about that. There was no negativity about that. That was just—

Mr Doszpot: You are mentioning that now.

MS BURCH: I am saying that individuals are allowed to express their faith and freedoms as they like, Mr Doszpot. There is nothing in this motion that will hinder that. There is nothing in this motion that will take the morning reflection away, that will stop me as a member or as the Minister for Multicultural Affairs hosting a Diwali or a Ramadan event. You shake your head in despair, but there is nothing in this motion that will stop that. I will continue with great pride to host events for all elements and all sections of my community. Faith based, cultural based, gender based, it matters not, because they are part of our community.

As has been said, this motion does not stop people being involved in religious services; rather it continues the tradition of this Assembly being secular. Those opposite are seeking to create an environment where those who are supporting this motion are anti faith and discriminating against faith, and I find that incredibly distasteful. In fact I think it is almost a new low for the Canberra Liberals, in order to back the ill-informed judgement and activities of the Speaker, that they are now rallying around and slurring us in this most extreme way.

They say that there are people who support them. Yes, there are no doubt members of the community that supported your service on Monday, but there are also many in the community that did not. So by your own logic, are you asking that their voice not be heard? It is just extraordinary.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, members! Please do not engage in conversation across the chamber.

MS BURCH: There are members of our broader community that did not agree with Madam Speaker's actions in hosting that church service.

Mr Doszpot: Read your motion.

MS BURCH: Mr Doszpot, the Attorney-General and the Chief Minister—

Mr Doszpot interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Doszpot, please do not interject. I do not want a conversation across the chamber.

MS BURCH: It will not limit the activities of members in expressing their faith, in supporting members of our community in their faith. I think it is a very sad day that those opposite are seeking to paint those who are supporting this motion as being anti

faith. They are driving the wedge in the community. They are painting a picture that this motion is about religion and faith. It is about maintaining the secular nature of this Assembly.

It is a very sad day indeed. I find it personally offensive. I find it offensive as a representative of this community—the language that has been thrown across the chamber from those opposite. Madam Speaker, it has been raised too, and it could raise the question, about your office inviting members of the Liberal Party. Did you invite other members as members of the community? I am not quite sure. I, as a member of the Labor Party, did not get an invite. It goes to, I think, ill actions by you in your role as Speaker, and the divide that this continues to cause.

I support the motion. It will put to rest this matter. This is a secular Assembly, and it maintains the rights and freedoms of individuals in their faiths and in their support of faith.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (11.34), in reply: Madam Speaker, I would like to return to where I started, to the words of Professor James Haire from the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, the previous past president of the National Council of Churches in Australia, and a Uniting Church minister. When he was asked about the appropriateness of you, as the Speaker, inviting representatives of a number of faiths to proceed with a Christian service, he said in response, “That doesn’t solve the problem. The point is she is running services. The state is running services. She, representing the Assembly, is running a Christian service. That is not how it works in a liberal democracy.” He was challenged by the presenter, “Vicki Dunne has claimed she is organising services as Speaker, but not on behalf of the Assembly. Does that hold any water for you?” The professor said, “No, none, because she is still Speaker and she is a representative. She is an elected representative. Even more than an MLA she represents the state. For that reason she should not be doing it. It doesn’t happen in the federal parliament.”

That is my argument. That is the argument of my colleagues. There are good reasons why the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate do not auspice, sponsor or organise religious ceremony. Individual members do so. Individual members in their private, personal and individual capacity, as Christian, Muslim or Buddhist or of no faith, make that decision. And they should continue to be allowed to make such decisions.

I am not saying for a moment that any member in this place should not be allowed to go and organise their own personal service, ceremony or other event that professes faith or no faith at all. I have no objection whatsoever. But I do have an objection when the office of Speaker is used to promulgate a religious event, because that is not the job of the Speaker. The Speaker’s job is to represent all of us—those of faith and those of no faith. That is the Speaker’s job, and the Speaker failed in her job when she organised the religious event that occurred last Monday. That is what this motion is about—clear, simple and unambiguous. To suggest otherwise is simply to stir up a sectarian debate which is unhelpful, divisive and unnecessary.

There is a clear separation between the institution of this Assembly as an institution of the state—and that is what it is—and the private, personal and individual choices of members as to whether or not they choose to profess faith. Do not suggest that it is anything else.

It is unfortunate that we have come to this point, but we have come to this point because of the refusal of the Speaker to recognise that her role is to represent not just those of faith but those who have none, and those who are ambiguous or unsure. She has failed to do so, and that is why we are forced to move this proposed resolution today.

Question put:

That **Mr Corbell's** motion be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 9

Noes 8

Mr Barr
Ms Berry
Dr Bourke
Ms Burch
Mr Corbell

Ms Gallagher
Mr Gentleman
Ms Porter
Mr Rattenbury

Mr Coe
Mr Doszpot
Mrs Dunne
Mr Hanson
Mrs Jones

Mr Seselja
Mr Smyth
Mr Wall

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

Standing orders—suspension

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

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent notice No 3, Assembly business, relating to the referral of annual and financial reports to standing committees, being called on forthwith and debated.

Annual and financial reports Reference to standing committees

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (11.42): I move:

That:

- (1) the annual and financial reports for the calendar year 2012 and the financial year 2011–2012 presented to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* stand referred to the standing committees, on presentation, in accordance with the schedule below;

- (2) the annual reports of ACT Policing and the Legislative Assembly Secretariat stand referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety and Standing Committee on Public Accounts, respectively;
- (3) notwithstanding standing order 229, only one standing committee may meet for the consideration of the inquiry into the calendar year 2012 and financial year 2011–2012 annual and financial reports at any given time;
- (4) standing committees are to report to the Assembly by 16 May 2013; and
- (5) the foregoing provisions of this resolution have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

Annual Report (in alphabetical order)	Reporting area	Ministerial Portfolio	Standing Committee
ACT Auditor-General		Chief Minister	Public Accounts
ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority		Minister for Education and Training	Education, Training and Youth Affairs
ACT Electoral Commission		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
ACT Gambling and Racing Commission		Minister for Racing and Gaming	Public Accounts
ACT Human Rights Commission		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
ACT Insurance Authority		Treasurer	Public Accounts
ACT Insurance Authority	Office of the Nominal Defendant of the ACT	Treasurer	Public Accounts
ACT Long Service Leave Authority		Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	Public Accounts
ACT Ombudsman		Chief Minister	Public Accounts
ACT Policing		Minister for Police and Emergency Services	Justice and Community Safety
ACTEW Corporation Limited		Treasurer	Public Accounts
ACTTAB Ltd		Treasurer	Public Accounts
Canberra Institute of Technology		Minister for Education and Training	Education, Training and Youth Affairs
Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate		Chief Minister	Public Accounts
Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate	ACT Executive	Chief Minister	Public Accounts

Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate	Industrial Relations Policy Workplace Compensation and Workplace Safety Policy	Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	Public Accounts
Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate	Default Insurance Fund	Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	Public Accounts
Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate	Work Safety Council	Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	Public Accounts
Commissioner for Public Administration		Chief Minister	Public Accounts
Community Services Directorate	Arts Policy, Advice and Programs (including Arts ACT)	Minister for the Arts	Education, Training and Youth Affairs
Community Services Directorate	Community Affairs—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
Community Services Directorate	Community Affairs—Ageing	Minister for Ageing	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
Community Services Directorate	Community Affairs—Multicultural Affairs	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
Community Services Directorate	Community Affairs—Women	Minister for Women	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
Community Services Directorate	Community Development and Policy	Minister for Community Services	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
Community Services Directorate	Disability and Therapy Services	Minister for Disability, Children and Young People	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
Community Services Directorate	Housing ACT	Minister for Housing	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services

Community Services Directorate	Children, Youth and Family Services (Child and family centre program; children services; youth services)	Minister for Disability, Children and Young People	Education, Training and Youth Affairs
Community Services Directorate	Children, Youth and Family Services (Care and protection services)	Minister for Disability, Children and Young People	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
Community Services Directorate	Official Visitor— <i>Children and Young People Act 2008</i>	Minister for Disability, Children and Young People	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
Cultural Facilities Corporation		Minister for the Arts	Education, Training and Youth Affairs
Director of Public Prosecutions		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
Economic Development Directorate		Minister for Economic Development	Public Accounts
Economic Development Directorate	Tourism Policy and Services (including Australian Capital Tourism)	Minister for Tourism and Events	Public Accounts
Economic Development Directorate	Sport and Recreation Services	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Education and Training Directorate		Minister for Education and Training	Education, Training and Youth Affairs
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate		Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate	ACT Heritage Council	Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate	ACT Planning and Land Authority	Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services

Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate	Conservator of Flora and Fauna	Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate	Environment Protection Authority	Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Exhibition Park Corporation	Economic Development Directorate	Minister for Economic Development	Public Accounts
Health Directorate		Minister for Health	Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission		Treasurer	Public Accounts
Justice and Community Safety Directorate		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Corrective Services	Minister for Corrections	Justice and Community Safety
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Emergency Services Agency	Minister for Police and Emergency Services	Justice and Community Safety
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Transport Policy and Regulation	Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
Land Development Agency		Minister for Economic Development	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Legal Aid Commission (ACT)		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment		Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Legislative Assembly Secretariat		Speaker	Public Accounts
Public Advocate of the ACT		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety
Public Trustee for the ACT		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety

Territory and Municipal Services Directorate		Minister for Territory and Municipal Services	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate	ACTION	Minister for Territory and Municipal Services	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate	ACT Public Cemeteries Authority	Minister for Territory and Municipal Services	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Territory and Municipal Services Directorate	Animal Welfare Authority	Minister for Territory and Municipal Services	Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services
Totalcare Industries		Treasurer	Public Accounts
Treasury Directorate		Treasurer	Public Accounts
Treasury Directorate	ACT Government Procurement Board	Treasurer	Public Accounts
Treasury Directorate	Director of Territory Records	Treasurer	Public Accounts
Treasury Directorate	Shared Services	Treasurer	Public Accounts
University of Canberra		Minister for Higher Education	Education, Training and Youth Affairs
Victims of Crime Support Program		Attorney-General	Justice and Community Safety

Madam Speaker, this is a referral of the annual and financial reports for the previous full financial year to relevant committees of the Assembly for inquiry and report.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2013

Mr Rattenbury, pursuant to notice, presented the bill and its explanatory statement.

Title read by Clerk.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (11.43): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

The harms caused by gaming machines in our community are well known. They are responsible for serious financial hardship, family breakdown and suicide. There is no doubt that there are significant numbers of people in Canberra who are severely affected by gambling addiction, and we know that between 85 and 96 per cent of

those with a gambling addiction play poker machines. We also know that, on average, for each person who is a problem gambler, seven other people they know are seriously affected by their addiction.

In response to an article on the *Drum* by Charles Livingstone, the deputy head of the Department of Health Social Science at Monash University, someone named Suzanne commented very aptly:

The pokies are unique, specific, money-extracting machines, time-consuming, socially-isolating devices that prey upon vulnerable people extremely efficiently.

This bill is designed to prevent existing problems from getting even worse and preventing the machines from becoming even more isolating by prohibiting the use of headphones designed to further isolate gamblers and ensure that they cannot be distracted from the machines.

Recently, following a 12-month interim ban, the Victorian gambling minister issued new regulations prohibiting the use of headphones, or what are commonly known as audio isolation devices, on poker machines. The bill I present today is modelled on those regulations in response to the concerns from experts.

Following the announcement of the Victorian ban, the InterChurch Gambling Taskforce chairman, Dr Mark Zirnsak, said that the ban should be replicated Australia wide. This bill will implement the ban in the ACT and prevent the Gambling and Racing Commissioner from approving a machine that has an audio device for headphones unless the device is specifically for those with a hearing impairment.

Further, the bill provides a regulation-making power so that should there be other devices which would never be able to be approved by the commissioner, they can be prescribed by regulation to prevent their approval.

At the time the Victorian ban was implemented, the minister, Michael O'Brien, said in an ABC radio interview:

... the sounds of silence apart from a number of people sitting at their gaming machines literally plugged into them is just something that we just find was fairly abhorrent and something that we couldn't support as being a responsible gambling practice.

I certainly agree with that statement. I do not think anyone would want to see any Canberrans go to a club and plug themselves into a machine, completely isolated from everything else around them, and gamble their income away.

The New South Wales Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority has listed headphones on the gaming machine prohibited features register, preventing the use of headphones in New South Wales. At the time, those bans were opposed by the poker machine lobby, which argued that such a ban was discriminatory.

However, when ClubsACT were contacted in the development of this bill, to their credit they indicated their support for the ban.

On the issue of discrimination, in developing the bill, disability advocacy groups in both Victoria and here in the ACT, as well as the ACT Human Rights Commission, were consulted and no concerns were raised. The view of both the advocacy groups and the Human Rights Commission was that the potential for discrimination was very remote and that, in the context of what is being achieved by the bill, a significant reduction in the potential harm that poker machines equipped with these devices would cause was not an issue to worry about.

There is no shortage of independent experts advocating for an increase in harm minimisation measures for poker machines, and the reality is that we can do much more to help those suffering from an addiction to poker machines in our community. The research being produced by the Gambling and Racing Commission, in conjunction with the ANU, is incredibly useful and confirms that harm minimisation measures are needed and would work for many problem gamblers in our community.

I hope that this is just one of many additional harm minimisation measures that will be implemented. In reality, this is only a very modest step forward, but nevertheless it is a very important one to ensure that the situation does not get even worse.

I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Debate (on motion by **Ms Burch**) adjourned to the next sitting.

**Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Amendment Bill
2013—exposure draft
Papers and statement by member**

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (11.48), by leave: I present the following papers:

Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Amendment Bill 2013—

Exposure draft.

Explanatory statement to the exposure draft.

Consultation paper.

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

Leave granted.

MR RATTENBURY: Thank you, members, for granting leave. I am very pleased to be able to table an exposure draft of the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Amendment Bill. This is the first of a number of bills that the Greens committed to the electorate that we would deliver and forms part of the parliamentary agreement.

At almost every sitting of the Assembly more and more decision-making powers are delegated to ministers and public officials. We do so in all manner of circumstances, on all manner of different conditions. When we give that power to ministers or public officials we should expect them to be made following proper process and according to law and there should be mechanisms to ensure that that is always the case.

This bill is about ensuring that all those many and varied delegated powers are always exercised according to law as prescribed by the Assembly. If we want ministers and public officials to always be accountable for their decisions then we should make those decisions open to judicial review, irrespective of who happens to be the one who wants that review.

In Australia there has been a very gradual, perhaps at times stagnating, move to expand those who can access the courts to ensure that the public interest is protected and administrative decisions are made according to law. In 1986 former Chief Justice Brennan said: “The movement is all one way, that is, towards relaxing earlier restrictions on standing to sue.” This bill will progress that movement apace and bring about real reform, significantly increasing the accountability of decision makers.

The rules of standing have been the subject of considerable debate for many years, both in the courts, as part of litigation, and by law reform bodies and academics. These reviews almost universally recommend in favour of reform and expanding the scope of applicants that can seek review of government decisions.

The test for standing in public law matters should be broader than that where private interests are involved. The draft bill I present today is modelled on the recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission in their report No 78 entitled *Beyond the doorkeeper: standing to sue for public remedies* and will give effect to these very important principles.

The overview of the ALRC report states:

The public has an interest in ensuring that government decision-makers are accountable and that their decisions are made in accordance with the law. The public also has an interest in ensuring compliance with legislation that creates public rights and duties. These are interests which must be capable of protection, when necessary, through litigation.

In the case of *Onus v Alcoa of Australia Ltd*, Justice Stephen argued that deliberate legislative action rather than judicial innovation would be desirable to reform the law of standing. This draft bill represents the first legislative attempt to properly reform the law of standing for judicial review. There have been changes in particular contexts—the most notable is the New South Wales planning laws, which allow any person to seek review of a planning decision—but none have comprehensively tackled the issue.

Justice Graham, in *Hussein and Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs*, said that standing rules:

... are designed to ensure that applicants only litigate their business. For an application to have standing demands a connection between the applicant's interest and the relief sought. As a general rule the Court will not recognise busybodies who interfere in things that do not concern them.

The difficulty, of course, in light of those comments from Justice Graham, is that public law by its very nature is everybody's business. Standing law rules were developed in the 19th century English courts in the context of private law matters. At that time there were very few public law actions or remedies. They were never designed as a filter or preventive measure so that matters may remain in error for want of the correct person to bring them before a court.

The underlying intention of the bill is to improve the quality of administrative decision making and ensure that government decisions are not above the law. In some way, we are all subject to statutory decisions, either directly or indirectly, and there should be a public right to remedy errors in those decisions. I would strongly encourage all in the community with an interest in the matter to make a submission on the bill.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MR SESELJA (Brindabella): Pursuant to standing order 246A I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts relating to inquiries about certain Auditor-General's reports currently before the committee.

On 22 December 2011, Auditor-General's report No 6 of 2011 was referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry. This report presented the results of a performance audit on the regulatory framework for managing food safety and its implementation in the ACT and contained 10 recommendations.

The committee received a submission from the government dated 31 July 2012. In its submission, the government agreed to nine of the report's recommendations and agreed in part to the remaining recommendation.

The committee has resolved to make no further inquiries into the report. As the audit report deals with matters that fall within the portfolio coverage of the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services, the public accounts committee has written to that committee to bring the report to its attention.

On 3 April 2012, Auditor-General's report No 1 of 2012 was referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry. This report presented the results of a performance audit on monitoring and minimising harm caused by problem gambling in the ACT and contained nine recommendations.

The committee received a submission from the government on 2 July 2012. In its submission, the government agreed to eight of the report's recommendations and did not agree to the remaining recommendation.

The Seventh Assembly public accounts committee inquired into the Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2011, which canvassed many similar issues. That committee's report was tabled on 7 June 2012 and contained 17 recommendations. The government agreed or agreed in principle to eight recommendations, noted six recommendations and did not agree to three recommendations. The committee has resolved to make no further inquiries into the audit report.

On 12 June 2012, Auditor-General's report No 3 of 2012 was referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry. This report presented the results of a performance audit on the administrative effectiveness of the Education and Training Directorate's delivery of the following early childhood schooling programs and services: the early childhood schools initiative; Koori preschool programs; early intervention programs; and preschool early entry programs. The report contained 11 recommendations.

The committee has resolved to make no further inquiries into the report. As the audit report deals with matters that fall within the portfolio coverage of the Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs, the public accounts committee has written to that committee to bring the report to its attention.

On 18 June 2012, Auditor-General's report No 4 of 2012 was referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry. This report presented the results of a performance audit that reviewed the administrative effectiveness of the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate's delivery of the Australian Capital Territory development application and approval system for high-density residential and commercial developments. The report contained six recommendations.

The committee received a submission from the government dated 30 August 2012. In its submission, the government agreed to three recommendations and agreed in part to three recommendations.

The committee has resolved to make no further inquiries into the report. As the audit report deals with matters that fall within the portfolio coverage of the Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services, the public accounts committee has written to that committee to bring the report to its attention.

On 28 June 2012, Auditor-General's report No 5 of 2012 was referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry. This report presented the results of a performance audit that examined administrative effectiveness in managing the recycling estates located at Parkwood Road and Hume, and computer and television e-waste. The audit report contained nine recommendations.

The committee has resolved to make no further inquiries into the report. As the audit report deals with matters that fall within the portfolio coverage of the Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services, the public accounts committee has written to that committee to bring the report to its attention.

On 14 November 2012, Auditor-General's report No 9 of 2012 was referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry. This report presents the results of a performance audit that examined the ACT Legal Aid Commission's management of grants of legal assistance. The audit report contained 10 recommendations. The committee received a submission from the Legal Aid Commission dated 24 January 2013. In its submission, the commission agreed to nine recommendations and agreed with qualifications to the other recommendation.

The committee has resolved to make no further inquiries into the report. As the audit report deals with matters that fall within the portfolio coverage of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, the public accounts committee has written to that committee to bring the report to its attention.

Public Unleased Land Bill 2012

Detail stage

Debate resumed from 12 February 2013.

Bill as a whole.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Housing, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Ageing) (11.58): Pursuant to standing order 182A(b), I seek leave to move two amendments to this bill together, as they are minor and technical in nature.

Leave granted.

MR RATTENBURY: I move amendments Nos 1 and 2 circulated in my name together and table a supplementary explanatory statement to the government amendments [*see schedule 1 at page 647*].

These are amendments which I referred to on Tuesday. To briefly recap, these are government amendments to address two drafting errors identified by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office. The amendments are minor and technical in nature and address the matter of inserting a reference to the police and also a reference to the register, which was incorrectly stated as a reference to a public unleased land permit. Those were, as I say, errors picked up by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office. They came to members' attention a bit later than ideal, but members were advised on Monday of those changes. I think the delay of the introduction of the amendments until today seems somewhat unnecessary.

I would also like to highlight an issue that arose with the Speaker's ruling on Tuesday. The Speaker came into the chamber and indicated that, in order to ensure clarity, she was making a ruling that amendments must be submitted by 10 am. I think it is helpful that the Speaker gave that clarification. However, members will also note that they received on Monday morning at 9.12 am—that is this Monday, 11 February—an email from the office of the Legislative Assembly. I will read it for full effect:

Members

A reminder that at the last sitting standing orders were amended to require that amendments to bills be circulated 24 hours prior to the debate of the Bill. A signed original of the amendments and any supplementary explanatory statement should be provided to the Clerk's office by 12 noon the preceding day

They will then be scanned and emailed to Members.

So first thing Monday morning we were advised from the Office of the Legislative Assembly, of which the Speaker is the ultimate authority, that we had to have our amendments in by midday. I submitted my amendments by 11.30 am. A deliberate phone call was made to Mr Coe's office in light of the fact that the amendments were coming late and also to detail them and to ask whether there were any questions or concerns with them.

What I am unsure about is why the Speaker, this email having been circulated to all members, then came into the chamber and gave a different ruling. That is perhaps something that will intrigue a few members in this place, because it is unhelpful to be changing the rules after the fact. I think this highlights the fact that the amendments to standing orders that Mr Corbell has foreshadowed on the notice paper will be quite important in ensuring that there is absolute clarity and that it is not left to the Speaker to be changing the rules after the fact.

I commend my amendments to the Assembly.

MR COE (Ginninderra) (12.02): The opposition will be supporting these amendments. On the issue of moving amendments and seeking 24 hours notice, contrary to what Minister Rattenbury just said, I do not agree with his slur on the Speaker that she is changing the rules. In actual fact, this is the first sitting week since those rules came into effect. I think it is quite reasonable that these rules develop. I said at the time in November that I think these rules are unworkable. I also said that when they are unworkable and when the government presents amendments with less than 24 hours notice we will not be readily granting leave. That is a position I stand by. In fact, in that same debate Mr Rattenbury supported that. He said it is good governance to go more than 24 hours, and that is why the standing orders have been changed.

I will quote what I said at the time and what Mr Rattenbury said. I said:

The Canberra Liberals will not be supporting new standing order 178A, which mandates that amendments shall be delivered to the Clerk's office for circulation 24 hours prior to the sitting day on which amendments are proposed to be moved. We do not think this is reasonable and we do not think it is possible. I think we have all seen in this place many occasions where amendments are brought on closer than 24 hours to the discussion of the relevant issue. However, that is for good reason. In effect, rather than having debates on this chamber floor, the government want to have debates, they want to have discussions, deals done in the back room rather than in the transparency of this place.

I went on to say:

If this amendment gets up, we will not be readily granting leave to the government to suspend standing orders because this is unworkable. If the government want to move this amendment to the standing orders, the government must be held to account and the government must live by those rules.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr Coe, could you resume your seat for a moment. Stop the clock, please. Mr Coe, I ask you to be directly relevant to the amendments.

Mr Seselja: On a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker, Mr Rattenbury raised these issues and he discussed them at some length. I think it is reasonable that Mr Coe have the opportunity to respond to what Mr Rattenbury said in that context of the debate.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Seselja, and he has; he has fully responded. I think we need to get on in the time that he has remaining to talk about the amendments. I would appreciate it if he did.

MR COE: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The amendments which are before us today were brought on on Tuesday in light of standing order 178A. In the debate on 27 November Mr Rattenbury said:

Certainly, in my mind I see this playing out very differently from how Mr Coe just described it. Rather than being about, as he put it, deals in the back room, this will increase transparency. What will happen now is that all members will receive amendments 24 hours before the debate. They will have an opportunity to look at them and consider them and to discuss them with their colleagues, in fact, if they so wish.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Coe, thank you. You have made your point, along with Mr Rattenbury. We will now go on to debate the amendments, not the standing orders. That is not what we are debating; we are debating the amendments. So can we get back to the amendments, please. Thank you.

MR COE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I will continue to address the amendments and the bill and the circumstances in which the bill and the amendments have been presented and developed and consulted upon. That is well within the purview of this bill. It would be an interesting precedent if we in this place were to suddenly say we could not talk about how bills and ideas are put forward in this place.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Coe, you are declining to get back to the amendments and you want to continue to talk about the standing orders?

MR COE: No, Madam Deputy Speaker. I believe I am talking to the amendments.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not heard you yet talking to the amendments. I have been listening to you talk about the standing orders and when these

amendments were brought to members' attention. I have heard you talking about that, but I have not heard you talk about the actual amendments yet.

MR COE: Madam Deputy Speaker, amendments Nos 1 and 2 to the Public Unleased Land Bill were distributed to members at 11.30, as Minister Rattenbury said. Of course, Monday was a busy day for the opposition; we had a few things going on. We went to a church service, then we had a leadership party room meeting, then we had a press conference. There were a few things happening. But we had confidence in the standing orders that we would have 24 hours notice. We had confidence.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in wrapping up my thoughts about amendments 1 and 2 to the Public Unleased Land Bill 2012, the opposition will stand by the position we took on 27 November and we will demand that the standing orders be adhered to. We support amendments 1 and 2.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Housing, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Ageing) (12.08): Just for the sake of clarity, I am quite happy to comply with the standing orders; I think this is a good standing order. My simple frustration was that the advice we were given was that the interpretation of standing orders was that you had to have amendments in by midday. I submitted them by 11.30 and then the Speaker took a different interpretation the next day.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as a whole, as amended, agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Directors Liability Legislation Amendment Bill 2012

Debate resumed from 29 November, 2012, on motion by **Mr Corbell**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR SESELJA (Brindabella) (12.09): The opposition will support the Directors Liability Legislation Amendment Bill. I note the Attorney-General's advice given in his presentation speech that this bill is a result of reforms agreed to at COAG. The agreement seeks to achieve a nationally consistent and principled approach to the imposition of personal criminal liability of directors or other corporate officers such as managers for corporate fault. The Attorney-General also noted that a "thorough audit" of the ACT statute book was undertaken and the results submitted to the Prime Minister in June 2012. He says that these amendments give effect to the audit results. No doubt, given the thoroughness of the audit, the bill will be the last of its kind to be presented to the Assembly.

In large part the bill amends 13 acts to relieve the current burden of proof that sits against corporation directors and managers in the event of prosecutions being brought

in relation to a large range of offences across the 13 acts. In those cases, corporations, directors and managers can still be prosecuted for the relevant offences, but those matters will follow the normal course through the legal system. A number of prosecutions can still lie against directors and managers for offences committed by staff, but the burden of proof lies against the prosecution. In that case, the court must consider a number of elements prescribed in the legislation. This is referred to as type 1 executive responsibility.

I am advised that the Law Society has considered this bill and supports it because, in the main, it tidies things up. The scrutiny of bills committee also reviewed the bill and considers that it positively engages the Human Rights Act by the enhancement of the right of directors and managers to be presumed innocent. It is perhaps unusual for this Labor-Greens government to actually take steps to free up burdens on business in this city. However, there is a first time for everything. We will be supporting this piece of legislation.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo) (12.11): This bill has come about as a result of a long-running national process called the seamless national economy national partnership agreement. The bill implements one of the priority areas for regulatory reforms under the national agreement. To quote from the explanatory statement of the bill, the goal of this particular reform is to create a nationally consistent and principled approach to the imposition of personal criminal liability of directors or other corporate officers for corporate fault.

As a general comment on the seamless national economy reforms, I would emphasise that we must be vigilant not to rush to cut what is sometimes referred to as “green tape” and in the process remove rules that are important in the protection of our environment. There is sometimes a tension between the desire of business—and our country’s largest and wealthiest companies are usually the most vocal—and the legitimate need to protect our natural resources and environment from exploitation.

On this occasion, I am satisfied with the reforms proposed in this bill. They follow a comprehensive audit of the ACT statute book and of all the instances where a director or manager is presumed responsible for an offence committed by the corporation, also referred to as “executive liability”. The reforms in this bill refine and simplify these offences so that, instead of having various levels of executive liability, there is one level.

The effect is essentially the removal of a type of executive responsibility where the director or manager was presumed to be responsible for the acts of the corporation, without the need for further proof. So in some cases the prosecution will now be required to prove responsibility of the director or manager when it previously did not. This only applies for executive or attributable liability. It does not impact on cases where the director or manager is shown to have been an accessory to the offence of the corporation. I understand that in practice this will often be the case.

I recognise that these reforms are part of a national harmonisation process and I recognise that there is also a benefit in effectively cleaning up and harmonising our statute books. A seamless set of liability rules makes it easier for directors to

understand their obligations and to operate across jurisdictions. Likewise, it will also assist prosecutors who can use a consistent set of rules to prosecute breaches. Removing inconsistencies and arbitrariness from directors' liability provisions also better aligns our laws with human rights principles.

I have given consideration to whether these changes will in any way lessen the ACT's ability to protect itself from illegal corporate behaviour, in particular, as I have already mentioned, from potential corporate polluters. It does not appear to me that the changes will relax our protections or incentivise any directors to start flouting laws. In fact, I am encouraged by the potential for a simplified prosecution process for these particular types of offences. As I understand it, the range of inconsistent laws around directors' liabilities provides a challenge for prosecutors. A series of different and ad hoc liability laws can actually create limitation on potential prosecutions.

I do want to note, though, that I think that ministers and their directorates should stay vigilant and ensure that the changes to directors' liability do not have any unintended consequences and that the amended acts, such as the Environment Protection Act, the Heritage Act and the Tree Protection Act, continue to provide appropriately strong protections.

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (12.14), in reply: I thank members for their contributions to this debate. The Directors Liability Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 amends a range of ACT laws to ensure that company director liability is appropriately cast as part of the national partnership agreement to deliver a national seamless economy. The national seamless economy project is designed to improve the environments in which Australian businesses operate and to enhance productivity in the national economy. It is being progressed through the Council of Australian Governments.

The amendments are not contentious. They do not reduce the criminal liability of company directors who are engaged in corporate crime. The amendments in this bill only affect deemed liability—that is, provisions which impose personal criminal liability on company directors as a consequence of the company or an employee breaking the law.

Across the ACT statute book there have been a number of ways to deal with directors' liability. The amendments made by this bill will ensure that the territory has a consistent, principled approach to directors' liability without affecting the rights of citizens and others affected by corporate wrongdoing. The amendments made by this bill are the result of an audit of the statute book undertaken across all ACT directorates. They will assist to achieve a nationally consistent and principled approach to the imposition of personal criminal liability of company directors and other corporate officers for corporate fault. I thank members for their support and commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Financial Management Amendment Bill 2012 (No 2)

Debate resumed from 29 November 2012, on motion by **Mr Barr**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR SMYTH (Brindabella) (12.16): This bill could simply be described as a machinery of government bill. The government made some changes to the admin arrangements in May last year and now requires all of the agencies to look at their performance criteria and, if necessary, make amendments under section 19D. What the government intends with this bill is that those changes will be done in consultation with Treasury and that new criteria will not be promulgated unless signed by both the minister responsible and the Treasurer. It seems a reasonable approach. I do find it quite quirky, though, in that ministers will be asked to talk to Treasury. I assume the minister will talk to the Treasurer and I suppose the minister for tourism will have a very interesting conversation with himself.

Mr Barr: The joys of a small parliament.

MR SMYTH: Well, it is interesting. The reason we have two signatures on these things is to make sure it is not ministers haring off on their own. I refer the minister to his own clause 4 and to the explanatory memorandum, which says:

Including the Treasurer in subsection (2) means the notifiable instrument under section 19D (5) is only made if signed by both the responsible Minister and the Treasurer.

So I look forward to notifiable instruments signed by the Treasurer and by the Treasurer. I raised the question in the briefing—and I thank the minister for the briefing that the staff gave—that there is an anomaly that perhaps needs some clarification. We may in time need legislation to the effect that if the Treasurer and the minister are the same person another minister must also sign. I am sure his staff raised this with him. I am sure the Treasurer, when he finishes, will leap to his feet and tell us how he is going to overcome the problem of him checking himself. That said, it seems reasonable. We will monitor the performance of the amendments and, if necessary, come back to the Assembly.

MR BARR (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Tourism and Events and Minister for Community Services) (12.18), in reply: I thank the opposition for their support of the bill. Just in summary, the bill does improve the processes by which agencies amend their performance criteria. The performance management framework the territory adopts requires agencies to set performance criteria against

which they later report. Under the framework it is possible to amend these criteria in certain circumstances. The most common example of this is when agencies amend their criteria as a result of changes to administrative arrangements.

As indicated, prior to the introduction of this bill only the responsible minister was required to approve those amendments to the performance criteria. But given the importance of ensuring the process is robust and an amendment instrument complies with the policy requirements, the bill will amend the FMA 1996 to include the Treasurer in that process.

The bill works in conjunction—I think this is important for the shadow treasurer to note—with comprehensive guidelines that have been issued by the Chief Minister and the Treasury Directorate. These guidelines provide agencies with the necessary information to undertake amendments to performance criteria in the correct manner and, appropriately, to complete the section 19D instruments. The amendment to the Financial Management Act to include the Treasurer in subsection (2) means the notifiable instrument under section 19D(5) is only made if signed by both the responsible minister and the Treasurer. Further changes have been made to section 19D(3) as a consequence of the change to subsection (2).

The government remains committed to continuing to improve the territory's financial frameworks and this amendment to the FMA continues the government's strong focus on ensuring the territory has robust financial frameworks. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 12.21 to 2.30 pm.

Questions without notice

Health—Preventative Health Taskforce

MR HANSON: My question is to the health minister. On 28 November 2012 you stated in the Assembly, in regard to a preventative health taskforce, "The task force is already in place." Minister, can you please detail when the task force was established and who the members of the task force are?

MS GALLAGHER: I will have to come back to you on the date when the group was established. I asked that it be established post the release of the Chief Health Officer's report, which had shown some continuing disturbing trends in relation to chronic disease across the community. I asked that we get an across-government task force together that also included membership from outside government. The one name that

springs to mind, because I have had the most meetings about it with him, is Tony Stubbs from the Heart Foundation, but it has other members on it as well. I am happy to provide you with a full list.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Minister, what reports, strategies, publications or other work has the task force so far completed?

MS GALLAGHER: They are in the process of finalising a document for me, but they have also been progressing work under the national partnership of healthy futures—I think that is what it is called—which has also received some funding from the commonwealth and the ACT government.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, what is the total annual cost of running the task force?

MS GALLAGHER: Running has been within budget. It has not had any special appropriation. It is really pulling across whole-of-government directorates. It has got representatives, I think, from the planning directorate and representatives from Education. This is bringing a whole-of-government perspective to how we manage all of our different programs. Probably Sport and Recreation are there as well. I think it is a recognition that a number of our health promotion and health prevention strategies sit within individual directorates. It is about pulling all of that together. But that has been done within existing resources. People like Tony Stubbs from the Heart Foundation have generously given their time.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Porter.

MS PORTER: Minister, what benefits will this bring to the community, the work of the task force?

MS GALLAGHER: The job that I asked the group to do was to make sure that our effort across government was coordinated and that it was delivering the most efficient and effective strategies for the future. We also went to the election campaign with a strategy for zero weight increases, which was to make sure that we set ourselves a target that there are no further increases in the levels of obesity across the community. That is a very challenging target but I think it was important to set it as a goal for us all to meet.

I think there is no doubt that the biggest risk to the health budget and the health system is the increasing level of chronic disease, and a lot of that is coming from our young people and a lot of that is coming from unhealthy diet and unhealthy weight. It is in all of our data. It is all before us. So the strategy is to turn some of that around and to start doing it with the national agency that has been put in place and to work in a coordinated way across government.

Distinguished visitor

MADAM SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I would like to draw members' attention to the presence in the gallery of a former deputy chief minister, Mr Quinlan. Welcome to the Assembly.

Questions without notice

Regional development

MS BERRY: My question is to the Chief Minister in her role as Minister for Regional Development. Minister, you are attending a meeting of the South East Regional Organisation of Councils tomorrow. Can you inform the Assembly of the importance of the ACT's participation in this forum and other forums that promote greater cooperation in our region?

MS GALLAGHER: I thank Ms Berry for the question and for her interest in matters around regional development. Tomorrow I will be attending the South East Regional Organisation of Councils, or SEROC, meeting in Yass. I have taken the view since becoming Chief Minister that we have to work closer with our councils that surround Canberra, the C+1 councils. I think there is a recognition certainly from the ACT government that we must work together in the interests of our entire population. I do not think that people who live in Queanbeyan necessarily see the line on the map when they cross into the ACT, nor people from the ACT moving outside.

The area of south-east New South Wales is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. I think a lot of our own economic future and that of the region can be better developed if we do it in a coordinated way. So we did join SEROC, I think about 12 months ago. Now that we are a full member of the organisation, which includes 12 local governments around the ACT, it means that we can attend those meetings and discuss future opportunities with the local mayors.

This work, of course, runs alongside the work we are doing with the New South Wales government through the MOU for cross-border arrangements, which is progressing well. I think it is certainly in areas like health that we are seeing the fruits of that agreement. Tomorrow morning I will be meeting with the mayors of Palerang, Goulburn and Yass prior to the meeting starting at 9 o'clock. The items that we have on the agenda to discuss are economic development opportunities, planning and development, water and sewerage services, health, traffic and bus priority services, and the Centenary of Canberra.

I think that certainly since we have joined SEROC the mayors have been really pleased that the largest population base within the region is actually actively engaging in the discussions around the table. But we do not see ourselves as better than them, but we want to see all of us as equal players with a shared interest in this region's future. That is the agenda that I will be working on with the mayors. I think there are some great opportunities for us and I look forward to the meeting and, indeed, to reporting back to the Assembly, because I know, particularly Mr Coe, how interested you will be in it.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Berry.

Ms Gallagher interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: I cannot hear Ms Berry's question, Chief Minister, because of your—

Ms Gallagher interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Chief Minister, often I have noticed in the last couple days that I am calling people to order, and while I am trying to call people to order, you are talking over me. I cannot hear the supplementary question from your member.

MS BERRY: Chief Minister, what opportunities do you see from the ACT participating in regional forums for both the territory and our neighbouring councils?

MS GALLAGHER: I think it is not only the opportunities that I can see forward, but it is also the practical outcomes that we are seeing already. In health we have already had the great outcome of using Queanbeyan Hospital to provide some elective surgery, and we are continuing to work on areas where we can keep that going into the future.

Last week the New South Wales health minister and I signed another two agreements in health—one was for renal dialysis and one was for cardiac patients in the region. Renal patients might no longer have to travel to Canberra because they can get the specialist support through Canberra Hospital out in their local health districts. With cardiac patients, we heard from a man who had actually died. He had a heart attack and died in Goulburn. He was resuscitated and brought by ambulance to Canberra Hospital where he attended the cardiac catheter lab. Before he arrived at Canberra Hospital all the information about his ECG and his health status had been reported to the cardiac specialists; they had that information. He was received into the cardiac catheter lab, and he said he was up and walking by lunchtime. These are the practical impacts of some of these agreements. New South Wales ambulances will be equipped with machines that essentially communicate with Canberra Hospital, and that made a difference to that man's life. It was very heartening—no pun intended—to hear his story about how his life had been saved.

Also, obviously, the Majura Parkway is another important regional partnership. I think the mayors of the surrounding areas are very pleased to see that road going ahead with agreement from the Australian and ACT governments. While the New South Wales government has not provided any assistance—nor have the councils for that matter—(*Time expired.*)

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary, Mr Gentleman.

MR GENTLEMAN: Minister, what is your longer term vision in terms of our regional relationships?

MS GALLAGHER: The longer term vision is for shared resources—if we can provide shared services for the region; better planning outcomes for the region; communication, so an understanding of the issues of councils and areas surrounding the ACT, what their needs are and what their demands are. The other thing is the ACT bringing leadership to this region. The region comprises over 600,000, of which 360,000 are sitting here in Canberra. We must engage with the region. We can better plan for the region and we need to ignore some of those artificial barriers or lines on a map that mean nothing to the people who live around us. They come, they use schools, they use our health system, they travel across, back and fro, to home. We need to make sure that as local government, as a territory government and as a federal government we are thinking in a much more regional sense, not just as an island in the sea of New South Wales.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Chief Minister, in light of the terrible accident on the Barton Highway earlier this week, and I believe six deaths between 2005 and 2009, how will you be advocating for an upgrade to the Barton Highway?

MS GALLAGHER: That will be certainly one of the issues that I have got on the agenda—roads and roads planning—for discussion with the mayor of Yass. I will meet with her prior to the meeting tomorrow.

Finance—Canberra Centenary Trail

MR SMYTH: My question is to the Treasurer. Treasurer, the rollover of undisbursed appropriation under section 16B of the Financial Management Act 1996 that you tabled earlier this week noted in relation to the Centenary Trail:

Additional unplanned consultation was required with key stakeholders to mitigate the risk of reduced project support, which caused delays.

Treasurer, what was the subject matter of this unplanned consultation and with whom was the consultation undertaken?

MR BARR: I understand that consultation was with a number of park user groups and related to a range of parks around the territory that the trail was going to go through.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Treasurer, why were these stakeholders not consulted earlier?

Ms Gallagher interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: I am sorry, I think Mr Barr is taking the answer to the question.

MR BARR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again, I do not have portfolio carriage of this particular project but I am advised that there was consultation and that consultation was ongoing. There was some concern about elements of the route, and that consultation process continued.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Treasurer, perhaps you could tell us what the benefits of the Centenary Trail might be?

MR BARR: Thank you, Dr Bourke, for the opportunity. In the context of a healthy and active community, we certainly share in this city some of the best recreation trails of any city in the country, possibly any city in the world. So the concept of the Centenary Trail is indeed a very worthy one—an opportunity to commemorate 100 years of our fine city, an opportunity, over the course of the trail, to take in many of the fine vistas that our region offers.

Mr Coe interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, Mr Coe!

MR BARR: The tourism potential of the Centenary Trail is certainly clear. From the hearty endorsement of those opposite, I am sure that they will join with members of the government in promoting this wonderful trail. On a more serious note, it does offer a fantastic recreation opportunity and it does, through its link with the centenary, provide significant opportunities for promotion of the history of the region and some of the outstanding natural beauty that I am sure we all agree our city and our territory offer.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Ms Porter.

MS PORTER: Minister, could you, for the information of the Assembly, give us the length of the trail and where actually it runs?

MR BARR: How about that—stumped by a dorothy dixer! Yes, it is long.

MADAM SPEAKER: This is what is technically called a dorothy dixer. Do you want to take it on notice?

MR BARR: I must confess, Madam Speaker, that I do not have that information.

Mr Smyth: It's a long trail that starts at the beginning and finishes—

MR BARR: And finishes at the end. Thank you for that assistance, shadow treasurer. It is good to see that you are still here and actively engaging in this place. The exact detail about the length of the trail I do not have at hand. I am happy to provide Ms Porter with that information and I am sure that she will—

MADAM SPEAKER: I think that Mr Rattenbury is writing you a note even as you speak.

MR BARR: join with me and all other members of the Assembly in perhaps becoming better informed about the length of the trail and promoting it.

Trees—Kingston Foreshore

MR DOSZPOT: My question is to the Minister for Territories and Municipal Services. I refer the minister to the issue of a row of—

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: I honestly cannot hear Mr Doszpot. Mr Doszpot's voice, for some reason, does not travel a great distance and if there is interjection like that—and the clicking of the camera—I honestly cannot hear him. Could you start again?

MR DOSZPOT: Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister for Territories and Municipal Services. I refer the minister to the issue of a row of Euphrates poplar trees on the Kingston Foreshore. The matter of their condition was first raised with the Chief Minister in April last year and assurances were given that the trees were being looked after. They were also added to the provisional tree register. As we know, one fell over two weeks ago due to overwatering that weakened the root system and it now apparently cannot be saved. Minister, what assurances are you able to provide that a similar fate will not befall the remaining Euphrates poplar trees?

MR RATTENBURY: It was very disappointing to see that tree blown over in the recent storm on the Australia Day long weekend. I am advised by TAMS that the one that blew over could not be rescued. I think some of the local residents were hopeful that it could be righted, staked into the ground and would continue to grow. Unfortunately, that is not possible. Given the size of the tree and the amount of the root base that came out of the ground, that kind of rescue operation was not, unfortunately, possible.

The remaining four trees are being placed on the tree register. I cannot think of the exact date off the top of my head. I can come back to you with that exact information. The one that has fallen over will be removed and the others will be looked after as is appropriate.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Doszpot.

MR DOSZPOT: Minister, why did it take so long for officers to assess the fallen tree and even longer for the issue of overwatering to be addressed?

MR RATTENBURY: Thank you, Mr Doszpot, for the supplementary question. I do not have the exact time frame between when the tree fell and when officers first went to it. I think it was within a couple of days. Again, I am happy to come back to you on that. I know you have been photographed at the site this week. So I am sure you probably know it better than I do.

Certainly in relation to the issue of the faulty sprinklers, which has been asserted in that same article, I do notice that Mr Dawes, the Director-General of the Land Development Agency, suggested that was not in fact the problem. So I think there is a level of debate about the reason the tree fell. Certainly there were some issues with the sprinklers out there. From what I have read in the press, and not being responsible for the LDA, the issue with the sprinklers was addressed sometime prior to the tree actually falling.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mrs Jones.

MRS JONES: What significance does adding these trees to the provisional tree register have on their management, protection and survival?

MR RATTENBURY: The tree register has quite a detailed series of provisions which are available on the TAMS website. The essential essence is that trees of a certain size, a certain age and certain characteristics are protected from a range of what are called tree damaging activities. The primary one of course is removal but there are other things that are covered by that. I am happy to provide you with a set of the guidelines, if you require them.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mrs Jones.

MRS JONES: What is the cost of the fallen tree removal?

MR RATTENBURY: I will have to take that on notice.

Rivett shops—health and safety

MRS JONES: My question is to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services. I have received concerns from local residents about the amount of animal waste, specifically fallen from birds, at the Rivett shops. Minister, what action is being taken to address the health and safety hazards that are created by this waste?

MR RATTENBURY: My congratulations to Mrs Jones for expressing that question in completely appropriate parliamentary language. The issue of excessive animal waste at Rivett shops has not been brought specifically to my attention. TAMS is, of course, responsible for cleaning and maintaining the territory's 87 shopping centres. Various shopping centres are on different cycles of cleaning, depending on the level of demand. Certainly, the city areas, or the major town centres such as Woden and the city, are on a higher rotation than group centres and then there is a lower rate of cleaning at the local centres, of which Rivett would be one.

I will seek some further advice about what the specific problem is at Rivett and provide you with an update, perhaps outside of the chamber.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mrs Jones.

MRS JONES: Minister, what is the inspection process—rotation, frequency—for these small shopping centres to address issues such as this?

MR RATTENBURY: Neighbourhood shopping centres are cleaned weekly, and more frequently on weekends where required. As I said, there is that hierarchy, but for the local centre it is on a weekly basis.

I would just add that of course there are some issues that have arisen in some recent correspondence I have had with a number of members in the chamber. TAMS and the ACT government only own or are responsible for a certain amount of the land. That tends to be the footpath areas and the common public spaces. Issues that arise on the private property—whether they are graffiti or lights that are not working—that are the responsibility of the private lessees TAMS is unable to deal with, but the matter will often be raised with the private lessee, with TAMS saying, “This has been raised with us by the public” or sometimes just pointing it out as a matter of being clear with the lessees as to what the different responsibilities are.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: Does the government have any power to enforce private lessees to remove that waste, or does it just remain with the private lessee to decide not to do something about it?

MR RATTENBURY: I am just trying to think; certainly some of those powers sit with the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate under various enforcement provisions, so I am not across all of the details. But I think there are some powers there for the government. Often, though, I think it would be fair to say that it is done as cooperatively as possible. Certainly to some of the recent correspondence I have received from members the responses we have provided are that TAMS will go out and talk to people. I think the experience is that on most occasions the work is undertaken where TAMS is clear that it is not able to do the work.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Hanson.

MR HANSON: There is a warning that is causing much of the problem here with the animal waste. Are you aware of any plans to repair the warning that is the large part of the problem?

MR RATTENBURY: No, I am not aware of any plans around the specific warning at Rivett but I will ask Territory and Municipal Services, first of all, whether they have any background information on this and, if not, to go out and inspect the situation at Rivett.

Mrs Jones: I have some photos.

MR RATTENBURY: Mrs Jones has photos. That might save a trip. I will actually have a ranger go out and inspect the situation and determine whether it is territory land or whether it is the private lessee’s. If it the private lessee’s, we will take that matter up with them.

ACT Ambulance Service—performance

DR BOURKE: My question is to the minister for emergency services. Minister, recently the Productivity Commission's annual report on government services was released. Could you outline how the ACT Ambulance Service performed in this report?

MR CORBELL: I thank Dr Bourke for his question. The latest report on government services shows that the ACT Ambulance Service has continued to improve its response times, particularly to the most urgent of cases, despite ongoing growth in demand from the Canberra community. The 2013 report on government services outlines that, despite these increased levels of demand, the ACT Ambulance Service reported improved priority 1 response times at both the 50th and 90th percentile indicators. This means that an ambulance crew arrived at priority 1 emergency situations within 9.3 minutes for the 50th percentile and 14.8 minutes for the 90th percentile.

This result shows that the ACT is at the front of the pack, when you also take into account the response times of ACT Fire and Rescue, when it comes to the delivery of emergency services for our community. These are exceptional results by the Ambulance Service in particular, and all of the paramedics and other personnel of the service who I know are working very hard to maintain and continue to improve the level of service provided to the Canberra community in times of medical emergency.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Minister, how has the ACT Ambulance Service achieved such impressive results?

MR CORBELL: Obviously, first and foremost, through the dedicated hard work of our Ambulance Service personnel but it is also thanks to additional resources on the part of the government. The government has made significant investment in additional resources for the Ambulance Service in recent years, in particular in the most recent 2011-12 budget, by allocating \$21.1 million over four years to deliver 30 additional ambulance officers, five new intensive care ambulances and allowing for the introduction of two additional crews on shift for the service.

This funding has identified and addressed issues raised both in the report by the Auditor-General and also in the subsequent *Lennox Review of the ACT Ambulance Service* and demonstrates the government's commitment to meet growing demand for our city.

Intensive care paramedics are at the coalface of our system in Canberra and need to be adequately resourced to provide their lifesaving services. The 2011-12 funding was in addition to the government's support of a pay increase to intensive care paramedics, which saw intensive care paramedics reclassified and a significant increase in their base salary.

These are all indicators of Labor's support for the work of our paramedics and the need to continue to resource them to meet growing demand for emergency ambulance services in the community.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Berry.

MS BERRY: Is there ongoing investment in the ACT Ambulance Service from the ACT government to see these impressive results continue?

MR CORBELL: I thank Ms Berry for the supplementary. Delivering further funding to our ambulance service is part of the government's agenda. In the 2012-13 budget we saw an additional \$42.4 million in additional funding being provided across our emergency services. The ACT Ambulance Service's frontline capacity was boosted by 15 new staff and two new vehicles, utilising \$9½ million in funding in the most recent budget.

This \$9½ million injection over four years is direct recognition by the government of the ongoing demands faced by our ambulance service personnel. This will allow the service to recruit an additional 15 frontline staff, including graduates, qualified paramedics and intensive care paramedics, as well as one support officer. It also includes a capital allocation of half a million dollars for two extra new intensive care ambulances to increase the ambulance fleet to meet demand and provide the vehicles that come with the additional recruitment of staff.

This budget allocation further boosts ACTAS's capability after the significant boosts that I have already outlined and is further evidence of the government's commitment to supporting and boosting the capacity of our ambulance service to do their vital and lifesaving work.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Congratulations on the number, minister, but there have been reports in the *Canberra Times* recently of inappropriate practices in the ACT Ambulance Service workplace. What have you done to assure yourself that proper workplace behaviour is always adhered to inside the ambulance service of the ACT?

MR CORBELL: These are matters that I pay close attention to and discuss on a regular basis with the chief ambulance officer. I am confident that the Ambulance Service is putting in place through its management the processes and procedures required to deal with these matters as they arise.

Lake Tuggeranong—target area grant

MR SESELJA: My question is to the minister for the environment. Representations from the Southern ACT Catchment Group in Tuggeranong have noted that Tuggeranong is not listed as a target area in the commonwealth government's urban waterways section and as such may not be eligible to receive a target area grant. Minister, you are aware of the problems with Lake Tuggeranong. What discussions have you had with your federal counterparts to include Lake Tuggeranong on the list?

MR CORBELL: Obviously decisions about commonwealth programs are a matter for the commonwealth. What the government is doing in relation to issues around water quality in Lake Tuggeranong is focusing on the capacity to include measures to improve water quality and catchment management in the Tuggeranong valley through our negotiations over the \$80 million allocation of funding that the commonwealth has notionally set aside for us as part of the Murray-Darling Basin plan agreement. This \$80 million is subject to the development of an agreed business case on a range of measures across the ACT to improve catchment management. I will be working to ensure that the Tuggeranong valley and issues such as water quality in Lake Tuggeranong and the tributaries that run into it are addressed and, hopefully, subject to an appropriate and viable business case, included in the funding agreement we reach with the commonwealth for that \$80 million.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Seselja.

MR SESELJA: Minister, what issues did you highlight to your federal counterpart regarding Lake Tuggeranong?

MR CORBELL: My discussions with the federal minister, Minister Burke, are in relation to catchment management issues across the ACT, recognising that there are a range of water quality issues across the ACT. We will be pursuing improvement and rectification of those issues through the process I outlined in my answer to the previous question.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, were you aware that Tuggeranong was not included as one of the target areas for these programs?

MR CORBELL: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, are you aware that all of Canberra is not included as a target area for these grants, and what have you done about it?

MR CORBELL: Yes, Madam Speaker, and I refer Mr Smyth to my previous answers. Decisions about where the commonwealth deploys its resources through its own grants programs are a matter for the commonwealth. But what we have on the table as a result of the hard work that this government has put in is agreement from the commonwealth for \$80 million of commonwealth money for the territory to improve catchment management across the territory. That is a very significant commitment from Minister Burke and the commonwealth government, and we are now focused on developing the business case, which is the necessary process that we have agreed we will put in place, to demonstrate the efficacy of the financing available under that \$80 million package to deliver improved catchment management across the ACT.

Business—red tape reduction

MR GENTLEMAN: My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer outline to the Assembly the government's red tape reduction agenda?

MR BARR: I thank Mr Gentleman for the question and for his interest in this area of work. The government has, through its business development strategy, committed to a significant program of red tape reduction.

MADAM SPEAKER: Before you go further, the question was about your red tape reduction agenda. Are these issues that you have already announced?

MR BARR: Yes. We released the business development policy in April last year.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you; I am just checking.

MR BARR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is part of the business development strategy that was released in April 2012. I convened a red tape reduction panel to identify regulations that impose unnecessary burdens, costs or disadvantages on business activity within the territory. The main task of the panel is to recommend ways to remove and improve outdated, unworkable and illogical regulation. This red tape reduction panel has representatives from the Canberra business community and also the key public service heads who have responsibility for regulatory services and for a number of other areas of regulation within the government.

I am pleased to advise the Assembly that the first tranche of reforms recommended by the red tape reduction panel have already begun to be implemented. This includes the abolition of motor vehicle registration stickers and the provision of e-lodgement for rental bonds. Work on delivering these reforms in 2013 is continuing.

There are also several reviews being undertaken across government to alleviate the compliance burden on territory business. This particularly includes a focus on reviewing licence terms with a view to moving away from annual renewals of licences wherever possible. We are also reviewing police check requirements with a view to minimising the need for multiple police checks at the same point in time.

A particular issue for the hospitality industry has been the need to review signage requirements with a particular focus on streamlining administrative requirements, such as the requirement to currently display a multiple number of licences and certificates. It is desired to have one sign, if you like, that rules them all so that businesses are then able to display all their licensing and occupancy loading requirements et cetera all in one sign rather than the multiple signs that you see displayed in particular venues around the city.

I have also agreed to sponsor a regular omnibus bill through this place, aimed at addressing regulatory reform identified through the work of the red tape reduction panel.

The second tranche of reforms, which are already underway, are focused on streamlining the approvals and licensing processes for outdoor dining areas throughout the city. The intent of this reform is to make it easier for business owners to utilise outdoor space and to stimulate the cosmopolitan transformation of the city. It will review the assessment and approval processes for outdoor dining areas and strip away the unnecessary considerations that complicate this process.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Gentleman.

MR GENTLEMAN: Minister, what input has the business community contributed to this project?

MR BARR: It has been a significant contribution. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of representatives from the Council of Small Business Australia, the ACT and Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Canberra Business Council. Businesses and individuals who are members of those particular organisations have had the opportunity, through targeted industry forums, to provide information and concerns through their representatives who sit on the red tape reduction panel. I understand that Mr Gentleman, in his role with the MTA prior to being re-elected to the Assembly, was in fact involved in a number of those discussions. That feedback has been invaluable in informing the panel of areas of priority.

We have also established the fix my red tape online portal, which is a variation of the fix my street portal that is available. It is now a one-stop shop for the business community and Canberrans at large to identify any red tape that affects or impedes their ability to do business in the territory. This feedback will alert the government to any unnecessary burdens, costs or disadvantages to business activity in the territory and provides a very practical mechanism for the business community to recommend ways to remove and improve outdated, unworkable and illogical regulation. Feedback received through the fix my red tape portal will inform the work program of the red tape reduction panel.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, in regard to the illogical, outdated and unworkable legislation that you have just mentioned, has the government reviewed the lease variation charge since its passing, and will you release such a review or will you continue, in the words of Mr Quinlan, who is with us here today, to “squeeze them till they bleed but not until they die”?

MR BARR: I again thank the shadow treasurer for reminding us that he is still in this place, and I tip my hat to the former treasurer who sits up in the gallery.

The important point to note here is that the economic principles that underpin the lease variation charge are entirely valid and, I understand, even accepted now by those opposite, who went to the last election with acceptance of the LVC as part of the tax

mix that this territory requires. The important principle here is to ensure that, where there is uplift in value, when a lease becomes more valuable as a result of enhanced development rights, some of that increased value is captured for the community and reinvested in community assets.

Mr Smyth: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr Smyth: The minister has been going for almost half the time he has allotted. He has not answered the question. The question was very specific: has he done a review since its inception and will he release the review?

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Barr, it is a direct question.

MR BARR: Indeed. We review taxation lines as part of the annual budget process, and I will have more to say on that in the budget later in the year.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Ms Porter.

MS PORTER: Can the minister inform the Assembly whether the red tape effort is being applied to other sectors in the community?

MR BARR: It is fortuitous that as Minister for Community Services I am now overseeing a significant red tape reduction task within the community sector. There is a community sector red tape reduction forum, and this forum will provide a valuable opportunity for the sector to provide direct feedback to the government on the variety of issues and compliance issues that they face.

I am sure that members would be aware that most community sector organisations in the territory are in receipt of funding from two levels of government, from the commonwealth as well as the territory. We are working with the commonwealth government to streamline reporting requirements and to ensure that, as much as is possible, there is consistency between the reporting requirements of the federal government and the reporting requirements of the territory government—noting, of course, that we are often providing funding for different purposes.

We are looking at procurement within the community sector, looking at ways to assist the sector to minimise their administrative costs so that more of the \$150 million a year that the ACT government invests in community sector organisations can be spent on the distinct purposes that the government is providing that grant funding for, and that is to improve community wellbeing.

The smaller the amount of that grant money that is spent on administration, the better. We will be working in partnership with the sector on reducing red tape and ensuring that the benefits of that investment go to the community.

Lake Tuggeranong—pollution

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services. Minister, residents of Tuggeranong have recently contacted me about the unacceptable level of rubbish, debris and pollution in and around Lake Tuggeranong. Minister, how many times was Lake Tuggeranong closed or partially closed in the last four years?

MR RATTENBURY: Thank you, Mr Wall, for the question. I think there are two issues here. The closure of Lake Tuggeranong, as I understand it, has generally been as a result of blue-green algae infestations. I think that is an issue that is quite separate from the issue of litter around Lake Tuggeranong. I do not have the number of closures on hand. I am happy to take it on notice. If you are after information about how many times it has been closed because of blue-green algae, I can provide that for you at a later point in time, so I will take that on notice.

Generally, though, there is a high level of maintenance undertaken by rangers from Territory and Municipal Services on the lakes and ponds right across Canberra. There are actually three lakes and 49 ponds and wetlands that the agency is responsible for. But in terms of your question, removal of litter from the foreshores of all major lakes and ponds is undertaken every three months. That includes the use of a boat and heavy equipment to remove items illegally dumped, such as trolleys, tyres, car engines and those sorts of things. There is weekly litter picking in town and district parks adjoining the lakes. There is annual work to control environmental weeds such as pest willows and alligator weed, which is specifically in Lake Ginninderra, but this is the sort of maintenance that is undertaken.

Weed control is also undertaken on lake foreshores and beach areas, and beaches are periodically raked and/or topped up with sand to ensure that they remain in a good state. The removal of debris from gross pollutant traps is undertaken twice a year and, in addition, every time there is a rain event that exceeds 25 millimetres. Obviously those larger rain events bring a rush of stormwater into the drains and, with them, a large amount of litter.

They are the key maintenance issues. There are other things but I think that gives you a sense of the sort of maintenance regime that is undertaken on the lakes and ponds. Obviously Lake Tuggeranong is one of those.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Wall.

MR WALL: Minister, can you assure residents that the level of cleanliness around Lake Tuggeranong will be improved?

MR RATTENBURY: As I said, there is already an ongoing program of maintenance, which includes things like the weekly litter picking. If there are specific points of concern, I would be happy to receive additional information, but I have not received any complaints personally of concerns about the appearance or particular litter issues around Lake Tuggeranong. If there are specific problems, we can always seek to schedule an additional maintenance visit.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Seselja.

MR SESELJA: In addition to routine maintenance, how much money will be devoted to cleaning up Lake Tuggeranong?

MR RATTENBURY: There has already been a question to the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development about this in a broad sense today, but, as Mr Corbell indicated, the ACT government has worked with the federal government to have in-principle agreement to a \$80 million package to improve water quality and do catchment management in the ACT as part of a federal government funding program. The exact details of that program are the responsibility of Mr Corbell's agencies. What I can say is that a detailed business case for the usage of that money is currently being developed by ESDD, and the details of that will be available at some later point in time.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: Is the condition of Lake Tuggeranong and other lakes a factor in the consideration of water sport activities?

MR RATTENBURY: Yes, absolutely, and I think the regular closure of the three main recreational lakes across Canberra is a source of considerable frustration for the community. It is certainly something that I am very aware of. As members know, I am one of those lake users, and it is a problem for us that the lakes are in such a state. That is certainly why I have argued so strongly for us to put a significant effort into cleaning up the lakes across the ACT.

The motion I moved in the Assembly 18 months or so ago now, which asked that the commissioner for the environment conduct an investigation, provided us with an excellent report that has, once and for all I think, clearly identified the problems facing the lakes. Up to that point there had been a level of dispute, I think, amongst various experts about the exact problems that were facing the lakes. The commissioner pulled together all those experts into one group and was able to lay out a definitive case for what the problems are. And they are not all problems we anticipated.

Certainly for Lake Burley Griffin, most people just say, "It's the Queanbeyan sewage treatment works," when in fact the research indicates that it is not just that but there are a series of issues driven by urban activities that take place within the ACT. I think in some ways this is good news because it means that the problems are within the power of the ACT government to address, rather than argue with the New South Wales government to simply fund an upgrade of the Queanbeyan sewage treatment works.

But specifically, yes, lake users are affected. I think that is a problem from the point of view of the enjoyment of the lakes by our local residents and from a tourism point of view for events that may have to be postponed because of closure. That is something that we need to get onto and fix our lakes.

Roads—crash database

MR COE: I have another question for the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services. It is in regard to an answer given in a statement by the minister on Tuesday, whereby the minister advised that problems with the crash database are the cause of delays in answering questions on notice. Minister, what is the nature of the problems with the database?

MR RATTENBURY: I will have to take that question on notice, Mr Coe.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Coe.

MR COE: I imagine it will have to be taken on notice. Is it true that the database was designed for engineering purposes and has evolved into a crash database?

MR RATTENBURY: Unfortunately I do not have that information to hand, Mr Coe, but I am happy to provide you with a detailed response. Once the question on notice comes through as well I would imagine some further details will be provided in that response to you.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, could problems with extracting data from the database have led to incorrect information being used to assess road upgrades?

MR RATTENBURY: I certainly do not have any information at this point that indicates that being the case, Mr Smyth. But I, again, will seek further information for you.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Mr Smyth.

MR SMYTH: Minister, were speed cameras placed in locations based on incorrect crash data?

MR RATTENBURY: The responsibility for the placement of speed cameras sits with the Attorney-General's department through traffic regulation. I am afraid I do not have any information on that, Mr Smyth.

Neville Bonner Primary School and Franklin Early Childhood School

MS PORTER: My question is to the minister for education. I refer the minister to the successful opening of the Neville Bonner Primary School and the Franklin Early Childhood School. Minister, can you inform the Assembly whether these projects were delivered on time and on budget?

MS BURCH: I thank the member for her question. I can confirm for the member, who I know has a great interest in education and its ability to transform people's lives,

that both these schools have been delivered to the Canberra community on time and under budget. Given this fantastic result for the community of Gungahlin, I would like to take time to congratulate and thank the staff of the Bonner and Franklin schools, the Education and Training Directorate, and the building contractors who have brought us these two fantastic community facilities.

The first stage of both Neville Bonner primary and Franklin early childhood schools opened on Monday, 4 February, on the first day of the 2013 school year, as planned and as promised. It was planned from the outset that these schools would be delivered in two stages. It was a very exciting day to be at Franklin Early Childhood School to see the many excited and slightly nervous faces—not just on the faces of children; there were many parents who had a level of anxiety as well. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation to the principal, Julie Cooper, and her staff for hosting me that morning and allowing me to join in that very exciting and happy event.

The first stage of Neville Bonner Primary School comprises school administration, preschool, kindergarten, year 1 and year 2 facilities and associated external areas, including car parking, play equipment and landscaping. The second stage is scheduled for completion later this year, with a targeted handover for the school in term 2.

I also think it is useful, given the events of yesterday and the passage of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill through the House of Representatives, to reflect on the name of the Neville Bonner Primary School, it being named after the first Indigenous member of the Australian parliament. Given its namesake, it is important to recognise that the school includes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learning and cultural centre.

In relation to stage 1 of the Franklin Early Childhood School facilities, these include, in addition to the childcare centre, preschool playrooms and an adjoining external play area, landscaping and car parks. Stage 2 facilities will include the kindergarten and year 1 and 2 classrooms, administration, a library, a canteen, a hall and the remaining external areas. All works will be completed by the end of March. The project is ahead of schedule.

The ACT Labor government is providing funding of \$60 million over three years for the construction of Neville Bonner Primary School, and current forecasts indicate that the project is under budget. In relation to the Franklin Early Childhood School, we provided funding of \$42 million over three years, and it too will come in under budget. To deliver both these projects on time and under budget is an important achievement and I would like to congratulate all involved in the project for their tremendous work in delivering such wonderful, fantastic schools for future generations.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Ms Porter.

MS PORTER: Minister, what benefits will ACT schools see from the successful delivery of these projects?

MS BURCH: I thank the member for her continued interest. The school environment, including its built environment, is important to the ongoing engagement and learning of students. These two new schools—the next generation of schools in the ACT—provide outstanding spaces for children to learn. These two schools are built with their students in mind. I particularly like, for example, the mosaic of mirrors in the windows in the shape of children playing on the lines along the walls at Franklin at just the right height for a preschooler. That shows the level of detail and thinking that has gone into these schools.

It is the kind of attention to detail that is a great tribute to the design and construction team, who understand what they have been asked to do. They understand the clear link between the built environment and the student alcoves. I once again congratulate them and the directorate.

The Bonner Primary School is the latest school in the Gungahlin region and adds to a number of fantastic schools already in the Gungahlin area. It will relieve enrolment pressures on other government schools in Gungahlin and will eventually accommodate a total enrolment of almost 530 students across preschool to year 6. The school provides an essential preschool and primary school facility.

With the Franklin Early Childhood School, the parents have additional choice of seeking access to early childhood-specific education, and this joins the Narrabundah, Isabella Plains and Lyons schools and the Southern Cross school at Scullin providing early childhood education. We will also accommodate around 280 students from preschool to year 2, and that is in addition to the 121 childcare places that are also built on the Franklin site.

MADAM SPEAKER: A supplementary question, Dr Bourke.

DR BOURKE: Minister, does the delivery of the Franklin and Bonner schools provide a model of how to deliver future school developments and what projects are being planned?

MS BURCH: I thank Dr Bourke for his interest. The building of schools, like all infrastructure, is a complicated and in-depth process. From the identification of need to the selection of sites, the construction involved many skilled people. The delivery of these two schools shows the expertise of the Education and Training Directorate in the planning and delivery of the school infrastructure to meet the needs of Canberra's growing population. Already, planning has begun for the new school in Coombs and design work is underway. Work is also well advanced on the redevelopment of Taylor Primary School in Kambah.

Ultimately, the design and construction of schools is a combination of a set of factors—assessing the preferred delivery model, the size of the school, the school type and the project time, including the demographic projections of enrolment numbers

and enrolment pressures in surrounding schools. The delivery model for Bonner and Franklin was based on requirements relating to these and has been successful.

I also want to acknowledge that the Franklin Early Childhood School, the 120-childcare place there, is being run by Anglicare. It opened a short while before the official start of term 1 of this year. It is a wonderful centre and I want to congratulate Anglicare on establishing that new service there.

We also continue to invest in and enhance existing schools. For example, there is funding towards the Majura Primary School to be extended to accommodate appropriately 590 students. Macgregor school has additional investment to support growth in that area, as does Duffy school. All in all, the ACT government responds well in recognising that school education is probably one of the single great investments we have in our children's future.

MADAM SPEAKER: Supplementary question, Mr Gentleman.

MR GENTLEMAN: Minister, is it your intention to keep up this important work on early childhood education for the full term of this Assembly?

MS BURCH: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I do thank the member for Brindabella for his question. I can guarantee that I will absolutely ensure that I will stay the full term of this Assembly, right through to the election in October 2016, as I would expect my fellow Labor member for Brindabella, Mick Gentleman, to do as well.

That is in stark contrast to other members for Brindabella who refuse to stay the distance. The work got too hard. The thought of sitting with that bunch over there for another four years—I must admit I can sympathise with that. Sitting with that motley bunch over there—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Sit down, Ms Burch.

MS BURCH: for another four years would bring me to despair as well.

MADAM SPEAKER: Sit down, Ms Burch. Ms Burch, you do not refer to members of the Legislative Assembly either singularly or collectively as a motley bunch. There are ways of referring to members of the Legislative Assembly and that is not one of them. Have you finished answering the question?

MS BURCH: The opposition, then.

MADAM SPEAKER: “The opposition” is actually the way you refer to members that sit on that side of the chamber and you should be perfectly aware that that is the way in which we address members in this place.

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

Supplementary answers to questions without notice

Preventative Health Taskforce

MS GALLAGHER: I have one matter arising from question time. Mr Hanson asked me about the task force. I have the membership. We have the Centre for Research and Action in Public Health, faculty of health from the Canberra university, Chief Minister's Directorate, Community Services Directorate, Economic Development Directorate, Education and Training Directorate, Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, the Heart Foundation, the Health Directorate, Justice and Community Safety, Medicare Local, Territory and Municipal Services, ACTION, Roads and the Treasury Directorate.

Canberra Centenary Trail

MR BARR: Madam Speaker, during question time Ms Porter asked me a supplementary question about the Canberra Centenary Trail. I did a little bit of research while I was listening to my ministerial colleagues so adequately answer all of the opposition's questions today.

I am very pleased to be able to advise the Assembly that the Centenary Trail is 140 kilometres in length, that it has a symbolic starting point and the concluding point is within the parliamentary zone. The trail includes locations such as Anzac Parade, the War Memorial, Lake Burley Griffin, the arboretum, Stromlo Forest Park and Mulligans Flat sanctuary. It does provide outstanding views, I am advised, from Black Mountain, Mount Majura, Dairy Farmers Hill, as well as other high points along the trail.

Environment—Better Place

MR CORBELL: Madam Speaker, yesterday in question time Mr Coe asked me how many registered electric vehicles there are in the ACT. There are currently 94.

Trees—Kingston Foreshore

MR RATTENBURY: During question time Mr Doszpot asked me about the listing of four remaining trees in the Kingston-Barton area. I can confirm that TAMS is writing a letter to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, who sits within the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, to request the registration of the remaining four trees as a group. The conservator's decision will be made by the end of March.

Paper

Mr Barr presented the following paper:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 30E—Half-yearly performance reports—December 2012, for the following:

Home Loan Portfolio, dated January 2013.

Superannuation Provision Account, dated January 2013.

Financial Management Act—consolidated financial report Paper and statement by minister

MR BARR (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Tourism and Events and Minister for Community Services) (3.38): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 26—Consolidated Financial Report—Financial quarter ending 31 December 2012.

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

Leave granted.

Mr Smyth: Oh, yes!

MR BARR: At least the shadow treasurer is excited to hear this, Mr Assistant Speaker. I am pleased to present to the Assembly the December quarter 2012 consolidated financial report for the territory. This report is required under section 26 of the Financial Management Act.

The December quarter headline net operating balance for the general government sector was a deficit of \$160.4 million. This result was \$30.4 million lower than the year-to-date budgeted deficit of \$130 million. This decline is largely due to decreased revenues as a result of the timing of New South Wales cross-border health payments and decreased taxation revenues mainly due to the continued softer housing market.

This was partially offset by an increase in revenue mainly due to higher investment balances. Total expenses decreased by \$24.1 million associated with the timing of supplies and services expenditure. On an Australian accounting standards basis, the general government sector recorded a deficit of \$57.3 million compared to a year-to-date budgeted deficit of \$100.7 million.

The territory's balance sheet reflects increases in borrowings as budgeted to support the delivery of the territory's infrastructure program. I am pleased to advise the Assembly that net debt remains negative at minus \$74.1 million, indicating that cash reserves and investments are greater than gross debt liabilities. Mr Assistant Speaker, I commend the December quarterly report to the Assembly. I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

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

Budget review 2012-2013 Paper and statement by minister

MR BARR (Molonglo—Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Tourism and Events

and Minister for Community Services) (3.42): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Budget 2012-2013—Budget review.

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

Leave granted.

MR BARR: I present to the Assembly the 2012-13 budget review prepared in accordance with the Financial Management Act 1996. The 2013 budget review forecasts a general government sector headline net operating deficit of \$362.9 million in 2012-13.

The review affirms that the territory is on target to return to surplus in 2015-16 as reflected in our budget plan. This ensures that the government has the capacity to fund significant and necessary future infrastructure projects and to continue to provide high-quality services. Importantly also, it gives the territory the capacity and flexibility to respond to changing circumstances in the local, national and global economy.

It is important to remember that the fundamentals of the territory economy remain strong. We have low unemployment at 4.5 per cent, with only Western Australia and the Northern Territory being lower. Our economic growth is robust and population and incomes are increasing strongly. The territory continues to maintain one of the strongest balance sheets in Australia, as evidenced by key indicators such as net debt and net financial liabilities.

The budget review reflects an improvement of \$18.2 million from the deficit forecast in the 2012-13 pre-election budget update. This is largely due to higher returns from the Land Development Agency, changes of the timing of payments from ACTEW Corporation and an increase in GST revenue.

Overall, revenue expectations have softened somewhat across the forward estimates. This is due in main to revisions to the land release program to reflect slower than expected land sales caused largely by delays in environmental approvals under the commonwealth's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act but also market conditions. The softening in revenue is also due to revisions to conveyancing and waste fees, higher depreciation for education infrastructure and lower returns from ACTEW Corporation and ACTTAB.

The budget review incorporates a higher level of expected borrowings to maintain the government's continued commitment to delivering important infrastructure projects. The budget review estimates also incorporate the impacts of the Appropriation Bill 2012-13 (No 2) that I have presented to the Assembly today. The budget review includes reductions in forecast expenditure from 2013-14.

Further, the Treasurer's advance has been reduced to a level consistent with average authorisations of expenditure over the last five years. With revenue softening, it is

important that the government restrains expenditure, particularly given that we face the considerable threat of an Abbott government cutting 20,000 public service jobs from our economy.

Reflecting this in developing the 2013-14 budget, the government will closely review the sustainability and structure of the budget, its borrowing strategy, the capital works program and service delivery. This will involve decisions to ensure our budget position is sustainable for the long-term to continue delivering high-quality services—notably, in disability services through the national disability insurance scheme and in education through the Gonski reforms.

Our priority infrastructure projects such as light rail and the new northside hospital are also key priorities for the government. In particular, we will be ensuring that expenditure is restrained, including driving savings and efficiencies in the use of consultants, advertising, travel and printing, delaying some projects, continuing to review our capital program and driving further efficiency in the ACT public service.

The budget review confirms that the territory economy is strong and that our budget is on track to return to surplus. I commend the 2012-13 budget review to the Assembly, and I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

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

Planning and Development Act 2007—schedule of leases

Paper and statement by minister

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

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 242(2)—Schedule—
Leases granted for the period 1 October to 31 December 2012.

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

Leave granted.

MR CORBELL: Section 242 of the Planning and Development Act 2007 requires that a statement be tabled in the Assembly each quarter outlining details of leases granted by direct sale. The schedule I now table covers the leases granted for the period 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2012. In addition, 49 single-dwelling house leases were granted by direct sale for the quarter. Thirty-five of these were land rent leases.

Planning and Development Act 2007—call-in powers

Paper and statement by minister

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

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 161(2)—Statement regarding exercise of call-in powers—Development application No 201222510—Block 7 Section 18 Flynn.

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

Leave granted.

MR CORBELL: On 7 December last year, as Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development and under section 158 of the Planning and Development Act 2007, I directed the Planning and Land Authority to refer to me development application No 201222510. The DA sought approval for, among other things, the proposed second stage of the redevelopment of the former Flynn primary school to adapt the remainder of the existing building into a community hub. On 19 December 2012, I decided to consider the development application. On 19 December 2012, I decided to approve the application using my powers under section 162 of the Planning and Development Act.

In deciding the application, I gave careful consider to the requirements of the territory plan, the advice of the Environment Protection Authority, Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, ActewAGL, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, the ACT Heritage Council, the transport planning section of the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, and—as required by the legislation—the Planning and Land Authority.

I also gave consideration to the representations received by the Planning and Land Authority during the public notification period for the DA that occurred in October and November last year and the response to those submissions by the proponent. I have imposed conditions on the approval of the DA that require, among other things, sediment and erosion control, tree protection, bird management and the submission of a temporary traffic management plan.

The Planning and Development Act provides for specific criteria in relation to the exercise of the call-in power. I have used my powers in this instance because I consider the proposal will provide a substantial public benefit, particularly to the immediate Flynn and broader north Canberra community, with the provision of a much needed community centre.

The proposed refurbishment and the reuse of the older buildings will furthermore enhance greater efficiency in the management of these government owned assets. The

use of my powers in this instance will also enable the timely commencement and completion of the proposed development by the proponent, thereby benefitting those in the community who will be the beneficiary of the services provided within it.

Section 161(2) of the act specifies that if I decide an application, I must table a statement in the Assembly not later than three sitting days after the day of the decision. Therefore, Mr Assistant Speaker, as required by the act and for the benefit of members, I table a statement providing a description of the development, details of the land on where the development that is proposed to take place, the name of the applicant, the details of my decision on the application, and the reasons for the decision.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission— report Paper and statement by minister

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

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act, pursuant to section 24—Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—Report 11 of 2012—ACT Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme—Compliance and Operation of the Scheme for the 2012 Compliance Year, dated December 2012

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

Leave granted.

MR CORBELL: I bring to the Assembly today the eighth and final annual report on the operation of the ACT greenhouse gas abatement scheme. The GGAS scheme, as it is known, was developed to reduce or offset greenhouse gases associated with the production of electricity use in the ACT. The scheme was established in the ACT under the Electricity (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Act 2004, and commenced on 1 January 2005. The scheme mirrored the New South Wales GGAS scheme and, in many respects, they operated as a single scheme.

The scheme was designed to reduce or offset greenhouse emissions associated with the production of electricity. It required retailers of electricity in the ACT to procure an increasing component of their product from cleaner and more sustainable sources, thereby effecting large reductions in associated greenhouse gases. Tackling our emissions from electricity use is key to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the act, the ICRC was the scheme regulator in the ACT. One of the commission's functions as regulator was to determine the greenhouse gas reduction target benchmark for the ACT in any given year. Members will recall that in November 2007 the Assembly agreed to extend operation of the ACT scheme from

2013 to 2020 or until such time as an effective national emissions trading scheme was put in place. With the introduction of the Australian government's clean energy futures package, the National Energy Retail Law (Consequential Amendments) Act 2012 amended the Electricity (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Act to bring the ACT scheme to an end, effective on 1 July last year.

As the ACT greenhouse gas abatement scheme was operated on a calendar year basis, this report is the final compliance report for the ACT scheme, and it covers the first six months of 2012. In 2012 there were 16 entities licensed to sell electricity in the ACT. A total of 383,902 New South Wales greenhouse gas abatement certificates and New South Wales greenhouse abatement certificate equivalents were surrendered in 2012. This is equivalent to 383,902 tonnes of greenhouse gas abated.

Over its lifetime, the ACT scheme has been a very successful initiative, with 3.848 million certificates surrendered, the equivalent of that same tonnage of emission reductions. The closure of the GGAS scheme by the ACT and New South Wales governments does not signal a diminishing of this government's commitment to effective climate change action. Rather, it reflects national undertakings relating to the introduction of the commonwealth carbon pricing mechanism.

The ACT leads Australia in its commitment to addressing the issues surrounding climate change. In 2010 the territory legislated emissions reduction targets of 40 per cent reduction from 1990 levels by 2020, leading to the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2060. These targets were informed by an assessment by the IPCC of the level of abatement required of the developed economies to stabilise global warming to two degrees Celsius, thereby avoiding the most dangerous impacts of climate change.

By remaining within the two degrees scenario, we are seeking to limit the degree of probability of experiencing catastrophic climate change. A greater than two degrees Celsius increase increases the likelihood of critical tipping points and runaway global warming scenarios impacting on our food, water and, ultimately, our social security.

To meet these targets, the government developed a strategic pathway—action plan 2, a new climate change strategy and action plan for the Australian Capital Territory—which was released in September last year. AP2 sets out a number of initiatives to support action on climate change, which the ACT is committed to delivering, including a 90 per cent renewable energy target for 2020, implementing the government's energy efficiency improvement scheme and supporting the national carbon price. These actions and others in AP2 will ensure our greenhouse gas reduction targets are met.

As recently as December last year, reports in the media, including those by the Global Carbon Project and the World Bank, significantly reinforced concerns over the rate and impact of climate change and indicated the prospect for limiting temperature rises to two degrees Celsius is rapidly diminishing. They serve to highlight the importance of our government's AP2 initiatives in the areas of mitigation and adaptation.

I commend the report to the Assembly and look forward to the support of the Assembly in continuing to tackle this vital social, economic and environmental issue.

ACT community—government commitments

Discussion of matter of public importance

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

The importance of delivering on the government's commitments to the ACT community over the next four years.

MS PORTER (Ginninderra) (3:49): I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak to members about today's matter of public importance—the importance of delivering on the government's commitments to the ACT community over the next four years. I am proud to be part of a government that has a proven track record of delivering on our commitments, and we will continue to do so.

In my electorate of Ginninderra, the government has made a number of major investments in recent years, such as the new Belconnen police station and the new Kingsford Smith School. This year we will see a new enhanced community health centre open in Belconnen, which will provide additional health services for local residents. These projects represent just a few of the long list of commitments this government has delivered on for the benefit of our community. This Labor government will deliver on its latest election commitments with the same enthusiasm and drive and energy.

The government has made a number of substantial election commitments that we will implement this term, and I would like to share some of the highlights, particularly for my electorate and the regions. Some of the commitments will benefit all Canberrans, while others have a focus on areas where a particular need has been identified. For example, women living on the north side of Canberra will have the option of delivering their babies at a new birth centre to be fitted out at the Calvary hospital. It will have the same look and feel as the Canberra Hospital birth centre in Woden, enabling women to birth in a more home-like environment. I think anyone who has been to visit the centre over in Woden will be extremely impressed. As a former midwife and, of course, as a mother who has given birth a number of times, I certainly am.

The government has also identified the need for additional growth in public hospital services on the north side of Canberra and, to this end, has committed to fund an additional 54 general inpatient beds, two critical care beds, 12 hospital-in-the-home beds, five psychogeriatric beds and a new rapid assessment and planning unit at Calvary hospital. This will see the employment of more than a hundred doctors, nurses and support staff to care for people using these additional beds for the next four years. This is a major commitment which will improve health services, particularly for people living in north Canberra, and represents an investment of more than \$60 million.

Both Belconnen and Tuggeranong will benefit from new nurse-led walk-in centres following the successful establishment of the walk-in centre at the Canberra Hospital. We heard the health minister speak about the plans for these yesterday. Feedback from users of the Canberra Hospital walk-in-centre has been extremely positive, with most saying they would use it again or recommend it to family and friends. We want to ensure we are delivering services close to where people live to improve access and make it more convenient,

\$10 million has been committed to boost health services at the Belconnen and Tuggeranong community health centres, along with \$7 million for an additional 30 new community nurses to provide better access to care for vulnerable Canberrans in their homes. I also look forward to seeing plans for the new University of Canberra's subacute public hospital to be developed over this term. As members heard during question time, this government is committed to lowering the disease burden on the ACT, reducing chronic diseases and improving the health and wellbeing of all Canberrans.

Moving away from health, \$19.6 million has been earmarked for stage 2 of the upgrade and duplication of Ashley Drive between Erindale Drive and Johnson Drive. This follows a \$7 million investment from the ACT Labor government for stage 1 from Sternberg Crescent to Erindale Drive. The forward design for the duplication will be completed early next year, with construction undertaken over the next four years.

Education and learning remain key priorities for this government, with a range of exciting projects planned for Canberra's south side. We have committed \$8.7 million to construct a new purpose-built centre of excellence in numeracy at the Caroline Chisholm School senior campus site. The centre will include mathematics laboratories, flexible learning areas, a new lecture theatre, a video conferencing link to local schools, a mathematics resource centre as well as staff and support offices.

A further \$3 million in capital funding will allow development of new premises for the Tuggeranong introductory English centre at an upgraded Wanniasa Hills Primary School to help non-English-speaking primary school students. \$7.5 million in capital funding will be provided to construct a new Canberra Institute of Technology Tuggeranong learning centre. The construction of a permanent CIT learning campus in the Tuggeranong valley will ensure vocational education and training students continue to have access to the latest teaching and learning environment close to home.

In my electorate, the government will invest \$28 million over three years to refurbish and upgrade the Belconnen High School. The government are committed to ensuring that our communities are not only good places to live but also well resourced, secure and safe. We also heard in this place today about the additional ambulance resources, such as staff and hardware including vehicles, that this government have committed to delivering. We are also building two new emergency services stations in Charnwood and Aranda which will be combined ambulance and fire brigade stations. I was proud to be at the turning of the sod in Charnwood at the beginning of this project that will

improve community safety in west Belconnen. Yesterday we heard about our bushfire preparedness, an issue close to my heart as a member of my local Hawker CFU. We have heard how our commitment to emergency services stood us in such good stead in the recent very serious weather conditions.

I am also pleased to highlight some of the plans to improve local sports grounds and facilities, including the Kambah district playing fields, through the provision of improved irrigation. We will help fund a new building structure at Greenway enclosed oval to improve player and spectator facilities. The government will engage with key stakeholders to consult on how the \$500,000 fund will be utilised. This fund will help local teams such as Tuggeranong Hawks AFL, Tuggeranong Bushrangers Rugby League and Tuggeranong Tornadoes Gridiron clubs. We have also committed \$600,000 to establish a family water play area as part of the Lakeside Leisure Centre at Tuggeranong. We will contribute \$5 million over three years to work with the University of Canberra and ACTSPORT to establish a community sports hub at UC.

A number of local shops in my electorate are also earmarked for major upgrades, including Evatt, Florey, Kaleen, Spence and Macquarie with minor upgrades planned for Fraser. Supporting our local shops in this way will help to ensure their continued viability, support jobs and provide Canberrans with convenient local services. The government will provide free wi-fi in all the town centres, bus interchanges and on all ACTION buses.

I also believe it is important to reaffirm Mr Corbell's comments in this place yesterday and today about the ACT government being strongly committed to minimising our carbon footprint. That is why in 2010 we undertook to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by the year 2020, and I am pleased to say that we are well on track to meet that target. We have also legislated to make regular reporting to the Legislative Assembly mandatory on the ACT greenhouse gas emissions trends, as the minister did today. As he said, we are a clear leader in this area. We also undertook to establish a climate change council to provide independent advice on climate change issues as they affect business and the wider community.

I cite an example of our forward thinking in environmental policy—our community garden funding program. We made a commitment in the election to provide \$200,000 over four years to establish further gardens based on criteria developed through feedback on the community gardens discussion paper. The ACT Labor government knows community gardening improves community health, wellbeing and food security, lowers natural resource consumption and builds community resilience. We have helped establish up to 14 community gardens across the ACT in Charnwood, Cook, Cotter, Dickson, Erindale, Holder, Kaleen, Kambah, Kingston, Mitchell, Oaks Estate, O'Connor, Narrabundah and the ANU. Eleven of these are managed by the Canberra Organic Growers Society.

I have outlined as a member of the Labor government just some of our commitments to the ACT. A short speech in this place can in no way reflect the total commitment of the Labor government. I want to affirm this government's capacity to deliver these commitments. We are a strong and cohesive team, and we have our total energy

focused on continually delivering to the ACT community the best health service in Australia, the best education system, the strictest emission targets and environmental outcomes, the best local services and excellent infrastructure.

We are focused on our commitment to growing and diversifying our economy and protecting jobs. Of course, we are committed to an ongoing dialogue and cooperation with the region and our cross-border work, as we heard from the Chief Minister today, with very real evidence of the benefits of this cooperation, especially in the health system, which she gave an example of.

I, as a member for Ginninderra, am fully committed to making sure I do my part to ensure that this government delivers on its commitments. I will also continue to be committed to my role as a local member for Ginninderra and continue to make myself available and accessible to my constituents as a representative of the Labor government and will represent the concerns and aspirations of my electorate. The next four years will be an exciting time for Canberra as these commitments are rolled out.

The ACT Labor government has a clear vision for the future and great ideas about what is needed to ensure Canberra continues to be a vibrant, active and liveable city. I am proud and honoured to be a member of the Labor government and play my part in the ongoing delivery of these commitments to the ACT as we go forward.

MR WALL (Brindabella) (4:02): I am very pleased that Ms Porter has raised this matter of public importance here today. I find it very apt that Ms Porter is raising this matter as she has been part of three Labor-led governments that have failed to deliver on so many commitments made to the ACT community. In fact, there are a number of members of the government who have been here a while. A lot has been promised by many Labor members who sit in this place today, but very little has been delivered. Most of what has been delivered has been delivered very late and very over budget.

We come into this Assembly with a different paradigm. This time, the people of the ACT delivered a strong message to the left-wing political parties here in the ACT. ACT Labor and their sole remaining ACT Greens colleague are in government only by a whisker. Ms Gallagher and her colleagues, including Mr Rattenbury, know this and know that they have much work to do over the next four years to improve their record.

The importance of delivering on the government's commitments to the ACT community over the next four years—where do we start? Twelve years of Labor governance provide us with a dearth of material and, while there is no time today to canvass every single promise not delivered, it is important to focus on some very major failures.

As leaders, neither Ms Gallagher nor Mr Stanhope has come up with anything quite as spectacular as their compatriot Ms “There will be no carbon tax under the government I lead” Gillard. They have on occasion, though, made some very public commitments that have been outrageous untruths. Ms Gallagher said just prior to the 2004 election that the government would not be closing schools, yet once elected that promise was broken. Just months after the election, 23 schools were closed and not an ounce of remorse was displayed.

Mr Stanhope said in his budget reply speech in 2000, prior to becoming Chief Minister in 2001, “We need a government that will focus on delivering quality services and low taxes.” Yet after 12 years of Labor in charge we have higher rates and charges than ever before and not much in the way of return in delivery of services.

Again, prior to the 2001 election where ACT Labor was successful in gaining government, Labor’s health policy stated: “Waiting lists for elective surgery are unacceptably long. ACT Labor believes we can do better.” Yet what we actually have after 12 years is hospital waiting times deteriorating even further in every category, with only 42 per cent of patients requiring urgent treatment and 44 per cent of patients requiring semi-urgent treatment being seen on time.

Continuing on in health, Canberrans with a mental illness have received inadequate treatment for years because of Labor’s delay in opening an acute adult mental health facility. As a result of Labor’s delays, Canberrans with acute mental illness were treated at the widely condemned psychiatric secure unit for years longer than they should have been. At the opening of the new facility, Katy Gallagher admitted that there were extensive delays and cost blowouts and admitted that the psychiatric secure unit had been grossly inadequate.

Late last year—again, an election year—Ms Gallagher officiated at the opening of the much-lauded women’s and children’s hospital, another facility badly needed in Canberra. Yet the hospital she opened was only half complete, years late and tens of millions of dollars over budget. Still, at the Canberra Hospital, the most fundamental of all infrastructure at that facility is the car park. For years patients and visitors to the hospital had to endure inadequate parking while the Labor government fumbled around. The car park budget inevitably blew out from \$29 million to \$43 million, was a year late and resulted in the demolition of an existing multistorey car park on the same site.

Now to what has been described as Labor’s iconic failure—the Gungahlin Drive extension. This road has taken longer to build than the Sydney Harbour Bridge. It was spectacularly over budget and spectacularly late. A major arterial road that was going to cost \$53 million and be finished in 2004 ended up costing hundreds of millions of dollars more and not being completed until 2011—not to mention the Canberra commuters enduring delays in the ensuing years.

Even then, at the time of the opening of the road Mr Corbell had the hide to try and change history by stating that the GDE was completed 2½ months early, when in actual fact it had been 10 years since ACT Labor first announced the road. What is more, Mr Corbell had famously said that this road would come in on time, on budget and would be completed early. This is ACT Labor’s idea of delivering a commitment. We also have the aquatic equivalent of the GDE—the Cotter Dam. The budgeted cost for the dam in 2009 was \$363 million. Prior to that it was \$100 million. Where we will end up nobody knows, least of all this government.

The Labor governments past have left us with a legacy of pre-election stunts that would seemingly be to provide a smokescreen for their inability to complete projects

on time. It seems the old adage “build it and they will come” held true when, in the lead-up to the 2008 election, there was an official opening of an empty Alexander Maconochie Centre which was not ready to accept prisoners. Following that debacle we saw the opening of Bimberi—again, an empty building not ready to accept young offenders. It was another photo opportunity and another smokescreen to hide their inability to complete projects on time and on budget.

It would be very remiss of me not to mention the government’s aspirational targets. When he was a minister my colleague Brendan Smyth indicated that there was a target for waste reduction in the ACT—no waste by 2012. ACT Labor soon dropped this largely achievable goal as a mere aspirational target. In 1997 it was the then ACT Liberal government that was the first in the country to adopt a greenhouse gas emissions target—the first of any jurisdiction in the country. These targets were promptly dropped by ACT Labor and what we have now, after 12 years of both Labor and Green governments, is an increase in emissions.

The ACT Labor-Greens coalition have made some big commitments in this time. They have promised light rail, a hospital on the north side and \$24 million to improve ACTION, amongst other things. Again, we have what could become another aspirational target of 90 per cent of Canberra’s electricity coming from renewable sources by 2020—big commitments, big expectations and another big expected failure.

How can the Canberra community trust this government to deliver on time? What is different this time and why? The track record of both Labor and the Greens in this place is poor, and at some points the promises made to the people of Canberra have been dishonest and disingenuous. The fact is that we have been let down for the past 12 years. The people of Canberra have been let down in all aspects of their lives because of ACT Labor’s ineptitude and inability to deliver.

I have described the utter incompetence which this government has demonstrated over the past decade or more in honouring its commitments to the ACT community, but there continues to be an alternative—a clear and solid alternative that the majority of Canberrans voted for last October. This is the vision outlined by the Canberra Liberals, a vision that was to be the best local government.

There are numerous policies that formed part of this vision, from basic local services such as a green bin for every home to upgrades to local sporting fields and improvements to streetscapes, footpaths and cycle ways. We outlined a plan for a true choice for first homebuyers, not restricting them to buy in Canberra’s outer suburbs. We had a plan to remove burdensome taxes that are choking redevelopment and investment in our city. The Canberra Liberals promised to get ahead of the curve when it came to infrastructure projects by establishing infrastructure Canberra. This would have prevented the catch-up nature of development that Canberrans have become all too familiar with.

When it comes to education, the Canberra Liberals would have opened schools—not closed them. The construction of an autism-specific school would have seen a gap in current services being closed and provided better outcomes for families raising children with autism. We would have also provided better choices for families when it

comes to education for their children, delivered through properly funding the non-government school sector. The one overarching promise that came attached to these and every other promise the Canberra Liberals made to the people of Canberra last year is that it would all be delivered on time and on budget.

The majority of Canberra voters are disappointed that the plan I have outlined will not be delivered by this Assembly. Instead, they will continue to be the subject of this government's far left agenda, poor service delivery and utter contempt for the true needs of residents of the ACT.

MR RATTENBURY (Molonglo—Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Housing, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Ageing) (4.10): I would like to thank Ms Porter for raising this issue today. Certainly the ACT Greens come into this Assembly with a clear sense of purpose to deliver on a green and progressive agenda that will deliver benefits to the whole Canberra community. Mr Hanson might think that that is an extreme agenda but I believe that a green and progressive agenda is one that delivers environmental benefit and socially just policy which supports and enables the most vulnerable in our community and does so with an eye to the future and the challenges that the future will bring us.

The Greens believe that identifying future challenges is essential to good policy development. We do not shy away from those challenges, even when implementing the policies is controversial and sometimes inconvenient for some. We have our eye on policies that will maximise benefits for the majority and the longer term, including our future generations.

Indeed I think Mr Hanson and some of his colleagues will find that this agenda is widely embraced by the community. It is convenient political rhetoric to pretend that it is somehow extreme to ban plastic bags or to provide better public transport or to allow two people who love each other to get married or to take steps to address and ready ourselves for climate change. The reality is that these issues have wide support in the community and it is not the Greens that are out of touch. As the sole representative of the Greens in the Assembly this term, I am committed to working with the government and as part of government to realise the policy objectives that I believe will make this city a better place for all Canberrans.

Today I would like to spend some time talking about the key items that the Greens have included in the ALP-Greens parliamentary agreement, an agreement that now sits at the core of the government's agenda for this term of government. The agreement entails 66 policy items, all of which are important, all of which I will be working on to ensure are implemented in the best possible way.

The parliamentary agreement will mean that we will have Canberra's first light rail tracks laid by 2016 as well as a Canberra-wide light rail network master plan for the ongoing rollout of a light rail network. As I have outlined many times before, light rail will bring enormous benefits to Canberra. This was a project that was talked about for years and years but at last, through the parliamentary agreement, we have a commitment to taking action and we have a real opportunity to grasp this for Canberra.

Light rail is about thinking to the future, about how our city will work and move in five, 10 or 20 years time so that we can find real and long-term solutions to the transport issues that are starting to trouble us today, like parking or congestion. I am very pleased, of course, that this is something that the Greens now are prepared to go forward with, and I would urge the Canberra Liberals to recognise the benefits of light rail, as their colleagues in Western Australia have done, and the great opportunities it presents for our city.

Light rail will of course not come at the expense of Canberra's bus system. As the new minister for ACTION buses, I am very mindful of the critical role buses play in our future transport, and within my new portfolio I will certainly be looking at ways to reform and improve our bus network. To complement this, the parliamentary agreement guarantees at least an additional \$24 million to fund new and improved services, including more frequent buses to and from Belconnen, Tuggeranong, Gungahlin, Weston Creek and Woden suburbs, measures to address overcrowding on bus routes—the Red Rapid is one of these measures and is already underway—and improved school bus services and several new park and ride and bike and ride sites.

In addition, the parliamentary agreement guarantees \$15 million above current budget funding for improved walking and cycling infrastructure, including maintenance, new paths and lanes, new pedestrian crossings, lighting, signage, shared zones and a Molonglo cycle highway feasibility study. In my role as territory and municipal services minister, I am certainly looking forward to advancing the opportunities for walking and cycling in our city and I would love to see us become Australia's leader in active transport.

The Greens took to the election a comprehensive package for the clean-up of our lakes and waterways, a matter that was raised during question time today. I am very pleased that the bulk of this policy agenda will be delivered through the parliamentary agreement. I certainly look forward to working with the minister for the environment to ensure that, by the end of this four-year term, we will be well and truly on the way to restoring the health of our lakes and catchments and looking after them for future generations, because the recreational value of our lakes and rivers could be much greater than what it currently is.

The Greens have never taken our eye off the issue of climate change. We prioritised it, in spite of whether or not it was fashionable to do so. So the parliamentary agreement continues to push this important issue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Corbell who, as climate change minister, has also been steadfast in his prioritisation of climate change as an important issue and whom we worked with in the last Assembly to deliver the ACT's 40 per cent climate change target and instrumental legislation around the large-scale solar feed-in tariff and retail energy efficiency legislation.

Given the importance of climate change, I am confident that the key items in the parliamentary agreement around climate change will be delivered this term, including implementation of a 90 per cent renewable energy target by 2020 and a renewal of the solar feed-in tariff scheme that delivers a fair price for small-scale generators.

In a similar vein, I remain committed to delivering improved energy efficiency for rental properties. We must look for ways to take landlords on that journey towards energy efficiency or we will risk leaving an entire sector of our housing behind. I appreciate that the Assembly in the last term declined to support my bill that would seek to set minimum standards for rental properties but I remain committed to the idea that we can improve energy efficiency standards in rental homes. The recent terms of reference for a review of the Residential Tenancies Act released by the Attorney-General make specific reference to the issue of sustainability and specifically look at the effects of mandating or providing incentives for retrofitting sustainability measures into rental properties.

On housing, I am very proud that the agreement continues to expand the program of public housing energy efficiency upgrades, with \$4 million per annum over four years. As housing minister, I will take great pleasure in overseeing the improvements to public housing. The government is, of course, landlord of 11,000 homes in the ACT, and I take that obligation very seriously.

I am also pleased that the parliamentary agreement includes commitments to building common ground, which is a key opportunity to tackle homelessness in the ACT. For those not familiar with common ground, it has been described as supportive housing that provides people with both a permanent home and the necessary support to help them achieve stability and improvement in their lives. Using a housing first approach, common ground takes people directly from homelessness and follows through with the support they require to stay housed, improve their health and live independently. Housing first is a model that recognises stability is more likely to be achieved if an individual has somewhere permanent and safe to live, something most of us take for granted.

Common ground already operates with great success in Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart and other cities around the world and will be a welcome addition to the community's ability to address homelessness in the territory. The creation of common ground in Canberra will be a remarkable achievement, and I would like to thank the passionate and hardworking board of Common Ground Canberra, who have successfully brought the project this far, garnering tripartite support for the project as well as considerable philanthropic donations. I think this has been an extremely effective community-driven campaign, and it is one the Greens certainly support.

Another very important part of the parliamentary agreement is the ongoing reform of governance and important accountability mechanisms that the Greens have long advocated. Just this morning, I tabled in this place an exposure draft of significant reforms to the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act. This is the first of a series of Greens' bills that will improve government accountability. In the not too distant future I will be presenting a new freedom of information bill that will create a new scheme to ensure that more government information than ever before will be made available to the public in a timely way.

I will also present a bill to make the Auditor-General, the Electoral Commissioner and the Ombudsman officers of the parliament. Integrity agencies form a vital part of

ensuring government accountability, and the Greens strongly believe that these statutory officers should be made officers of the parliament, responsible to the parliament and performing a function on behalf of the parliament, ensuring probity of executive action.

I am very pleased and excited to be able to deliver all of the outcomes in the parliamentary agreement and to do that in a constructive relationship with the ACT branch of the Labor Party. These initiatives will make Canberra a better place to live. We will have a more open and accountable government, better natural amenity to enjoy, a city that is better prepared for the future, and more socially inclusive policies that better look after everyone in our community. These are the promises that the Greens have made, and this is exactly what I will be working to deliver.

MS GALLAGHER (Molonglo—Chief Minister, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Health and Minister for Higher Education) (4.20): I too am pleased to address today's matter of public importance. This government has a proven track record of delivering on our commitments. During our last term of government, we were clear about our agenda, we communicated our plans to the community and we kept them informed of progress. At the halfway point of our last term, we were pleased to provide the people of Canberra with a report on our significant progress in implementing our previous election commitments, demonstrating that we were following through on our most significant commitment to the people of Canberra, an open and accountable government. We regularly provided progress reports as well on the implementation of the first parliamentary agreement with the Greens.

In relation to the 2012 commitments, the commitments we have made were considered and responsible. We have identified areas of need and strategic opportunities for investments. Our commitments focus on growing our economy, delivering quality services and providing opportunities for everyone. They keep us connected and on the move. They deliver the right service to the right people in the right place.

During the campaign we made a significant number of commitments to the people of Canberra, and those commitments were costed by the ACT Treasury. I am pleased to report that we are already working on implementing many of these commitments, and the people of the ACT will see a number of those funded in the upcoming budget.

At the 2012 election the people of Canberra expressed their continuing faith in us and in our direction for Canberra, and we intend to fulfil the promises we have made to them. The free centenary bus loop is up and running, with patronage growing every day. Construction of the new Majura Parkway, the ACT's largest ever road project, is now underway. This important road infrastructure will provide a continuous link between the Federal and Monaro highways, providing economic, social and environmental benefits.

The new state-of-the-art Franklin Early Childhood School is the latest addition to the highly successful early childhood school model introduced in 2009, offering both schooling and childcare to young children from birth to year 2. Students are enjoying the Neville Bonner Primary School, and we heard about that in question time.

Ms Porter outlined a number of the investments we intend to make in additional bed capacity, a birth centre and health staff at Calvary hospital. She has touched on the expansion of the very popular walk-in centre model and the funding we will inject into community nurses and community health services. We will also provide \$80 million over four years for an additional 5,000 elective surgery procedures.

Just as I read this list out, I recall the similarities between ACT Labor's health policies and the Liberals' health policies. The only difference was that the Liberal ones came out maybe a week or so after we had already announced ours, except with slight additions or changes. It was perhaps the most flattering part of the campaign. No, that was probably that Liberal ad they did which said, "I really like Katy Gallagher, but ..." That was flattering too, but I think perhaps copying the health policy was the highlight of the election campaign for me.

In regard to education and childcare, again there are important commitments there. There are investments going into school infrastructure, a new school at Coombs, planning for Moncrieff and, of course, investing additional resources in professional development for teachers. We will also make sure that we are at the table discussing equality in funding education, making sure that the funding dollar goes to children regardless of what school they might be in but where it is needed the most.

We made a number of commitments around improving local services in upgrading and improving community infrastructure. Of course, like yesterday in this place around the light rail project, the work that is going into that has already commenced. We have got a number of upgrades to shopping centres, including Evatt, Florey, Fisher, Kaleen, Hughes, Spence and Macquarie as well as minor upgrades to a number of other centres.

I know that people will really look forward to the lowering of the qualifying age for the seniors gold card. I have already had a number of representations from people asking when will that start. Because it requires appropriation, we will be considering that in the budget context.

The community bus service came up frequently during the election campaign, the need to increase the very popular service started by this government, the regional community services having additional transport options for the clients that they are now taking all over town on the community transport program.

As you can see in just that short time, there are a range of commitments that are already underway. We have got a very busy four years ahead of us. We do not take the Canberra community for granted. We heard the election result and we are conscious that 50 per cent of Canberra voted for the government that is before them today, but that also means that there were a lot of people who did not vote for us. We listen to them as well. We represent them, and whilst we have made a number of commitments in our election commitments to the community there will be, of course, other work that is done outside of those in delivering what we need to do to make sure that we continue to be the government of choice for the people of the ACT.

Discussion concluded.

Adjournment

Bushfire fighters

MR CORBELL (Molonglo—Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development) (4.26): I move:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

I rise in the adjournment debate this evening to reflect on the dangers and the very real hazards that firefighters face in our community. There was the distressing and tragic news today that two firefighters have been killed by a falling tree. Whilst attending to and fighting the massive fire in Victoria, the so-called Harrierville fire, two firefighters from the Department of Sustainability and Environment in Victoria, were killed when a tree fell on their vehicle.

In Canberra this brings back all too clearly the tragic events surrounding the death of firefighter David Balfour of the ACT fire brigade, who died in very similar circumstances whilst on deployment with ACT firefighting personnel in the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

It is well known amongst firefighters that there are the widow-makers out there in the forests, particularly during and after a fire. These trees can fall without any warning, and often with very little sound. Before you know it, tens if not hundreds of tonnes of timber can be on top of you. Tragically, all too often we see firefighters killed in these circumstances, not from heat or flame, but from the devastating impact of a falling tree.

As we reflect on the fact that again two firefighters have lost their lives, we recall to our memory the loss of David Balfour. We know that much has come about as a result of David's untimely passing; his widow Celia and her children have been stoic and admirable in the way they have responded to their husband and father's untimely passing, and have sought to make much that is positive out of his tragic death. I am sure that they, and all members of the firefighting community here in the ACT and indeed the broader Canberra community, will want to express and have in their hearts and minds every condolence and best wish to the families of those who have lost loved ones in the Harrierville fire in the last 24 hours.

It is a constant reminder of the dangers faced by our firefighters when they are addressing these very large and unpredictable blazes. I am confident that the heartfelt condolences, best wishes and thoughts of all in the Canberra community, particularly in our emergency services family, are with the families, friends and colleagues of these two dedicated firefighters who have lost their lives in the last 24 hours.

Softball Australia Day Carnival

MR DOSZPOT (Molonglo) (4.30): Over the Australia Day long weekend I had the pleasure of attending, as shadow minister for sport, the Softball ACT Australia Day

Carnival at the Hawker International Softball Centre. I would like to congratulate Softball ACT for conducting an excellent event yet again.

The Softball ACT Australia Day Carnival is the biggest junior softball championship in Australasia, and this year saw 64 teams in action, playing over 350 games of softball over three days. Over 840 players, ranging from under-12s to under-19s, came to Canberra for this annual event. The event always attracts many people to Canberra, with many families and officials accompanying the visiting teams. I am told that about 2,000 people visited our city through this tournament this year. The Hawker International Softball Centre was abuzz, and the team at Softball ACT were actively promoting the various tourist attractions, especially making people aware of our centenary year.

I attended this event in a dual capacity as shadow sport minister and as a crowd spectator, joining my visiting niece Anna Kelly and her family from Sydney as they supported young Tyler Kelly as he turned out for the Seven Hills under-13 Scorpions. They were just one of the hundreds of family groups from all over Australia. Friendships were made and I know firsthand how enthusiastic they were about seeing Canberra in a different light.

My congratulations go to Softball ACT, CEO Matt Morrissey and the board of Softball ACT for continuing the great work they do with this tournament. I understand that the 2014 Australia Day carnival will see upwards of 70 teams competing, which again will be a great result for Softball ACT but also will assist ACT tourism.

Softball ACT are working to ensure that they have a sport that is accessible for people of all ages and abilities. After participating in the one-day expo at Albert Hall in December 2012, Softball ACT were able to field a team of disabled athletes to participate in the inaugural disability softball challenge on 8 December in the lead-up to the open men's grand final match. I am proud of the efforts that Softball ACT and other teams make in all of these areas where they bring in all sections of our community and give them the opportunity to participate. I understand that Softball ACT is hoping to start up a social slow pitch competition aimed at staff of ACT government directorates with an emphasis on having fun and promoting a healthy work-life balance.

The open women's ACT Diamonds were unlucky not to secure a grand final berth in the Gilley's Shield, and finished up with a respectable third place in the national championship.

Getting back to the tournament itself, my conflicting interests were not put to the test, as the under-13 Scorpions from Seven Hills did not quite make the under-13 finals. It was in fact Canberra FPSL-Kirkpatrick that won the under-13 finals. There were other finalists. The under-13 girls plate was won by SA Academy, the under-13 girls cup by the Pink Flames, the under-15 girls plate by Waverley Red, the under-15 girls cup by Penrith, the under-15 girls consolation by Springvale, the under-15 boys by Southern Districts, and the under-17 boys by Canberra—as was the under-17 girls and the under-19 girls. The under-19 boys title went to Western Sydney.

Once again, my congratulations to Softball ACT and all their organisers and the committee for a wonderful event that helped not only our Canberra sporting public but also the visitors that come to watch this event each year.

Burgmann Anglican School—year 12 graduation

MR COE (Ginninderra) (4.34): On 18 December last year I was privileged to attend the Burgmann Anglican School year 12 graduation. Burgmann has a student population of about 1,500 students spread across two campuses and provides education for students from preschool through to year 12. The school is led by its principal, Steven Bowers, deputy principal and head of senior school, John Foulcher, director of studies, Rod Crnkovic and head of ministry, Alex Abecina. The school continues to go from strength to strength and has earned its reputation for academic excellence and a genuine all-round education.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the following year 12 students who were award recipients in 2012: the award for dedication and application to school life in tertiary studies, Marianne Tadros; the award for independent learning, David McMillan; the award for highest personal achievement, Tom O'Rourke; the Long Tan leadership and teamwork award, Anna Kaufmann; the John Francis Morgan award for chemistry, David Easey; the Institute of Chartered Accountants student award for business, Anusha Bale; the Canberra Mathematics Association medallion, David Easey; the design and innovation award, Mikayla Hinds; the excellence in vocational studies, Jayme-Lee Maher; the Pierre de Coubertin award, Jake Provan; the Duke of Edinburgh award—gold, Samuel Hinchcliffe; and the excellence in academic studies award—accredited, Sarah Atkinson.

The academic achievement awards went to Anna Kaufmann, Christine Paek, Derek Smith, Christopher Zhang, Dillon Hammill, Kelsey Marshall, Marianne Tadros and Robin Gruen. The Beth Heyde academic excellence award went to Jessica Adams and David Easey. The cultural and creativity award went to David Easey. The excellence in vocational studies Board of Senior Secondary Studies went to Sarah Atkinson. And the Browning award went to David Easey and Anna Kaufmann.

I would also like to pay tribute to the guest speaker, Tanja Cobden, a year 12 Burgmann student from 2011; David Easey, who performed a musical interlude; and Marissa Karvelas, who gave a student address. What Marissa has endured through the course of her illness and treatment is extraordinary, and her determination is a true inspiration. I wish her well in her studies and treatment.

I wish all the students of 2012 all the best in their post-school life and the entire Burgmann school community a very successful 2013 school year.

Orientation week

MR WALL (Brindabella) (4.36): I rise this evening to speak about an important event that has taken place over the last few weeks at the beginning of a new university semester in Canberra, O week. O week, or orientation week, gives students, both

new and returning, the opportunity to prepare for the first semester of university. O week ensures access for new students to social, cultural and academic activities that provide a great basis for the year ahead. Each day's activities assist students to enrol in courses, join clubs and societies and generally become familiar with their new environment. There are always plenty of opportunities to party and to get to know their fellow students.

Over the past couple of weeks I have had the opportunity to attend both the University of Canberra and the Australian National University Orientation Week market days. I had the opportunity to meet with many new and returning students at both universities, as well as members of clubs and associations. At the University of Canberra I again had the pleasure of meeting with volunteers promoting the champions ACT campaign, designed to promote strategies to help people aged 18 to 24 years keep safe when out drinking with their friends.

I would also like to put on the record my appreciation to both the ANU Liberal Club and the University of Canberra Liberal Society for inviting me to their market days and I wish them all the best in the coming year.

Education—early childhood

MS BERRY (Ginninderra) (4.38): I wanted to talk tonight to the Assembly about an activity that I participated in today in supporting the big steps in early childhood education campaign. Big steps in early childhood education is a campaign that aims to recognise the important work that educators in the early childhood sector do in giving our children the best start in life. Today saw the culmination of the next part of the big steps campaign to call on the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, to deliver professional wages to early childhood educators.

As I have said previously in this place, early childhood educators play a vitally important role. They are responsible for helping children to learn and play with others, to interact in new environments and to set them on a path to learn that will last with them for the rest of their lives. I also know that many early childhood educators struggle to make ends meet. In my previous life I met educators who could not afford to stay in the system or who had to forgo decent living conditions in order to do the work that they love.

I know that this government have a deep respect for the work early childhood educators do and that we are trying our best to keep dedicated educators in the sector with initiatives such as the early childhood scholarship program providing more than 80 full-time scholarships for educators and to obtain the certificate III qualification.

In a further sign of our commitment to proper recognition of early childhood educators, today my colleagues and I joined up with United Voice, the union representing early childhood educators, to sign Valentine's Day cards asking the Prime Minister to include professional wages for early childhood educators in the budget. I had the great opportunity to meet and welcome educator Lauren, mother Angela and her children, daughter Molly and son Toby.

It is through the actions of people such as Lauren and Angela and thousands of others like them across Australia that we will see proper recognition of early childhood educators this year in the commonwealth budget. I would urge members of the Assembly to find out more about this campaign, the importance of the first years of our most precious resources' lives. I urge them to go to the big steps web page so they can find out more information and also ways they can become involved in the campaign.

Snakes Alive

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella) (4.40): I rise tonight to talk about an event I had the pleasure of opening in January this year—the 21st anniversary of *Snakes Alive* at the National Botanic Gardens. *Snakes Alive* is a show for visitors of all ages from the ACT and surrounding regions and, of course, further afield as well, including some from overseas, that shows some of Australia's unique reptiles and amphibians and educates about the role they play in our environment and the importance of their conservation.

Snakes Alive provides an opportunity to handle suitable pythons, lizards and turtles to practically experience some of their characteristics. During the time the exhibition is held visitors are able to observe snakes, lizards and frogs being fed and have the animals' requirements explained to them. All the funds raised for that event go to the efforts to save the corroboree frog which, as you are aware, is an endangered species in the ACT.

The *Snakes Alive* exhibition is organised by the ACT Herpetological Association, and that branch of zoology is concerned, as we have heard, with reptiles and amphibians. The ACT branch was established in 1985 and it aims to promote the study and conservation of reptiles and amphibians and to foster a positive community feeling towards this misunderstood group of animals. Their members encompass a broad cross-section of the community, and quite a number of their members were at the event, many that I have met before.

I would like to recognise Ric Longmore, the creator of *Snakes Alive*, Dennis Dyer, Margaret Ning and the volunteers of the Australian National Botanic Gardens that were at the event as well. It turns out that Ric Longmore and I both grew up at the same time here in the ACT as young boys under the shadow of Mount Ainslie, and we used to spend our weekends up there searching for lizards and other beasts, as young boys do. So it was quite an enjoyable event to share some of those stories of our early childhood with the people visiting.

I explain again how great this annual event is for young people and those interested in the topic around the ACT, and I extend congratulations to everybody. I hope next year's event is just as good as this year's.

Health—drug use

DR BOURKE (Ginninderra) (4.43): In December last year I had the pleasure of presenting awards to the people who have made outstanding contributions in

addressing the harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the Canberra community. It was at the annual ACT alcohol, tobacco and other drugs awards ceremony, a chance to pay tribute to individuals in the ACT who contribute to the health and wellbeing of people affected by the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Though potentially rewarding, this is not a glamorous area to work in. It requires dedication, understanding and a compassionate commitment to the belief that every individual matters and deserves help to overcome their problems. People deserve a chance to start a new page in their lives. By reducing the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs in our community, we benefit individuals, their families and friends, and the whole community.

The 2012 ACT award for excellence in alcohol, tobacco and other drug work went to Bob O’Heir. Mr O’Heir has a long history of involvement working in the sector and is a very valued volunteer. He has served in a range of roles in recent years at Salvation Army recovery services, but has also been very active in supporting the overall sector in Canberra.

This included helping to set up and govern the peak body, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Association of the ACT. His citation also noted his diverse volunteer work, including coordinating construction of community vegetable gardens, a plant propagation enterprise and a bicycle maintenance facility for tenants of public housing.

Mr Gerard Rees received the lifetime achievement award for almost 30 years of volunteer work in the sector. He was President of Directions ACT for 14 years and has served on its board of management since 1985. He was led to this involvement through being a legal aid solicitor, seeing clients whose lives were affected by alcohol and drug problems. Over this time, he has continued to lobby for harm minimisation and social justice issues.

Dr Tuck Meng Soo received the outstanding contributions award. His work at the Interchange General Practice in University Avenue is known for the compassion he shows to the marginalised and those with serious alcohol or other problems. The practice was named general practice of the year in 2010. He is the lead GP in Australia’s first opioid overdose education and management program and is the alcohol and other drug adviser to the ACT Medicare Local. These are just some amongst a range of achievements.

The late Peter Watney was inducted to the ACT alcohol, tobacco and other drugs honour roll for his volunteer work as an advocate for drug law reform over two decades. Mr Watney passed away in August 2012 but was still involved in the sector until shortly before his death, aged 90.

In 1995 he was a founding member of Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform and was an executive member of the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation. He argued passionately as a respected advocate for evidence-based drug law reform.

Canberrans are fortunate to have these award recipients as part of our community, showing a humane commitment to those struggling with addiction or misuse of

substances. Their colleagues and volunteers in the sector also deserve our thanks and recognition for doing a difficult job.

Over 30 people also received certificates at the ceremony for completing units in the CIT course which is specifically tailored to start working in this sector. I congratulate the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association in the ACT, along with its national peak body, for its continued commitment to and focus on delivering programs aimed to prevent or reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs in our community.

The Assembly adjourned at 4.48 pm until Tuesday, 26 February 2013 at 10 am.

Schedule of amendments

Public Unleased Land Bill 2012

Amendments moved by the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

1

Clause 86 (3)

Page 62, line 13—

omit

A public unleased land permit

substitute

The register

2

Clause 96 (4)

Page 69, line 14—

before

authorised person

insert

police officer or

Answers to questions

Capital Asset Development Plan (Question No 1)

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 28 November 2012:

- (1) In relation to the Capital Asset Development Plan (CADP) Phase 1, for projects that have been completed (a) what is the asset, (b) what function does it provide, (c) what was the start date for capital works, (d) what was the completion date and (e) what was the full cost.
- (2) For projects that for which construction has commenced but is not yet complete (a) what is the asset, (b) what function will it provide, (c) what was the start date for capital works, (d) what is the expected completion date and (e) what is the expected full cost.
- (3) For projects that are planned or proposed but where construction has not started (a) what is the asset, (b) what function will it provide, (c) what is the expected start date for capital works, (d) what is the expected completion date and (e) what is the expected full cost.
- (4) In relation to the CADP Phase 2 for projects that have been completed (a) what is the asset, (b) what function does it provide, (c) what was the start date for capital works, (d) what was the completion date and (e) what was the full cost.
- (5) For projects that for which construction has commenced but is not yet complete (a) what is the asset, (b) what function will it provide, (c) what was the start date for capital works, (d) what is the expected completion date and (e) what is the expected full cost.
- (6) For projects that are planned or proposed but where construction has not started (a) what is the asset, (b) what function will it provide, (c) what is the expected start date for capital works, (d) what is the expected completion date and (e) what is the expected full cost.
- (7) In relation to the CADP Phase 3 for all projects that have been planned, proposed or considered by Government, including Calvary Hospital upgrade and proposed new sub-acute hospital, (a) what is the asset, (b) what function will it provide, (c) what is the expected start date for capital works, (d) what is the expected completion date and (e) what is the expected full cost.

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

- (1) See Table 1 attached in relation to the Health Infrastructure Program (formerly known as the Capital Asset Development Program).
- (2) See Table 2 attached in relation to the Health Infrastructure Program (formerly known as the Capital Asset Development Program).
- (3) See Table 3 attached in relation to the Health Infrastructure Program (formerly known as the Capital Asset Development Program).
- (4) See Table 1 attached.

(5) See Table 2 attached.

(6) See Table 3 attached.

(7) The scope of other proposed projects has not been completed. See Table 4 attached for information on projects that received funding in the ACT Budget. I am unable to respond to (c), (d) and (e) as they are currently being considered by the Government.

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

Hospitals—emergency (Question No 2)

departments

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 28 November 2012:

What is the percentage of presentations to (a) The Canberra Hospital Emergency Department and (b) Calvary Hospital Emergency Department with a length of stay less than four hours for the periods (i) December 2011, (ii) January 2012, (iii) February 2012, (iv) March 2012, (v) April 2012, (vi) May 2012, (vii) June 2012, (viii) July 2012, (ix) August 2012, (x) September 2012 and (xi) October 2012.

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

(a) The Canberra Hospital Emergency Department:

(i)	December 2011	56%
(ii)	January 2012	55%
(iii)	February 2012	57%
(iv)	March 2012	54%
(v)	April 2012	52%
(vi)	May 2012	53%
(vii)	June 2012	51%
(viii)	July 2012	50%
(ix)	August 2012	51%
(x)	September 2012	48%
(xi)	October 2012	48%

(b) Calvary Hospital Emergency Department:

(i)	December 2011	68%
(ii)	January 2012	62%
(iii)	February 2012	57%
(iv)	March 2012	58%
(v)	April 2012	59%
(vi)	May 2012	63%
(vii)	June 2012	66%
(viii)	July 2012	61%
(ix)	August 2012	62%
(x)	September 2012	65%
(xi)	October 2012	62%

**Canberra Hospital—Mental Health Assessment Unit
(Question No 3)**

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 28 November 2012:

- (1) What was the total number of patients seen at the Mental Health Assessment Unit (MHAU) at The Canberra Hospital for (a) July 2011, (b) August 2011, (c) September 2011, (d) October 2011, (e) November 2011, (f) December 2011, (g) January 2012, (h) February 2012, (i) March 2012, (j) April 2012, (k) May 2012, (l) June 2012, (m) July 2012, (n) August 2012, (o) September 2012 and (p) October 2012.
- (2) What was the total number of patients seen at the MHAU who remained in the unit for more than eight hours for the months referred to in part (1).

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

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| (a) | 192 |
| (b) | 197 |
| (c) | 203 |
| (d) | 234 |
| (e) | 199 |
| (f) | 210 |
| (g) | 247 |
| (h) | 174 |
| (i) | 240 |
| (j) | 227 |
| (k) | 221 |
| (l) | 231 |
| (m) | 198 |
| (n) | 228 |
| (o) | 220 |
| (p) | 230 |

**Canberra Hospital—Adult Mental Health Unit
(Question No 4)**

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 28 November 2012:

What is the average occupancy rate for the Adult Mental Health Unit for (a) June 2012, (b) July 2012, (c) August 2012, (d) September 2012 and (e) October 2012.

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

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| (a) | 94% |
| (b) | 98% |
| (c) | 97% |
| (d) | 98% |
| (e) | 95% |
-

**Canberra Hospital—operating theatres
(Question No 5)**

Mr Hanson asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 28 November 2012:

Which operating theatres at The Canberra Hospital are scheduled to (a) operate from 1, December 2012 to February 2013, on a reduced schedule and (b) not have scheduled operations.

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

- (a) All eleven theatres will be available until 24 December 2012. Full activity resumes on 29 January 2013.
- (b) On 25 December 2012 one emergency theatre will be available.

From 26 December 2012 – 2 January 2013 two theatres will be available every day. There will also be an additional two caesarean lists during this week.

Between 2 January 2013 – 25 January 2013 there will be six theatres available each day (Monday to Friday), two for emergency surgery and four for elective surgery.

On 28 January 2013 two emergency theatres will be available (public holiday).

Elective surgery theatres between 2 January 2013 – 25 January 2013 will be available to any surgeon not on leave who would like operating time.

**ACT public service—executive staff
(Question No 6)**

Mr Seselja asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What is the breakdown of Executive staff currently employed in the ACT Public Service and at what level are these staff.
- (2) Are there any vacancies; if so, how many and at which level are these vacancies.
- (3) Did the number of Executive positions in the ACT Public Service increase or decrease as a result of the restructure of the Directorates.
- (4) If the number of Executive positions did increase or decrease, in what Directorates did this change and what positions changed.

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

- (1) The following table provides a breakdown of the number of Executives working in the ACT Public Service as of 29 November 2012:

Executive Level	3.12	3.11	3.1	3.9	3.8	3.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	Total
Education and Training Directorate			1				1	1	2	7	4		16
Community Services Directorate			1			1	2	2	5	6	2	1	20
Economic Development Directorate			1			2	2	1	4	8	1		19
Territory and Municipal Services			1				1	3	1	10	3		19
Health Directorate		1			2				10	6	1	1	21
Commerce and Works Directorate		1						2	1	13	2		19
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate	1	1				2	1	2	2	15	2		26
Justice and Community Safety Directorate			1				2	3	4	14	7	6	37
Director of Public Prosecutions									1	1			2
Canberra Institute of Technology						1				2	3		6
Economic and Sustainable Development Directorate			1			2			4	5			12
Auditor-Generals Office													1
Independent Competition & Regulatory Commission												1	1
Cultural Facilities Corporation										1			1
Total													199

(2) The following table lists the number of vacant positions:

Executive Level	3.12	3.11	3.1	3.9	3.8	3.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	Total
Education and Training Directorate													0
Community Services Directorate									1	1	1		3
Economic Development Directorate													0
Territory and Municipal Services													0
Health Directorate									1				1
Commerce and Works Directorate										1			1
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate										1			1
Justice and Community Safety Directorate										1		1	2
Director of Public Prosecutions													0
Economic and Sustainable Development Directorate											1		1

Auditor-Generals Office										1			1
Canberra Institute of Technology													0
Independent Competition & Regulatory Commission													0
Cultural Facilities Corporation													0
Total													10

- (3) The machinery of Government changes to give effect to the revised Administrative Arrangements had not been finalised as of 29 November 2012. However, it is intended that the Executive numbers will only increase by one as a result of the restructure, comprising the addition of the Director-General of the Commerce and Works Directorate.
- (4) Following the machinery of Government changes it is expected that the Executive numbers will increase by one due to the restructure, this being the Director-General of the Commerce and Works Directorate.

Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—staff (Question No 7)

Mr Seselja asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many staff are employed at each level in the Directorate, including transferred Treasury Directorate staff.
- (2) Are there any vacancies in the Directorate; if so, at what levels are the vacancies.

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

- (1) Paid staff as at 21 November 2012:

Classification	FTE *
Executive	28.0
Senior Officer Grade A	31.2
Senior Officer Grade B	42.6
Senior Officer Grade C	51.0
Administrative Services Officer Class 6	63.4
Administrative Services Officer Class 5	31.2
Administrative Services Officer Class 4	21.3
Administrative Services Officer Class 3	1
Administrative Services Officer Class 2	0.1
Graduate Administrative Assistant	3

* Note: All full time equivalent staff paid on 21 November, including those on long-term leave whose positions may be back-filled, and staff paid in the period, but who have now ceased with the Directorate.

- (2) Vacant positions as at 21 November 2012. For all positions, recruitment action was in process or imminent:

Classification	Number
Senior Officer Grade A	2
Senior Officer Grade B	2
Senior Officer Grade C	2
Administrative Services Officer Class 6	1
Administrative Services Officer Class 4	1

**Political parties—agreements
(Question No 8)**

Mr Seselja asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What is the breakdown of the recurrent and capital cost of all initiatives agreed to in the Labor-Greens Parliamentary Agreement for 2013-14 to 2016 17.
- (2) What initiatives included in the agreement have funding that continues beyond the forward estimates.

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

- (1) Any cost details associated with the agreed initiatives will be announced as part of the tabling of the Annual Budget.
 - (2) See the above answer.
-

**Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—projects
(Question No 9)**

Mr Seselja asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) Before the restructure what projects or initiatives did the Directorate have planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage.
- (2) What was the cost associated with each project or initiative.
- (3) What was the estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project or initiative.

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

In relation to Treasury:

- (1) The Directorate occupies leased premises in the Canberra Nara Centre. The Directorate is cooperating with the building owner through a multi-year building services upgrade project to improve the building's energy/resource efficiency, involving plant and equipment upgrades.

Internally the Directorate continues a program to improve energy/resource efficiency, including participation in the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate's *OfficeSmart* sustainability program and providing a range of recycling services for paper, cardboard, organic material, comingled recycling, toner cartridges, batteries and mobile phones.

- (2) Nara Centre upgrade costs are the building owner's responsibility. Internal resource efficiency activities are undertaken as part of day to day Directorate operations at no additional cost.
- (3) Not able to be quantified at this stage.

In relation to Shared Services:

- (1) The Directorate has an initiative in progress to upgrade ACTPS data centre infrastructure. A significant component of this initiative will be the move to more energy efficient infrastructure.
- (2) Nil to date.
- (3) The current data centre facilities are inefficient by current industry standards and have an average Power Usage Efficiency (PUE) in excess of 1.9. Planned new facilities are expected to have a PUE of less than 1.6, which represents a 16% reduction in projected power usage all else being equal. In addition to this, server virtualisation is maximising the processing power realised from each physical and powered server.

Political parties—agreements (Question No 10)

Mr Seselja asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 29 November 2012
(*redirected to the Minister for Education and Training*):

What is the expected financial impact on industry to increase the Building and Construction Training Levy to 0.3% as per the Labor-Greens Parliamentary Agreement.

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

The financial impact of the change will be a 0.1% increase.

The levy is charged at the point of the development application to the ACT Planning and Land Authority.

This is intended to raise additional funds to support the building and construction industry in a range of ways, including ongoing training in workplace health and safety. The Inquiry into Compliance with Work Health and Safety Requirements in the ACT's Construction Industry has found that the industry would benefit from increased effective work health and safety training.

**Political parties—agreements
(Question No 11)**

Mr Seselja asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What is the expected cost of establishing a Community Legal Centre Hub as agreed to in the Labor-Greens Parliamentary Agreement.
- (2) When is it anticipated that funding for this initiative will begin.
- (3) What will the funding allocated in the 2012-13 budget for the relocation of the Woman's Legal Centre be used for, given the new Labor-Greens Parliamentary Agreement.

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

- 1) The cost of the proposed hub will not be known until suitable premises have been identified.

The ACT Government's Community Legal Centre Hub Feasibility Study, tabled in March 2012, presents broadly framed options and very approximate costs of those options.

- 2) Funding is a matter for consideration by Cabinet.
- 3) The new commitment to establishing a CLC hub overtakes the previous allocation in the 2012-13 Budget for the relocation of the Women's Legal Centre. This matter will be further considered by Government.

**Environment—carbon neutral fund
(Question No 12)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many applications has the Carbon Neutral Fund received to date.
- (2) How many projects or initiatives have been successful and what (a) are the details of each successful project or initiative, (b) is the cost of each project or initiative and (c) is the estimated loan repayment period for each project or initiative.
- (3) How many projects or initiatives are currently being considered.

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

- (1) Three applications were received and considered by the Assessment Panel for Round 1 of the Carbon Neutral Government Fund (the Fund). Applications for Round 1 closed on 8 November 2012.
- (2) One project was recommended for funding and a memorandum of understanding is in negotiation for that project currently.

- a. The “LED lighting upgrades at 28 Government buildings” project coordinated by ACT Property Group, TAMSD was recommended for a loan of \$1,764,758 (excluding GST). Once implemented, the project is estimated to save around 3,710 megawatt hours of electricity per year, this equates to at least 30 per cent electricity savings at most of the 28 project sites.
 - b. The loan is to be repaid to the Fund over four years.
- (3) Three applications were considered in Round 1 of the Fund. Applications for Round 2 of the Fund will open early in 2013.

**National
(Question No 13)**

Arboretum

Canberra—insurance

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) Which elements of the Arboretum are currently covered by insurance.
- (2) What is the annual cost to the Territory for this insurance.
- (3) If any elements of the Arboretum are not currently insured, why not.

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

- (1) Throughout the construction phase the National Arboretum Canberra has been fully insured for property and public liability risks under a Principal Arranged Construction Works insurance policy similar to other construction projects.

Once buildings and other assets are passed from the principal contractor to the Government they are covered under the normal property and public liability insurance arrangements with the ACT Insurance Authority (ACTIA).

- (2) Insurance premiums paid from 23 March 2011 to date for the Principal Arranged Construction Works insurance policy amount to \$250,784 (GST inclusive).

New assets coming off the Principal Arranged Construction Works insurance policy have been included under the Territory’s existing ACTIA property insurance coverage at no further cost to the Territory for the 2012-13 financial year.

The ACTIA premium will be reassessed when the policy is next renewed on 30 June 2013.

- (3) The insurance mentioned above does not cover growing trees. Public amenity trees, that have not commercial value, such as those in the National Arboretum Canberra, are not insured in the ACT.

**Health Directorate—staff
(Question No 14)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many staff are employed at each level in the Directorate.
- (2) Are there any vacancies in the Directorate; if so, at what levels are the vacancies.

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

- (1) The number of staff employed in the Health Directorate by job group as at 21 November 2012, was:

Job Group	Headcount
Administration Officers	896
Dental	14
Executive Officers	21
General Service Officers	451
Health Assistants	48
Allied Health Professionals	982
Information Technology	2
Medical Officers	726
Nursing Staff	2545
Professional Officers	18
Senior Officers	358
Technical officers	210
Teachers	1
Total	6272

- (2) Job vacancies are available on the ACT Health Directorate website <http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health> and other forums as appropriate eg medical and nursing journals.

**Economic Development Directorate—staff
(Question No 15)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many staff are employed at each level in the Directorate.
- (2) Are there any vacancies in the Directorate; if so, at what levels are the vacancies.

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

- (1) The following attachments provide the number of staff employed at each level of the Directorate. The data has been provided by Shared Services and is based on the pay period ending 21 November 2012.

- (2) All job vacancies are available on the ACT Government Jobs website:
<http://www.jobs.act.gov.au>.

Economic Development Directorate

Classification	Description	FTE
APP	Apprentice	1.0
ASO1	Admin Service Officer 1	1.0
ASO2	Admin Service Officer 2	3.4
ASO3	Admin Service Officer 3	4.0
ASO4	Admin Service Officer 4	11.0
ASO5	Admin Service Officer 5	20.2
ASO6	Admin Service Officer 6	36.3
CE	Contract Executive	13.0
GAA	Graduate Admin Asst	2.0
GSO3/4	General Service Off 3/4	3.0
GSO5/6	General Service Off 5/6	0.9
GSO7	General Service Off 7	3.0
IT	Indigenous Trainee	2.0
PO1	Professional Officer 1	2.7
PO2	Professional Service 2	3.0
RNG1	Park Ranger 1	4.0
SOA	Senior Officer A	23.6
SOB	Senior Officer B	32.4
SOC	Senior Officer C	39.2
SPOC	Senior Prof Officer C	1.2
TEO6	Tourism & Events Off 6	1.0
TO2	Technical Officer 2	2.0
TO3	Technical Officer 3	3.0
TO4	Technical Officer 4	2.0
		214.8

Land Development Agency

Classification	Description	FTE
ASO2	Admin Service Officer 2	2.0
ASO4	Admin Service Officer 4	5.8
ASO5	Admin Service Officer 5	6.8
ASO6	Admin Service Officer 6	11.6
CE	Contract Executive	3.0
GAA	Graduate Admin Asst	2.0
SOA	Senior Officer A	14.6
SOB	Senior Officer B	22.8
SOC	Senior Officer C	23.2
		91.8

Community Service Directorate—staff (Question No 16)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Community Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many staff are employed at each level in the Directorate.
- (2) Are there any vacancies in the Directorate; if so, at what levels are the vacancies.

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

- (1) In Community Services there are 23 staff consisting,

Senior Officer Grade B	4
Senior Officer Grade C	4
Administrative Officer Class 6	7
Administrative Officer Class 5	4
Administrative Officer Class 2	4

- (2) All job vacancies are available on the ACT Government Jobs website:
<http://www.jobs.act.gov.au>.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate—staff (Question No 17)

Mr Seselja asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many staff are employed at each level in the Directorate.
- (2) Are there any vacancies in the Directorate; if so, at what levels are the vacancies.

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

- (1) The following table provides the number of staff employed at each level of the Directorate, including ACT Corrective Services and Public Trustee for the ACT. The data has been provided by Shared Services and is based on the pay period ending 21 November 2012.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Classification	Description	FTE
AM1	Ambulance Manager 1	1.0
AM2	Ambulance Manager 2	14.6
AMBSO1	Ambulance Support Off 1	22.1
AMBSO2	Ambulance Support Off 2	6.1
AP	Ambulance Paramedic	21.5
ASO1	Admin Service Officer 1	2.1
ASO2	Admin Service Officer 2	60.7
ASO3	Admin Service Officer 3	121.1
ASO4	Admin Service Officer 4	123.8

ASO5	Admin Service Officer 5	103.6
ASO6	Admin Service Officer 6	157.5
CE	Contract Executive	37.0
COM	Communications Officer	4.0
COR1	Correctional Officer 1	120.3
COR2	Correctional Officer 2	24.0
COR3	Correctional Officer 3	6.0
COR4	Correctional Officer 4	3.0
CORT	Correctional Trainee	6.0
FB2	Fire Brigade 2	46.0
FB3	Fire Brigade 3	1.0
FB4	Fire Brigade 4	32.0
FB5	Fire Brigade 5	155.0
FB6	Fire Brigade 6	93.0
FB7	Fire Brigade 7	18.0
FB8	Fire Brigade 8	5.0
GAA	Graduate Admin Asst	7.0
GPI	Graduate Paramedic Inter	11.0
GS10	General Service Off 10	3.0
GSO5	General Service Off 5	1.0
GSO7	General Service Off 7	5.0
GSO8	General Service Off 8	12.0
HPO2	Health Prof Officer 2	2.5
HPO3	Health Prof Officer 3	5.4
HPO4	Health Prof Officer 4	1.0
ICP1	Intensive Care Paramed 1	45.9
ICP2	Intensive Care Paramed 2	44.6
IT	Indigenous Trainee	3.0
	Judicial Officers	11.0
LG1	Legal 1	41.8
LG2	Legal 2	35.8
PL1	Paralegal 1	2.6
PL2	Paralegal 2	4.8
PL3	Paralegal 3	6.0
PO2	Professional Officer 2	5.3
PRO1	Prosecutor Grade 1	10.1
PRO2	Prosecutor Grade 2	8.8
PRO3	Prosecutor Grade 3	5.8
PRO4	Prosecutor Grade 4	7.0
PRO5	Prosecutor Grade 5	3.0
RO1	Research Officer 1	1.0
SITB	Senior Info Tech Off B	1.0
SOA	Senior Officer A	26.1
SOB	Senior Officer B	61.6
SOC	Senior Officer C	128.9
	Statutory Office Holders	11.0
SP	Student Paramedic	15.0
SPOA	Senior Prof Officer A	1.6
SPOB	Senior Prof Officer B	4.0
SPOC	Senior Prof Officer C	3.0

TO3	Technical Officer 3	3.9
TO4	Technical Officer 4	1.0
TRO1	Trust Officer Level 1	15.0
TRO2	Trust Officer Level 2	8.4
WCMC	Work Cover Manager C	2.0
WCO4	Work Cover Officer 4	1.0
WCO6	Work Cover Officer 6	19.8
		1772.1

- (2) All job vacancies are available on the ACT Government Jobs website:
<http://www.jobs.act.gov.au>.

Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate—staff (Question No 18)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many staff are employed at each level in the Directorate.
 (2) Are there any vacancies in the Directorate; if so, at what levels are the vacancies.

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

- (1) As at 5 December 2012, the Directorate employed 469 full time equivalent (FTE) at the following equivalent classification

Classification	Number (FTE)
Administrative Service Officer Class 2	10
Administrative Service Officer Class 3	35
Administrative Service Officer Class 4	37
Administrative Service Officer Class 5	57
Administrative Service Officer Class 6	125
Senior Officer Grade C	113
Senior Officer Grade B	51
Senior Officer Grade A	30
Executive	11
Total	469

- (2) All job vacancies are available on the ACT Government Jobs website:
<http://www.jobs.act.gov.au>.

Education and Training Directorate—staff (Question No 19)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many staff are employed at each level in the Directorate.

(2) Are there any vacancies in the Directorate; if so, at what levels are the vacancies.

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

1) The information presented for the Education and Training Directorate is the paid headcount and full time equivalent as at 21 November 2012.

Classification Level	Full Time Equivalent	Headcount
Director General	1	1
Deputy Director General	1	1
Executive Director	3	3
Director	11	11
Senior Professional Officer A	2	2
Senior Professional Officer B	1	1
Senior Professional Officer C	0.8	1
Senior Officer Grade A	14.3	15
Senior Officer Grade B	27.7	30
Senior Officer Grade C	71.6	74
Senior Information Technology Officer C	1	1
Information Technology Officer Class 2	5	5
Information Technology Officer Class 1	20.2	23
Administrative Service Officer Class 6	62	65
Administrative Service Officer Class 5	96.1	100
Administrative Service Officer Class 4	75.5	78
Administrative Service Officer Class 3	31.6	32
Administrative Service Officer Class 2	5.7	21
Administrative Service Officer Class 1	0.5	1
Graduate Administrative Assistant	1	1
Indigenous Trainee	1.85	2
School Leader A	104.1	106
School Leader B	133	135
School Leader C	482.3	492
Classroom Teacher	2566.6	2803
Experienced Casual Teacher	120.1	271
Casual Teacher 4yr Trained	124.7	238
Casual Teacher 3yr Trained	4.5	9
Teacher Interns	8.7	12
School Assistant 4	18.2	20
School Assistant 3	31.3	38
School Assistant 2/3	347.6	470
School Assistant 2	297.4	406
Casual School Assistant 2	94.5	238
Building Service Officer 1	100.1	105
Building Service Officer 3	3	3
General Service Officer 10	1	1
General Service Officer 8	2	2
General Service Officer 5	1.5	2
General Service Officer 4	0.6	1

Disability Support Officer 2	1.92	2
Health Professional Officer 3	2.8	3
School Counsellor 3	8.5	10
School Counsellor 2	3.3	4
School Counsellor 1	5	6

- 2) All job vacancies are available on the ACT Government Jobs website:
<http://www.jobs.act.gov.au>.

Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—staff (Question No 20)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many staff are employed at each level in the Directorate.
- (2) Are there any vacancies in the Directorate; if so, at what levels are the vacancies.

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

- (1) As at pay period ending 21 November 2012, the Directorate employed staff in the following classifications:

Classification	FTE	Headcount
Apprentice	13.0	13
Apprentice Workshop	9.0	9
Administrative Services Officer 1	2.0	2
Administrative Services Officer 2	27.7	34
Administrative Services Officer 3	94.6	102
Administrative Services Officer 4	63.6	67
Administrative Services Officer 5	44.4	45
Administrative Services Officer 6	97.4	101
Bus Operator	559.3	622
Bus Operator In Training	16.3	29
Contract Chief Executive	1.0	1
Contract Executive	18.0	18
Linen Services (CLS Band) 1	33.5	35
Linen Services (CLS Band) 2	5.0	5
Linen Services (CLS Band) 3	3.0	3
Linen Services (CLS Band) 4	5.0	5
Linen Services (CLS Band) 5	6.7	7
Linen Services (CLS Band) 6	2.0	2
Linen Services (CLS Band) 7	3.0	3
Linen Services (CLS Band) 8	1.0	1
Linen Services (CLS Band) 9	1.0	1
General Service Officer 2	13.4	20
General Service Officer 3/4	112.8	117
General Service Officer 4	27.5	33

General Service Officer 5	25.6	33
General Service Officer 5/6	117.7	120
General Service Officer 6	8.0	8
General Service Officer 7	85.0	85
General Service Officer 8	17.0	17
General Service Officer 9	20.0	20
General Service Officer 10	7.0	7
Professional Officer 1	21.5	24
Professional Officer 2	16.0	16
Ranger 1*	5.0	5
Ranger 2*	15.0	15
Ranger 3*	8.1	9
Senior Information Technology Officer B	1.0	1
Senior Officer A	25.0	25
Senior Officer B	50.8	51
Senior Officer C	87.6	90
Senior Professional Officer A	10.8	11
Senior Professional Officer B	9.8	10
Senior Professional Officer C	21.7	23
Senior Officer (Technical) C	5.0	5
Technical Officer 1	2.0	2
Technical Officer 2	8.0	8
Technical Officer 3	33.6	36
Technical Officer 4	43.0	43
Transport Officer 2	8.8	9
Transport Officer 3	29.6	32
Transport Officer 4	4.0	4
Veterinary Officer 3	1.0	1
Total	1847.8	1985

* Rangers are also employed under the Technical Officer classification structure.

The Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and Headcount figures represent a point in time and are subject to variation according to workforce requirements.

Machinery of Government changes resulting from the *Administrative Arrangements 2012 (No 2)* are not reflected in the payroll system yet and are therefore not reflected in these figures.

(2) Current vacancies are available through the jobs ACT website www.jobs.act.gov.au.

Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—expenditure (Question No 21)

Mr Seselja asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What has been the Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel.
- (2) What is the estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1).

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

(1) (2)

Item	Expenditure to 1 November 2012	Estimated Yearly Expenditure
(a) Advertising	\$5,018	\$17,500
(b) Consultants and contractors	\$2,047,580	\$8,656,885
(c) Stationery and printing	\$224,702	\$337,915
(d) Hospitality	\$2,019	\$141,200
(e) Travel	\$113,912	\$203,867
(f) Business class travel	\$0	\$0

Notes:

- (a) Total advertising expenditure incurred by the Centenary of Canberra Project (80.3%);
- (b) Total consultants and contractors expenditure incurred by the Centenary of Canberra Project (92.6%);
- (c) Total stationery and printing expenditure incurred by the Centenary of Canberra Project (92.5%);
- (d) Total hospitality expenditure incurred by the Centenary of Canberra Project (96.3%);
- (e) Total travel expenditure incurred by the Centenary of Canberra Project (56.1%).

Health Directorate—expenditure (Question No 22)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2012
(*redirected to the Acting Minister for Health*):

- (1) What has been the Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel.
- (2) What is the estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1).

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

- (1) The Directorate's expenditure in 2012-13 (as at 1 November 2012) for the categories requested is:
 - (a) advertising \$0.181m (includes promotions, displays, signage and artwork).
Expenditure to 1 November 2012 is lower than pro-rata budget mainly due to timing of contract negotiations with non-government organisations that provide health promotion programs;
 - (b) consultants and contractors \$1.660m (includes information technology resources);
 - (c) stationery and printing \$0.659m;
 - (d) hospitality \$0.087m;
 - (e) travel \$0.522m (includes taxi usage within the ACT, airfares and accommodation);
and

(f) Business class travel \$0.016m.

(2) Estimated yearly expenditure for the same category is:

(a) advertising \$1.403m;

(b) consultants and contractors \$5.246m;

(c) stationery and printing \$2.335m;

(d) hospitality \$0.338m;

(e) travel \$1.134m; and

(f) This type of travel is included in the overall travel estimate (\$1.134m).

Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—expenditure (Question No 23)

Mr Seselja asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

(1) What has been the Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel.

(2) What is the estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1).

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

(1) Treasury Directorate's (including Shared Services, Home Loan Portfolio, ACT Insurance Authority, Superannuation Provision Account and Territory Banking Account) expenditure on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel for the year to date 1 November 2012 was as follows:

Expenditure	\$000s
Advertising	530
Consultants and Contractors	13,900
Stationary and Printing	131
Hospitality	9
Travel	59
Business Class Travel	3

(2) Prior to the Administrative Arrangements announced on 9th of November 2012, Treasury Directorate's (including Shared Services, Home Loan Portfolio, ACT Insurance Authority, Superannuation Provision Account and Territory Banking Account) estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1) was as follows:

Expenditure	\$000s
Advertising	1,621
Consultants and Contractors	46,574
Stationary and Printing	714
Hospitality	26
Travel	242
Business Class Travel	3

**Economic Development Directorate—expenditure
(Question No 24)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What has been the Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel.
- (2) What is the estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1).

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

- (1) (a) \$1.969 million (including marketing)
(b) \$2.917 million
(c) \$94,000
(d) \$58,000
(e) \$88,100
(f) \$10,900
- (2) (a) \$4.834 million (including marketing)
(b) \$9.135 million
(c) \$126,000
(d) \$53,000
(e) \$349,000
(f) \$0

Note: The above figures do not include statutory agencies in the Economic Development Portfolio (ie Land Development Agency, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission and Exhibition Park Corporation).

**Community Services Directorate—expenditure
(Question No 25)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Community Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What has been the Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel.
- (2) What is the estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1).

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

- (1) The Directorate's expenditure in relation to my portfolio as Minister for Community Services, as at 1 November 2012, is as follow:
- (a) Advertising - \$ 808
 - (b) consultants and contractors - \$ 119,346
 - (c) stationery and printing - \$ 15,614
 - (d) hospitality - \$ 737
 - (e) travel - \$ 137
 - (f) business class travel - Nil
- (2) Estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1) is as follow:
- (a) Advertising - \$ 2,500
 - (b) consultants and contractors - \$ 180,000
 - (c) stationery and printing - \$ 40,000
 - (d) hospitality - \$ 3,000
 - (e) travel - \$ 2,000
 - (f) business class travel - Nil

Justice and Community Safety Directorate—expenditure (Question No 26)

Mr Seselja asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What has been the Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel.
- (2) What is the estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1).

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

- 1) The Directorate's expenditure on advertising, consultants and contractors, stationery and printing, hospitality, travel and business class travel, as at 1 Nov 12, is as follows:

	(a) Advertising \$'000	(b) Consultants and Contractors \$'000	(c) Stationery and Printing \$'000	(d) Hospitality \$'000	(e) Travel \$'000 (Incl. Business Class Travel)	(f) Business Class Travel \$'000
Actual	106	826	439	7	299	35

The Directorate's expenditure on business class travel, excluding Public Trustee, was \$34,557, of which \$32,668 was judicial related travel.

- 2) Budget expenditure for advertising, consultants and contractors, stationery and printing, hospitality, and travel is managed within the general Supplies and Services budget as outlined in the JACS Directorate Chapter of the 2012-13 Budget Paper No. 4.

Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate—expenditure (Question No 27)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What has been the Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel.
- (2) What is the estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1).

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

	(1) Actual (\$'000)	(2) Estimated Expenditure (\$'000)
(a) Advertising (incl. Public Notices)	289	1,195
(b) Consultants and Contractors	2,581	12,984
(c) Stationery and Printing	186	577
(d) Hospitality	3	6
(e) Travel	54	195

(f) The Directorate does not record business travel separately. All business travel costs are included in answer (e) however as business class travel is not permitted except for executives travelling for longer than 4 hours, business class travel would represent a very small proportion of the total travel expenditure.

Education and Training Directorate—expenditure (Question No 28)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What has been the Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel.
- (2) What is the estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1).

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

- 1) The table below provides the expenditure as at 1 November 2012 and the estimated yearly expenditure for the requested items.

Directorate Expenditure	As at 1 November 2012 \$m	Forecast Expenditure 2012- 13 \$m
Advertising	0.031	0.143
Consultants and Contractors ¹	0.439	3.869
Stationery and Printing	0.255	1.098
Hospitality	0.001	0.002
Travel ²	0.179	0.517
Business Class Travel	0.000	0.000

Notes

1. In addition to existing contractors, this also includes anticipated expenditure associated with National Partnership Programs in 2012-13.
2. Travel costs include domestic, international, parking, taxi fares, vehicle hire, accommodation etc.
3. The expenditure in the table excludes school based expenditure. Schools maintain their own data and details of expenditure is consolidated in the Directorate's accounts at summary level only. Therefore, school information cannot be provided.

Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—expenditure (Question No 29)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What has been the Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on (a) advertising, (b) consultants and contractors, (c) stationery and printing, (d) hospitality, (e) travel and (f) business class travel.
- (2) What is the estimated yearly expenditure for each item listed in part (1).

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

- (1) The Directorate's expenditure, as at 1 November 2012, on
 - (a) advertising - \$0.154m
 - (b) consultants and contractors - \$5.501m
 - (c) stationery and printing - \$0.240m
 - (d) hospitality - \$0.003m
 - (e) travel - \$0.031m
 - (f) the financial system does not support reporting at the level of class of travel.
- (2) The estimated yearly expenditure for:
 - (a) advertising - \$0.932m
 - (b) consultants and contractors - \$13.804m
 - (c) stationery and printing - \$0.631m
 - (d) hospitality - \$0.004m
 - (e) travel - \$0.157m
 - (f) the financial system does not support reporting at the level of class of travel.

**Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—energy usage
(Question No 30)**

Mr Seselja asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What projects or initiatives does the Directorate have planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage.
- (2) What is the cost associated with each project or initiative.
- (3) What is the estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project or initiative.

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

- (1) The Directorate occupies leased premises in the Canberra Nara Centre. The Directorate is cooperating with the building owner through a multi-year building services upgrade project to improve the building's energy/resource efficiency, involving plant and equipment upgrades.

Internally the Directorate continues a program to improve energy/resource efficiency, including participation in the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate's *OfficeSmart* sustainability program; actively promoting a range of recycling services for paper, cardboard, organic material, comingled recycling, toner cartridges, batteries and mobile phones; investigating efficient lighting replacements; and expanding the use of electronic circulation of documents rather than printed copies.

- (2) Nara Centre upgrade costs are the building owner's responsibility. Internal resource efficiency activities are undertaken as part of day to day Directorate operations at no additional cost.
- (3) Not able to be quantified at this stage.

**Health Directorate—energy usage
(Question No 31)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What projects or initiatives does the Directorate have planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage.
- (2) What is the cost associated with each project or initiative.
- (3) What is the estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project or initiative.

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

- (1) Projects planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage are:
 - a. Boiler Heat Recovery and Burner Management System – replacing old inefficient systems with new more efficient units (to complete work which started in the 2011-12 financial year);

- b. Lighting control systems – installing motion sensors on lights in Building 23 administration areas in order that lights are not left on when the offices are vacant;
 - c. Connection of meters to the Building Management System (BMS) – to allow sub-metering of buildings/areas on the Canberra Hospital campus; and
 - d. Installation of electrical vehicle charging points.
- (2) The estimated cost associated with each project is:
- a. Boiler Heat Recovery and Burner Management System – \$35,000;
 - b. Lighting control systems – \$20,000;
 - c. Connection of meters to the BMS – \$35,000; and
 - d. Installation of electrical vehicle charging points – \$10,000.
- (3) Reduction in energy savings is expected to result from these projects, however the quantum of the reduction is very difficult to estimate.
- a. Boiler Heat Recovery and Burner Management System
It is expected that the energy saving by this system will be in the order of 8-15%.
 - b. - d. It is not possible to individually estimate the reduction in energy use for the projects.
-

Economic Development Directorate—energy usage (Question No 32)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What projects or initiatives does the Directorate have planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage.
- (2) What is the cost associated with each project or initiative.
- (3) What is the estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project or initiative.

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

- (1) Seven sites within the Directorate have registered with the ACTSmart Government Energy and Water Program. All sites will undergo an Energy and Water Assessment by an Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate assessor. A comprehensive report identifying areas where sites can improve energy (and water) efficiency, with data on estimated cost and resource savings and greenhouse gas reductions, will be received. It is anticipated that site assessments will be completed by the end of December 2012.

- (2) Assessments will be completed at no cost to the Directorate. By registering with the program the Directorate has agreed to commit to implementing the no cost energy (and water) efficiency measures identified for each site that are consistent with the government's sustainability objectives. Information and specific data will also assist the Directorate in seeking funding from the recently created Carbon Neutral Fund.
- (3) The estimated reduction in usage as a result of the program will not be known until the assessment process has been finalised and reports from each site assessment have been received by the Directorate.

Community Services Directorate—energy usage (Question No 33)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Community Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What projects or initiatives does the Directorate have planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage.
- (2) What is the cost associated with each project or initiative.
- (3) What is the estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project or initiative.

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

1. In 2012-13 the Community Services Directorate is delivering initiatives to reduce energy usage in Community Facilities through the "Go Energy Smart Program" and lighting upgrades at four centres. The works to be carried out under the Go Energy Smart Program will provide energy efficient lighting, lighting control systems, mechanical upgrades, smart energy management systems and building fabric upgrades.

The lighting upgrades will be undertaken at Ginninderra Community Hall, Woden Youth Centre, Erindale Youth Centre and The Junction Youth Centre.

2. The Go Energy Smart Program and the lighting upgrades together cost \$0.357 million in 2012-13. This will be funded by a combination of a loan from of \$0.84 million from the Economic and Sustainable Development Directorate through the Resource Management Fund and a grant from the Commonwealth of \$0.84 million as part of a four year program of \$3.205 million. The detailed cost of each site is:

Junction Youth Centre	\$5,000
Ginninderra Community Hall	\$3,368
Woden Youth Centre	\$14,989
Erindale Youth Centre	\$6,115
Holt Community Centre	\$1,445,327
Griffin Centre	\$250,983
Southside Community Centre	\$137,086
Chifley Community Hub	\$1,408,896
Pearce Community Centre	\$337,536

Cook Community Hub	\$1,057,617
Calwell Community Centre	\$172,100
Downer Community Centre	\$90,925
Weston Creek Community Hub	\$1,178,794
Majura Community Centre	\$166,744
Conder Community Centre	\$109,300
Weston Community Centre	\$168,578

3. Under the 'Go Energy Smart Program', the total expected energy savings for the 12 identified community centres is:

- Electricity 40% savings of 624,900 kWh/annum;
- Gas 60% saving of 6,360 GJ/annum; and
- CO2 emissions 46% savings of 1,082,150 kgCO2/annum.

The energy savings adhered will be reviewed throughout the roll-out of the work and will depend on a variety of factors including the behaviour of tenants.

The total cost under this program should not be attributed to energy efficiency measures alone, to calculate the payback period, as it includes capital upgrades as part of the property management. By integrating energy efficiency measures as part of the life cycle management of the property, the Community Services Directorate is taking a true sustainable approach to maintaining its portfolio.

Under the Resource Management Fund initiatives, the energy saving is 30%, where electricity saving is 431,956 kWh/annum and the CO2 emissions saving is 208,106 kgCO2/annum. The payback period under this initiative is approximately 5 years including savings in maintenance and management.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate—energy usage (Question No 34)

Mr Seselja asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What projects or initiatives does the Directorate have planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage.
- (2) What is the cost associated with each project or initiative.
- (3) What is the estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project or initiative.

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

In accordance with the ACT Government's Sustainability Policy, People, Place and Prosperity, and commitment to the ACT Climate Change Strategy, Weathering the Change, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) is undertaking a program of works targeted at providing more Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) across the Directorate.

In the 2012-13 financial year the Directorate has allocated \$220,000 in capital upgrade funding to continue the delivery of the energy efficiency measures.

The following table provides detail on the projects / initiatives currently being delivered.

Site	Project	Estimated Cost (excl GST)	Estimated reduction in energy usage
Ainslie Fire Station (1)	Inverter for installation of solar panels, structural engineer / building certifier costs	\$56,000	25% Estimated payback of 6 years
Ainslie Fire Station	Integrated lighting control System	\$29,500	30% Estimated payback 5.6 years
Alexander Maconochie Centre	Electrical and lighting consultant – provision of technical advice and scope of works in accordance with energy audit report.	\$8,000	Technical advice
Alexander Maconochie Centre	Lighting control system upgrade	\$74,800	30 to 50% to modified areas
255 Canberra Avenue (2)	LED Lighting Upgrade - Joint project with Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMS).	\$17,000	55%
Magistrates Court	Installation of solar window insulation film.	\$3,000	Seasonal change energy savings generated by heat reduction / heat retention, glare reduction and 99% UV Protection
Magistrates Court	LED lighting upgrades	\$23,500	70% to modified areas
Magistrates Court	Chambers 7 & 8 T5 Lighting upgrade	\$5,200	40% to modified areas
12 Moore Street	Installation of lighting sensors	\$3,000	30% to modified areas

1. Ainslie Fire Station Solar Panels – continuation of work commenced 2011-2012

2. 255 Canberra Avenue – continuation of work commenced 2011-2012

Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate—energy usage (Question No 35)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What projects or initiatives does the Directorate have planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage.
- (2) What is the cost associated with each project or initiative.
- (3) What is the estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project or initiative.

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

The following should be seen in the context of significant energy reduction projects undertaken at Dame Pattie Menzies House (DPMH) which have achieved an overall reduction in tenant power consumption over the period 2005-06 to 2010-11 of almost 60% (refer ESDD Annual Report 2011-12, page 273)

- (1) The Directorate is undertaking the following additional projects to reduce energy usage:
 - a. Delamp DPMH to just above Australian lux reading standards.
 - b. Install infrared sensors to all office/meeting rooms
 - (2) The costs associated with each project is as follows:
 - a. Less than \$2000.00
 - b. Less than \$5000.00
 - (3) It is estimated that these projects will achieve a further ten per cent reduction in electricity consumption over 2005-06 levels.
-

Education and Training Directorate—energy usage (Question No 36)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What projects or initiatives does the Directorate have planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage.
- (2) What is the cost associated with each project or initiative.
- (3) What is the estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project or initiative.

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

- 1) The Education and Training Directorate's focus is on assisting ACT public schools towards achieving carbon neutrality. The major program in the 2012-13 year is the installation of roof mounted photovoltaic (solar panel) systems at all schools. A minimum 10 kilowatt (10kW) system is being installed at primary schools and a minimum 20kW system is being installed at high schools and colleges.

In addition, the Directorate is installing data monitoring systems to record and report the consumption of electricity, gas and water and the generation of solar energy. This will be used for school business management purposes as well as student learning.

Other environmental sustainable programs and initiatives being implemented by the Directorate include:

- Carbon Neutral School Program which will include installation and upgrade of insulation, and installation of energy efficient lighting at ten schools
- a trial of solar tubes at four schools
- a trial of water refill stations at five schools. A further five will be installed as part of the capital works projects at those sites.

- PC Power Management Software across all student personal computers (16,756 computers)
- artificial sport fields and play areas at five schools
- installation of water tanks connected to the Canberra urban waterway system with the designs being prepared for three schools
- solar lights at Palmerston District Primary School.

The Directorate is seeking access to the 'ACT Carbon Neutral Government' fund and the Australian Government 'Local Government Efficiency Program' to undertake other projects during the 2012-13 year.

Further, the Directorate works with the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI) team to develop and deliver environmental sustainable programs and resources to all ACT schools.

2) The costs and program funding for the environmental sustainable initiatives at ACT public schools include:

- solar panel systems – around \$4.9 million across all schools.
- Carbon Neutral School Program – \$3.5 million allocated over four years.
- solar tubes – estimated cost is \$146,192
- water refill stations – \$42,000.
- PC Power Management Software – \$192,694.
- artificial sport fields and play areas – around \$2.67 million.
- Canberra urban waterway system – estimated cost of \$300,000 for Lyneham High School.
- solar lights at Palmerston District Primary School – estimated cost of \$12,200.

3) The benefits of the environmental sustainable initiatives to be undertaken at ACT public schools are:

- solar panels – a 10kW system will generate a minimum of 15,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of energy per annum. Collectively, ACT public schools will generate around 1.962 million kWh per annum. This will provide an ongoing income stream for schools totalling around \$780,000 per annum (\$15.6 million over 20 years) to be reinvested by schools to further reduce carbon emissions.
- lighting upgrades – this work is expected to achieve energy savings of around 30 per cent.
- insulation – this work is expected to reduce energy costs by a further 20 per cent.
- PC Power Management – this is expected to reduce personal computer energy costs by around 60 per cent.

Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—energy usage (Question No 37)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What projects or initiatives does the Directorate have planned in the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage.
- (2) What is the cost associated with each project or initiative.
- (3) What is the estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project or initiative.

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

- (1) TAMS has the following projects and initiatives planned for the 2012-13 financial year to reduce energy usage:
 - a. lighting upgrade at Grant Cameron Community Centre;
 - b. LED lighting upgrade at TAMS Fyshwick offices;
 - c. ACT Property Group energy efficient lighting project upgrading lighting to LED's at various ACT Government buildings;
 - d. traffic light upgrades to LED lanterns. Seven sets of traffic lights will have new LED lanterns installed replacing old incandescent bulbs;
 - e. replace mercury vapour lamps. The contract has been awarded to replace 1,305 x 50 watt mercury vapour lamps with 26 watt compact fluorescent lamps and luminaires;
 - f. energy efficient lighting. The contract, to be awarded in December 2012, is to replace 1,700 x 50 watt mercury vapour lamps across the Territory with 26 watt compact fluorescent lamps and luminaires; and
 - g. arterial road lighting Isabella Drive. This project installs energy efficient lighting on arterial roads where lighting has not existed.
 - (2) The costs associated with each project/initiative is as follows:
 - a. estimated cost \$200,000;
 - b. estimated cost \$13,500 (excluding tubes);
 - c. estimated cost \$1,700,000;
 - d. budget \$150,000;
 - e. budget \$650,000;
 - f. budget \$1,200,000; and
 - g. budget \$22,000.
 - (3) The estimated reduction in energy usage as a result of the project/initiatives are as follows:
 - a. expected to produce a reduction of 30% on lighting circuits;
 - b. expected to produce a reduction of 30% on lighting circuits;
 - c. estimated energy savings of 10,000,000Kwh per annum;
 - d. the net energy savings associated with these changes will be 83%. Current energy usage 14,271 watts, new energy usage with LED lanterns 2,472 watts;
 - e. the total wattage saved per annum for this project will be 147,987 kilowatts;
 - f. the total wattage saved per annum for this project will be 192,780 kilowatts; and
 - g. the street light power use will increase when this project is constructed, but it uses voltage regulator technology in the luminaires which saves 31% of power consumption over conventional luminaires in this category.
-

**Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—accommodation
(Question No 38)**

Mr Seselja asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

Before the restructure what has been the total expense incurred by the Directorate, before the restructure, in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 to date, on staff accommodation including (i) capital and (ii) recurrent expenses.

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

The Directorate occupies leased premises in the Canberra Nara Centre.

(a) 2011-12 expenditure on rent and outgoings \$1.411m.

(b) 2012-13 expenditure to end November 2012 on rent and outgoings \$0.585m.

**Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate—accommodation
(Question No 39)**

Mr Seselja asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

Before the restructure what has been the total expense incurred by the Directorate, before the restructure, in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 to date, on staff accommodation including (i) capital and (ii) recurrent expenses.

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

(i) Capital expenses on staff accommodation:
2011-12 nil; and
2012-13 to date nil.

(ii) Recurrent expenses on staff accommodation:
2011-12 \$6.708 million; and
2012-13 to date \$2.814 million

**Health Directorate—accommodation
(Question No 40)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

What has been the total expense incurred by the Directorate in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 to date, on staff accommodation including (i) capital and (ii) recurrent expenses.

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

Most of the facilities which accommodate staff are owned by the Health Directorate and therefore do not attract rental or lease payments, with the exception of:

	2011-12	2012-13
	Full Year	Year to Date – Nov 12
1 Moore Street Building	\$2.807m	\$1.217m
11 Moore Street Building	\$1.297m	\$0.510m
North Curtin Offices	\$0.266m	\$0.228m
Village Creek	\$0.268m	\$0.115m

In addition, the Health Directorate spent \$0.113m of Capital Appropriation on the refurbishment of North Curtin Offices (former School) to accommodate Health staff.

The Health Directorate has not attempted to quantify a notional cost of staff accommodation within the owned buildings at the Canberra Hospital campus or in health centres and other facilities. Also, while the Health Infrastructure Program does allow for increases in staff accommodation, it is predominantly associated with increasing the clinical capacity of the health system.

Economic Development Directorate—accommodation (Question No 41)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

What has been the total expense incurred by the Directorate in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 to date, on staff accommodation including (i) capital and (ii) recurrent expenses.

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

- (a) (i) \$182,000
- (ii) \$1.892 million
- (b) (i) \$nil
- (ii) \$0.780 million

Note: The above figures do not include statutory agencies in the Economic Development Portfolio (ie Land Development Agency, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission and Exhibition Park Corporation).

Community Services Directorate—accommodation (Question No 42)

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Community Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

What has been the total expense incurred by the Directorate in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 to date, on staff accommodation including (i) capital and (ii) recurrent expenses.

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

(a)(i) In relation to the Directorate's accommodation, no major or minor capital works were completed in 2011-12, however the following refurbishment works were completed as repairs and maintenance:

- 11 Moore Street, Canberra – Additional work stations were installed utilising where possible recycled furniture at a cost of \$9000;
- Nature Conservation House at 153 Emu bank, Belconnen – In the space vacated by Gateway Services, 6 additional meeting rooms, an IT training room, kitchen and public toilets were built at a cost of \$710,890;
- Corner of Weingarth Street and Blackwood Terrace, Holder – Therapy ACT had 14 additional work stations installed. All furniture was recycled at a cost of \$2000.

(b)(i) In 2012-13 no major or minor capital works have been undertaken to date, however the following refurbishment works have been completed as repairs and maintenance:

- 11 Moore Street, Canberra – Additional work stations were installed. Where possible recycled furniture was incorporated. The cost of the work was \$112,208;
- Nature Conservation House at 153 Emu Bank, Belconnen – Additional workstations were installed at a cost of \$85,411;
- Swanson Plaza, Belconnen – A new air conditioning system is being installed. This work is at no cost to the Directorate as it forms part of the new lease agreement.

(a)(ii) Recurrent expenses for 2011-12: \$7,408.957 rent, electricity and outgoing

(b)(ii) Recurrent expenses for 2012-13: \$3,786.914 rent, electricity and outgoing

Justice and Community Safety Directorate—accommodation (Question No 43)

Mr Seselja asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

What has been the total expense incurred by the Directorate in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 to date, on staff accommodation including (i) capital and (ii) recurrent expenses.

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

The total staff accommodation expenses incurred by the Directorate in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to date are as follows:

	Capital \$'000	Recurrent Expenses (Excluding Depreciation \$'000
2011-12	186,632	14,405
2012-13 (as at 30 Nov 12)	46,603	5,823

As depreciation is a non-cash accounting treatment, these recurrent expenses have been excluded. If they were to be included the total recurrent expenses incurred are as follows:

	Recurrent Expenses (Including Depreciation) \$'000
2011-12	24,822
2012-13 (as at 30 Nov 12)	10,267

**Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate—accommodation
(Question No 44)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

What has been the total expense incurred by the Directorate in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 to date, on staff accommodation including (i) capital and (ii) recurrent expenses.

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

(1) The Directorate has spent the following on staff accommodation:

Accommodation Expenditure	(a) 2011-12 \$'000	(b) 2012-13 \$'000
(i) Capital*	128	0
(ii) Recurrent Expenditure	4,762	1,226

*Funded through the Resource Management Fund

**Education and Training Directorate—accommodation
(Question No 45)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Education and Training, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

What has been the total expense incurred by the Directorate in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 to date, on staff accommodation including (i) capital and (ii) recurrent expenses.

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

1) The table below provides the expenditure on staff accommodation for 2011-12 and 2012-13 to date.

Staff Accommodation	2011-12 \$m	2012-13 Year to Date \$m
Staff Accommodation - Recurrent	1.365	0.490
Capital Expenditure	0.000	0.179
Total	1.365	0.669

Notes

1. Staff accommodation includes building lease costs.
2. Capital expenditure includes any capital costs incurred at the Directorate's accommodation sites.
3. The expenditure in the table excludes school based expenditure. Schools maintain their own data and details of expenditure is consolidated in the Directorate's accounts at summary level only. As a result of this, school information cannot be provided.

**Territory and Municipal Services Directorate—accommodation
(Question No 46)**

Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

What has been the total expense incurred by the Directorate in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 to date, on staff accommodation including (i) capital and (ii) recurrent expenses.

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

(a) The total expense incurred by the Directorate in 2011-12 on staff accommodation is:

- i. \$1.6m
- ii. \$3.130m

(b) The total expense incurred by the Directorate in 2012-13 to end October 2012 on staff accommodation is:

- i. \$0.346m
- ii. \$0.975m

Staff accommodation has been interpreted as Head Office locations only, so includes Macarthur House and ACT Property Group non-operational locations.

**Roads—speed cameras
(Question No 47)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012 (*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

- (1) What is the (a) highest and (b) lowest average speed recorded by the point-to-point speed camera located on Hindmarsh Drive.
- (2) How many motorists were recorded as travelling (a) 10 to less than 15 km/h, (b) 15 to less than 30 km/h, (c) 30 to less than 45 km/h and (d) 45 km/h or more, over the average speed limit by the point-to-point speed camera located on Hindmarsh Drive since the commencement of operation.

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

- (1) (a) 123km/h
(b) 2.88km/h
- (2) (a) less than 15 km/h = 2823
(b) 15 to less than 30 km/h = 132
(c) 30 to less than 45 km/h = 8
(d) 45 km/h or more = 0

The above information is correct at 30 November 2012

Roads—funding (Question No 48)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) What portion of the overall capital budget is spent on road infrastructure.
- (2) What portion of the overall recurrent budget is spent on road maintenance.
- (3) In relation to parts (1) and (2), what portion is spent on (a) government administration and (b) external contractors.

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

- (1) \$147.5m of the capital works appropriation provided in the TAMS 2012-13 Budget of \$226.1m (65%), including capital upgrades, is related to roads and associated infrastructure.
- (2) \$16.1m of TAMS recurrent appropriation is allocated for expenditure on road maintenance in 2012-13 out of the total recurrent appropriation for TAMS of \$291.5m (5.5%).
- (3) (Part 1) Capital Works projects consist of the following types of expenses:
 - (a) Administration:
 - Shared Services Procurement costs
 - Internal salary costs
 - Employment agency costs
 - Training levy costs
 - Insurance costs
 - Development Approval costs, and
 - Permit costs.
 - (b) Other predominately external costs:
 - Superintendent costs
 - Site preparation and remediation costs
 - Construction costs

- Material and supply costs
- Technical costs
- Consultant costs
- Consultation, communication and meeting costs, and
- Landscaping costs.

Considerable resources are required to obtain a costing breakup for the above information for all capital works projects in the 2012-13 program.

Information on Government contractors is included in the 2011-12 annual report Volume 1 pages 267 – 275.

Note: Roads are also constructed by the Economic Development Directorate. These projects are not included in the above TAMS figures.

(Part 2) The estimated expenditure on road maintenance in 2012-13 is broken up as follows:

- (a) 7 % - administration and overheads; and
- (b) 71% - external contractors.

The remaining 22% of estimated expenditure relates to Road Maintenance Services (internal staff) performing maintenance work.

Trees—removal (Question No 49)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many hazardous trees have been identified for maintenance and/or pruning in the 2012-13 financial year to date, by suburb location.
- (2) What is the average waiting time for trees referred to in part (1) to be maintained and/or pruned.
- (3) How many contractors are involved in maintaining and pruning the trees referred to in part (1).
- (4) What was the total cost of the maintenance referred to in part (1).
- (5) How many dead, hazardous or trees identified as in irreversible decline have been removed on each day between 1 April 2012 to date.
- (6) How many contractors were involved in the removal of the trees referred to in part (5).
- (7) What was the total cost of the removal of trees referred to in part (5).
- (8) How many of the trees referred to in part (5) have (a) been replaced or (b) will be replaced.

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

- (1) Any tree that is assessed as hazardous by TAMS is removed.
79 hazardous trees have been removed from 1 July 2012 to 29 November 2012 from streets and parkland areas.

Attachment A provides details of the suburbs where hazardous trees have been removed from 1 July 2012 to 29 November 2012.
- (2) Trees that are assessed as hazardous are removed within 48 hours of notification.
- (3) In normal circumstances, TAMS does not use contractors to remove hazardous trees.
There were no contractors involved in removing hazardous trees mentioned in part (1).
- (4) The total cost of removing the 79 hazardous trees referred to in part (1) is estimated at \$42,000.
- (5) A total of 1671 trees were removed in the period 1 April 2012 to 29 November 2012.

Attachment B provides the details of how many trees were removed daily from 1 April 2012 to 29 November 2012.

- (6) One contractor was engaged by TAMS to remove 975 non hazardous trees during the period 1 April 2012 to 30 June 2012.
- (7) The total cost of removing the 1671 trees between 1 April 2012 and 29 November 2012 is estimated at \$560,000.
- (8) Approximately 2,000 trees will be planted in the urban area in the 2012-13 financial year as part of ongoing works programs.

TAMS aims to replace trees that are removed but sometimes tree removal and tree planting numbers do not align exactly for a number of reasons including:

- not all locations where trees are removed need to receive a replacement tree due to site factors such as the presence of services, competition from other trees, residents preference for no replacement tree and where undesirable weed species are removed;
- the timing of the seasonal planting programs does not align with tree removal programs; and
- issues associated with the supply of the tree types required for specific locations.

ATTACHMENT A

Number of Hazardous Trees Removed from 1 July 2012 to 29 November 2012

SUBURB	No. Of Trees Removed
BANKS	1
BONYTHON	2
BRADDON	1
CALWELL	3
CAMPBELL	1
CHIFLEY	1
CHISHOLM	2
CITY	1
CURTIN	4
DEAKIN	1
DICKSON	2
DUFFY	1
FADDEN	2
FISHER	1
FLOREY	1
FLYNN	1
FORREST	1
GIRALANG	1
GORDON	1
GOWRIE	2
GREENWAY	7
HACKETT	1
HAWKER	1
HOLDER	2
KALEEN	2
KAMBAH	10
LATHAM	1
LYNEHAM	1
MACGREGOR	2
MAWSON	1
MCKELLAR	1
MELBA	2
NARRABUNDAH	1
OXLEY	1
PEARCE	2
RED HILL	2
RIVETT	2
STIRLING	2
THEODORE	1
TORRENS	1
WANNIASSA	3
WEETANGERA	1
YARRALUMLA	2
TOTAL	79

ATTACHMENT B**Number of Trees Removed by day from 1 April 2012 to 29 November 2012**

Date	TAMS	Contract	Total
01-Apr-12	0	0	0
02-Apr-12	0	0	0
03-Apr-12	1	0	1
04-Apr-12	2	0	2
05-Apr-12	0	0	0
06-Apr-12	0	0	0
07-Apr-12	0	0	0
08-Apr-12	0	0	0
09-Apr-12	0	0	0
10-Apr-12	0	0	0
11-Apr-12	0	0	0
12-Apr-12	0	0	0
13-Apr-12	0	0	0
14-Apr-12	0	0	0
15-Apr-12	0	0	0
16-Apr-12	1	0	1
17-Apr-12	0	0	0
18-Apr-12	1	35	36
19-Apr-12	5	61	66
20-Apr-12	1	31	32
21-Apr-12	0	25	25
22-Apr-12	1	37	38
23-Apr-12	1	35	36
24-Apr-12	0	32	32
25-Apr-12	0	66	66
26-Apr-12	0	0	0
27-Apr-12	1	25	26
28-Apr-12	0	32	32
29-Apr-12	0	22	22
30-Apr-12	0	33	33
01-May-12	0	32	32
02-May-12	1	17	18
03-May-12	0	15	15
04-May-12	3	22	25
05-May-12	0	9	9
06-May-12	2	26	28
07-May-12	2	8	10
08-May-12	3	19	22
09-May-12	36	16	52
10-May-12	100	11	111
11-May-12	0	16	16
12-May-12	0	0	0
13-May-12	0	11	11
14-May-12	1	2	3
15-May-12	1	24	25
16-May-12	1	0	1

17-May-12	2	33	35
18-May-12	1	23	24
19-May-12	4	6	10
20-May-12	0	3	3
21-May-12	1	12	13
22-May-12	3	15	18
23-May-12	1	7	8
24-May-12	4	3	7
25-May-12	3	29	32
26-May-12	0	13	13
27-May-12	1	16	17
28-May-12	4	11	15
29-May-12	10	6	16
30-May-12	0	2	2
31-May-12	1	10	11
01-Jun-12	3	12	15
02-Jun-12	0	8	8
03-Jun-12	0	12	12
04-Jun-12	2	10	12
05-Jun-12	0	4	4
06-Jun-12	16	3	19
07-Jun-12	1	16	17
08-Jun-12	3	1	4
09-Jun-12	0	5	5
10-Jun-12	0	7	7
11-Jun-12	0	5	5
12-Jun-12	1	6	7
13-Jun-12	1	4	5
14-Jun-12	3	7	10
15-Jun-12	7	6	13
16-Jun-12	0	8	8
17-Jun-12	0	4	4
18-Jun-12	5	6	11
19-Jun-12	4	0	4
20-Jun-12	5	0	5
21-Jun-12	3	0	3
22-Jun-12	1	0	1
23-Jun-12	1	0	1
24-Jun-12	0	0	0
25-Jun-12	2	0	2
26-Jun-12	13	0	13
27-Jun-12	5	0	5
28-Jun-12	5	0	5
29-Jun-12	9	0	9
30-Jun-12	0	0	0
01-Jul-12	0	0	0
02-Jul-12	7	0	7
03-Jul-12	5	0	5
04-Jul-12	1	0	1
05-Jul-12	2	0	2

06-Jul-12	0	0	0
07-Jul-12	0	0	0
08-Jul-12	0	0	0
09-Jul-12	2	0	2
10-Jul-12	3	0	3
11-Jul-12	3	0	3
12-Jul-12	1	0	1
13-Jul-12	2	0	2
14-Jul-12	0	0	0
15-Jul-12	0	0	0
16-Jul-12	2	0	2
17-Jul-12	3	0	3
18-Jul-12	3	0	3
19-Jul-12	4	0	4
20-Jul-12	1	0	1
21-Jul-12	0	0	0
22-Jul-12	0	0	0
23-Jul-12	0	0	0
24-Jul-12	2	0	2
25-Jul-12	1	0	1
26-Jul-12	1	0	1
27-Jul-12	3	0	3
28-Jul-12	1	0	1
29-Jul-12	0	0	0
30-Jul-12	3	0	3
31-Jul-12	3	0	3
01-Aug-12	0	0	0
02-Aug-12	3	0	3
03-Aug-12	0	0	0
04-Aug-12	0	0	0
05-Aug-12	0	0	0
06-Aug-12	1	0	1
07-Aug-12	8	0	8
08-Aug-12	4	0	4
09-Aug-12	2	0	2
10-Aug-12	0	0	0
11-Aug-12	0	0	0
12-Aug-12	10	0	10
13-Aug-12	4	0	4
14-Aug-12	5	0	5
15-Aug-12	7	0	7
16-Aug-12	4	0	4
17-Aug-12	0	0	0
18-Aug-12	0	0	0
19-Aug-12	0	0	0
20-Aug-12	4	0	4
21-Aug-12	2	0	2
22-Aug-12	3	0	3
23-Aug-12	5	0	5
24-Aug-12	2	0	2

25-Aug-12	1	0	1
26-Aug-12	0	0	0
27-Aug-12	1	0	1
28-Aug-12	4	0	4
29-Aug-12	3	0	3
30-Aug-12	1	0	1
31-Aug-12	0	0	0
01-Sep-12	0	0	0
02-Sep-12	0	0	0
03-Sep-12	3	0	3
04-Sep-12	2	0	2
05-Sep-12	6	0	6
06-Sep-12	2	0	2
07-Sep-12	0	0	0
08-Sep-12	2	0	2
09-Sep-12	0	0	0
10-Sep-12	7	0	7
11-Sep-12	6	0	6
12-Sep-12	12	0	12
13-Sep-12	3	0	3
14-Sep-12	2	0	2
15-Sep-12	0	0	0
16-Sep-12	0	0	0
17-Sep-12	2	0	2
18-Sep-12	3	0	3
19-Sep-12	3	0	3
20-Sep-12	2	0	2
21-Sep-12	3	0	3
22-Sep-12	0	0	0
23-Sep-12	0	0	0
24-Sep-12	2	0	2
25-Sep-12	2	0	2
26-Sep-12	5	0	5
27-Sep-12	2	0	2
28-Sep-12	1	0	1
29-Sep-12	0	0	0
30-Sep-12	0	0	0
01-Oct-12	0	0	0
02-Oct-12	4	0	4
03-Oct-12	1	0	1
04-Oct-12	2	0	2
05-Oct-12	3	0	3
06-Oct-12	0	0	0
07-Oct-12	0	0	0
08-Oct-12	0	0	0
09-Oct-12	3	0	3
10-Oct-12	2	0	2
11-Oct-12	2	0	2
12-Oct-12	2	0	2
13-Oct-12	2	0	2

14-Oct-12	2	0	2
15-Oct-12	0	0	0
16-Oct-12	3	0	3
17-Oct-12	9	0	9
18-Oct-12	9	0	9
19-Oct-12	2	0	2
20-Oct-12	0	0	0
21-Oct-12	0	0	0
22-Oct-12	7	0	7
23-Oct-12	6	0	6
24-Oct-12	6	0	6
25-Oct-12	2	0	2
26-Oct-12	2	0	2
27-Oct-12	0	0	0
28-Oct-12	0	0	0
29-Oct-12	2	0	2
30-Oct-12	4	0	4
31-Oct-12	3	0	3
01-Nov-12	5	0	5
02-Nov-12	8	0	8
03-Nov-12	0	0	0
04-Nov-12	0	0	0
05-Nov-12	3	0	3
06-Nov-12	1	0	1
07-Nov-12	4	0	4
08-Nov-12	2	0	2
09-Nov-12	12	0	12
10-Nov-12	0	0	0
11-Nov-12	0	0	0
12-Nov-12	4	0	4
13-Nov-12	13	0	13
14-Nov-12	8	0	8
15-Nov-12	3	0	3
16-Nov-12	3	0	3
17-Nov-12	0	0	0
18-Nov-12	0	0	0
19-Nov-12	1	0	1
20-Nov-12	5	0	5
21-Nov-12	5	0	5
22-Nov-12	1	0	1
23-Nov-12	1	0	1
24-Nov-12	0	0	0
25-Nov-12	1	0	1
26-Nov-12	1	0	1
27-Nov-12	5	0	5
28-Nov-12	7	0	7
29-Nov-12	3	0	3
Date unknown	36	0	36
TOTAL	696	975	1671

Parking—spaces (Question No 50)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012 (*redirected to the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development*):

- (1) How many car parks are provided, excluding residential, and separated by (a) privately provided and (b) provided by the Government in the centres of (i) Belconnen, (ii) City, (iii) Woden and (iv) Tuggeranong.
- (2) For the spaces listed in part (1), how many are (a) long stay, (b) short stay and (c) free parking,

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

- (1) The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

	(a) <u>Privately Provided</u>	(b) <u>Publicly Provided</u>	<u>On-Street Public*</u>
City	8070	6950	1830
Belconnen Town Centre	3440	4370	1345
Tuggeranong Town Centre	2740	2600	800
Woden Town Centre	2720	4780	1500

* Included in (b). Figures exclude parking spaces for motorcycles, Class B vehicles, loading zones, buses, taxis, etc.

- (2) Parking spaces provided by the private sector are generally long-stay spaces, as are those provided as tenant parking. There are short-stay spaces provided in Territory-owned car parks and on-street. Free spaces are few in the City, with more in the town centres.

	(a) <u>Short-Stay Publicly Available</u>	(b) <u>Long-Stay Publicly Available</u>	(c) <u>Free</u>
City	2160	12860	1130
Belconnen Town Centre	1820	5990	1970
Tuggeranong Town Centre	1400	3940	1040
Woden Town Centre	1610	5890	1990

NB: Figures exclude parking spaces for motorcycles, loading zones, Class B vehicles, buses, taxis, etc. Free spaces are included in the totals for other categories. Town centre figures include service trades areas.

Roads—repairs (Question No 51)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many pot holes were identified for repair, by suburb, from 1 July 2011 to date.
- (2) How many of the pot holes identified in part (1) have been repaired.
- (3) What is the average time taken to repair the potholes identified in part (1).
- (4) What was the total cost to repair the pot holes identified in part (1).
- (5) How many Directorate employees were/are employed specifically to work on road repairs such as pot holes (a) currently, (b) in June 2012, (c) in January 2012, (d) in June 2011 and (e) in January 2011.

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

- (1) In total 9657 pot holes have been identified since 1 July 2011. Data is not available by suburb.
- (2) 9427 potholes have been recorded as repaired.
- (3) Of the total number repaired, 1641 were identified from reports received by Canberra Connect. The average time taken to repair those in this category was 11.64 calendar days.

The balance, 7786, is made up principally by potholes identified by TAMS work crews while patrolling. Response time statistics are not available for the potholes in this category as they are generally repaired 'on the spot' as they are located.

- (4) The total cost of repairing the potholes identified at (2) was \$322,435.
- (5) Roads ACT has 26 staff employed to work on road maintenance. This number has been consistent throughout the period January 2011 to date. The number engaged specifically on patching potholes is varied on a daily basis depending on workload and operational requirements. Up to four employees are routinely engaged in pothole patching. This number is increased during high demand periods such as after prolonged wet weather.

Parking—meter revenue (Question No 52)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012 (*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

For the 2012-13 financial year to date what is the breakdown in revenue from ACT Government parking meters by (a) month and (b) suburb.

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

Month / Year	Location	Meters (\$)
July 2012	City East	15,575.15
	City West	19,497.00
	Braddon	28,976.15
	Turner	6,721.15
	Dickson	6,555.20
	Deakin	1,698.80
	Manuka	4,987.45
	Kingston	7,127.75
	Woden	14,455.35
		105,594.00
Aug 2012	City East	16,283.20
	City West	21,512.95
	Braddon	26,753.25
	Turner	6,637.75
	Dickson	6,197.60
	Deakin	2,924.30
	Manuka	5,873.15
	Kingston	7,730.80
	Woden	15,643.60
		109,556.61
Sep 2012	City East	14,664.95
	City West	16,629.75
	Braddon	24,887.55
	Turner	5,681.65
	Dickson	5,667.25
	Deakin	2,027.45
	Manuka	5,943.90
	Kingston	6,547.15
	Woden	12,813.55
		94,863.20
Oct 2012	City East	15,487.30
	City West	17,030.85
	Braddon	29,021.35
	Turner	5,717.45
	Dickson	6,291.05
	Deakin	1,940.75
	Manuka	5,118.15
	Kingston	7,112.15
	Woden	13,898.05
		101,617.40

Please note that revenues from ACT Government parking meters are GST inclusive.

Parking—ticket machines (Question No 53)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012 (*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

- (1) How many parking ticket machines are operated by the ACT government, by car park location.
- (2) For the 2012-13 financial year to date what is the breakdown in revenue received from ACT Government parking ticket machines by (a) month and (b) car park location.
- (3) What is the current replacement schedule for the ticket machines identified in part (1).
- (4) Is the ACT Government responsible for the maintenance of the ticket machines identified in part (1).
- (5) What is the total cost of the maintenance schedule of parking ticket machines identified in part (1).

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

- (1) There are currently 258 active pay and display parking ticket machines in the ACT.

Machine locations by Street (Correct as of 30/11/12)

Location	Number of machines
Allara St Civic	5
London Cct	23
Constitution Ave City	6
Childers St	2
Hutton St	2
Allsop St	1
Batman Street	2
Dickson Square	2
Bedlam St Dickson	1
Badham St car park Dickson	4
Dickson Place Dickson	3
Wooley St Dickson	13
Bougainville St Manuka	9
Furneaux St Manuka	5
Franklin Street Manuka	1
Captain Cook Crescent Manuka	1
Watson Street Turner	6
Mort St Braddon	6
Girrahween St Braddon	2
Constitution Ave Parkes	4
Regatta Point - Central Basin Parkes	3
Barrine Dr Acton	8
Gordon St City	2
Childers St	1

Constitution Ave Reid	2
Spoering St Phillip	7
Furzer St Phillip	8
Irving St Phillip	2
Matilda St Phillip	2
Irving St Phillip	2
Callum St	1
Easty St Phillip	6
Corinna Street Phillip	4
Juliana PL Phillip	3
Keltie Street Phillip	1
Matilda St Phillip	2
Irving St Phillip	3
Geils St Deakin	1
Benjamin Way Belconnen	4
Emu Bank Belconnen	7
Lighthouse carpark - Emu Bank Belconnen	2
Chandler Street Belconnen	21
Swanson Court Belconnen	3
Cameron Ave Belconnen	8
Lathlain St Belconnen	6
Chan St Belconnen	2
Weedon CL Belconnen	3
Oatley Court Belconnen	2
Rae Street Belconnen	1
Purdue Street car park	1
Joynton Smith Dr Belconnen	1
Cowlishaw St Greenway	15
Reed Street Greenway	6
Pitman St Greenway	5
Holwell Street Greenway	2
Anketell Street Greenway	1
Eyre St Kingston	3
Giles Street Kingston	3
Kennedy Street Kingston	3
Jardine Street Kingston	2
Genge St City	1
Narellan St City	1
Bunda St City	4
West Row City	1

- (2) For 2012-13 financial year to date what is the breakdown in revenue received from ACT Government parking ticket machines by (a) month and (b) car park location.

Month / Year	Location of Use	Pay and Display / Bank (\$)
July 2012	Civic Long Stay	287,982.30
	Civic Short	213,356.75
	City on Street	8,792.00
	Dickson	48,628.80
	Woden Short	18,280.65
	Woden Long	288,755.96

	Deakin	768.80
	Manuka	41,401.75
	Kingston	25,773.10
	Belconnen	90,518.00
	Tuggeranong	63,463.40
		1,087,721.51
Aug 2012	Civic Long Stay	351,249.31
	Civic Short	225,182.65
	City on Street	9,432.80
	Dickson	49,762.50
	Woden Short	19,031.25
	Woden Long	310,896.75
	Deakin	814.80
	Manuka	39,567.30
	Kingston	24,988.10
	Belconnen	91,156.80
	Tuggeranong	63,019.56
		1,185,101.83
Sep 2012	Civic Long Stay	341,757.85
	Civic Short	206,489.75
	City on Street	8,530.50
	Dickson	43,034.85
	Woden Short	15,782.35
	Woden Long	254,812.55
	Deakin	648.65
	Manuka	38,985.90
	Kingston	20,279.95
	Belconnen	79,710.70
	Tuggeranong	54,306.30
		1,064,339.36
Oct 2012	Civic Long Stay	333,892.61
	Civic Short	213,251.75
	City on Street	9,135.20
	Dickson	46,940.55
	Woden Short	15,401.40
	Woden Long	279,840.40
	Deakin	634.40
	Manuka	39,367.45
	Kingston	24,688.25
	Belconnen	82,094.75
	Tuggeranong	57,840.55
		1,103,087.31

- (3) The Government has approved \$0.3m to Treasury Directorate in the 2012-13 Budget to undertake feasibility and technical design work and seek procurement advice on the replacement of existing pay parking ticket machines with new machines that can offer a range of payment options and improved accessibility.

- (4) Yes, the Office of Regulatory Services (Parking Operations) is responsible for the maintenance of all public parking devices in the ACT.
- (5) The annual maintenance budget for all ACT Government parking devices is \$150,000.00.

**ACTION bus service—bike racks
(Question No 55)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2012:

- (1) How many ACTION buses, by type, are currently fitted with bike racks.
- (2) How many ACTION buses by type, are scheduled to be fitted with bike racks and when will these bike racks be operational.
- (3) How many ACTION buses (a) cannot and (b) will not be fitted with bike racks and why.

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

- (1) There are 330 buses or 81.88% of ACTION's in-service fleet currently fitted with bike racks. This includes:
 - 117 Renault PR100.2 rigid buses
 - 36 Renault PR100.3 rigid buses
 - 89 MAN diesel rigid buses
 - 16 MAN CNG rigid buses
 - 53 Scania CNG rigid buses, and
 - 19 Irisbus Agoroline rigid buses.

Note: The makeup of ACTION's in-service fleet regularly changes due to operational requirements such as new buses entering the fleet, older buses retiring from service and vehicles requiring major repairs being out of service.

- (2) As at 29 November 2012, all buses in ACTION's in-service fleet that can be fitted with bike racks have been fitted.
 - (3) There are 73 buses in ACTION's in-service fleet that cannot be fitted with bike racks. These are:
 - 26 Scania Steer Tag buses – cannot be fitted due to maximum length restrictions
 - 25 Renault PR180.2 articulated buses – cannot be fitted due to maximum length restrictions
 - eight Scania KUA articulated buses – cannot be fitted due to maximum length restrictions, and
 - 14 Dennis Dart Midi buses – cannot be fitted due to the structural integrity of the bus as there is no physical chassis/body to which the bike rack can be attached.
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